

CONCERNS RE DOE SITES IN ST. LOUIS AREA

- DOE has treated the Weldon Spring sites & the St. Louis sites differently, making unfair & unwarranted assumptions about possible actions solutions.
 - At Weldon, DOE has calmed local fears by promising not to allow outside wastes into the area, while never really considering the option of moving these wastes away -- merely consolidating the wastes onto one site.
 - In St. Louis, DOE has abandoned relocation and/or consolidation in order to keep its original first option -- an airport bunker -- alive; ignoring West Lake Landfill and proposing to leave many other sites still contaminated and uncontrolled.
 - While DOE has established an impressive presence in St. Charles County, the St. Louis sites have been relegated to management by long-distance commute from Oak Ridge.
 - DOE has taken note of original, massive public outcry in St. Charles County and has bludgeoned concern citizens in an avalanche of paper, meetings and flattery -- succeeding in eliciting endorsements from the very public they are shafting.
 - In St. Louis, despite public votes, petitions, pleas from local mayors & other elected officials, DOE has thumbed its Tennessee nose at public concern.
 - About the only thing St. Charles' folks have

gotten for their "model citizenry" is more federal \$\$: with comparable volumes of wastes on both sides of the Missouri River, DOE is proposing to spend 8 to 9 times more money at Weldon Spring than in St. Louis -- even though many more people & businesses are adjacent to the St. Louis sites.

- **Mallinckrodt Plant Site (St. Louis):** DOE proposes to leave contaminated buildings in place as well as much "inaccessible contaminated soil."

- Mallinckrodt is an active, ongoing business with many workers -- it deserves a complete clean-up, including removal of all contaminated debris.

- Some 300,000 people live within 5 miles of this site. The closest neighbors are working class, minority people with little opportunity at relocation. Adjacent businesses are already affected by the site.

- **Latty Avenue Site (Hazelwood):** Again DOE proposes to leave much material in the ground. The many businesses adjacent to this site, the presence of Coldwater Creek, and the cancer cluster on nearby Nyflot all make this a priority site for total clean-up.

- **West Lake Landfill (Bridgeton):** DOE proposes no action at this toxic site adjacent to the Missouri River floodplain. To leave these wastes unaddressed is the single most cavalier aspect of DOE's action.

- **Coldwater Creek (north St. Louis County):** Despite the presence of contamination everywhere testing has occurred, DOE chooses to leave most of the creek unattended. Of course, it will border the proposed bunker.

- **Private Properties:** Most of the St. Louis area sites are private property. If left contaminated, and in

private hands, who will guarantee containment of these wastes in the years ahead?

- **St. Louis Airport Site (Berkeley):** The proposed site of the "bunker" -- this site is partially in the floodplain of Coldwater Creek, is mostly situated on an old lacustrine deposit with a high water table (very prone to earthquake damage).

- Again, this is a highly populated area of north county including three adjacent municipalities: Bridgeton, Berkeley and Hazelwood. The future viability of these communities is doomed if the bunker option is chosen.

- Depending on DOE's final strategy, the bunker will take some 30 acres to 90 acres. But if all of the St. Louis area sites are properly cleaned up, there is no way to hold all of this material at the airport.

- **Weldon Spring Quarry (St. Charles County):** While DOE proceeds to "treat" water from the sump pond in the quarry and to remove the solids, there is no plan to mitigate the ground water contamination or to clean up the Femme Osage Slough.

- In an effort to protect the alluvial wellfield in St. Charles County, DOE has blatantly threatened the drinking water of millions downstream by dumping the "treated" water into the Missouri River.

- Unanswered questions remain about the water treatment strategy and the lack of adequate information on the presence of various radionuclides in the water both before and after "treatment."

- **Weldon Spring Plant & Raffinate Pits:** the karst topography of this part of St. Charles County makes this a site of dubious integrity for permanent storage.

- The site is perched on the divide between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers smack in the middle of the largest concentration of public recreational lands in the St. Louis area.
- The water from the raffinate pits is also being "treated" and sent downstream to St. Louis water consumers.
- For all the money that DOE is spending at Weldon Spring, the public is getting damn little for its money.
- DOE brags about Weldon Spring as a "success story" because it managed to shmeikel the public, state agencies and elected officials into becoming a national testing ground for untried, unproven and likely unreliable technologies.
- **Army Incinerator at Weldon Spring:** The final insult to the area's environment comes not from DOE but the Army Corps of Engineers as they have proposed a hazardous waste incinerator to burn TNT & DNT wastes along with radioactive materials.

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment believes that the only satisfactory solution is to clean up all these sites & haul routes, consolidate the wastes and relocate them to a more suitable, remote area of highest geologic & hydrologic integrity. Fifty years of this contamination is long enough. DOE is dooming the St. Louis area to fifty centuries and counting.