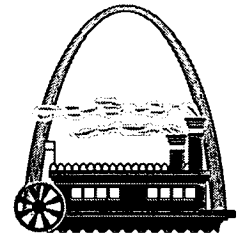




U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Summary of Activities at the **ST. LOUIS AIRPORT SITE**



"Gateway to Excellence"

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District, is conducting a cleanup program for two St. Louis Airport area sites. These sites once supported federal defense activities for the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission. The St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) and the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site today contain soils contaminated with uranium, thorium, and radium. Primary goals of cleanup are to restrict the release of contaminated materials and minimize potential impacts to human health and the environment. Secondary goals are to restore the sites for potential reuse.

The USACE has reviewed several interim cleanup measures for SLAPS and has identified one as a preferred alternative. Public comment and regulatory review will help determine the removal action selected for the site. Engineering plans, work instructions, health and safety plans, and an environmental compliance plan will be prepared before cleanup begins.

Background

From 1942 to 1957, the Mallinckrodt Chemical Plant extracted uranium and radium from ore at the St. Louis Downtown Site in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. During this time and until 1967, radioactive process byproducts were stored at an area adjacent to the Lambert-St. Louis Airport in north St. Louis County. This area is known today as the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS).

In the years from 1966 to 1973, wastes were moved from the site. In 1966, residuals from SLAPS were purchased, moved, then stored at 9200 Latty Avenue. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) licensed the movement and storage. Site structures at SLAPS were demolished and buried on the property along with roughly 60 truckloads of scrap metal. Clean soil was then spread at a thickness of one to three feet to reduce radioactivity at the surface and to meet the standards then in place. In 1973, the U.S. Government and the City of St. Louis transferred ownership of SLAPS from AEC to the St. Louis Airport Authority.

Cleanup Activities

In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy negotiated a Federal Facilities Agreement. The agreement described the process that would be used to clean up, or remediate, contaminated soils in St. Louis. The EPA placed SLAPS on the National Priorities List to expedite its cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Values of the National Environmental Policy Act were also integrated into the process.

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program is conducting cleanup activities at SLAPS. Surveys and field investigations were conducted at SLAPS and the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site from 1977 through 1997. These studies determined the nature and distribution of chemical and radioactive contaminants and reviewed the geology and hydrology of the sites.

The USACE has prepared a draft engineering evaluations/cost analyses for SLAPS that identifies potential cleanup measures to be used until the comprehensive cleanup plan is in place. These analyses evaluate several

Three alternatives have been evaluated to address contaminated soils at SLAPS and the ballfields. The USACE prefers Alternative 3 with a cleanup level of 5/15/50.

Alternative 1

NO ACTION

Leave the SLAPS and the Ballfields in their current condition; continue to monitor and maintain for both surface and air releases of radionuclides, perform monitoring of groundwater.

This alternative is a CERCLA requirement.

Cost: \$11.4 million

Alternative 2

EXCAVATION AND DISPOSAL OF SLAPS AND THE BALLFIELDS

Excavate and remove contaminated materials; backfill excavated areas with clean soil. Dispose of contaminated materials at a licensed disposal facility.

Cost: \$106.3 - 218.6 million

Alternative 3

EXCAVATION AND DISPOSAL OF SLAPS AND THE BALLFIELDS WITH USE OF BELOW-CRITERIA SOILS AS BACKFILL

Excavate and remove contaminated materials; backfill excavated areas with clean soil. Dispose of contaminated materials at a licensed disposal facility. Excavated materials that are below the selected cleanup criteria and that meet guidelines for chemicals and metals would be used at the SLAPS as backfill.

Cost: \$108 - 210 million

The USACE encourages private citizens to participate fully in the cleanup program.

To learn more about the St. Louis Airport area sites or to inquire about public involvement opportunities, contact

Chris W. Haskell
at (314) 524-3364,

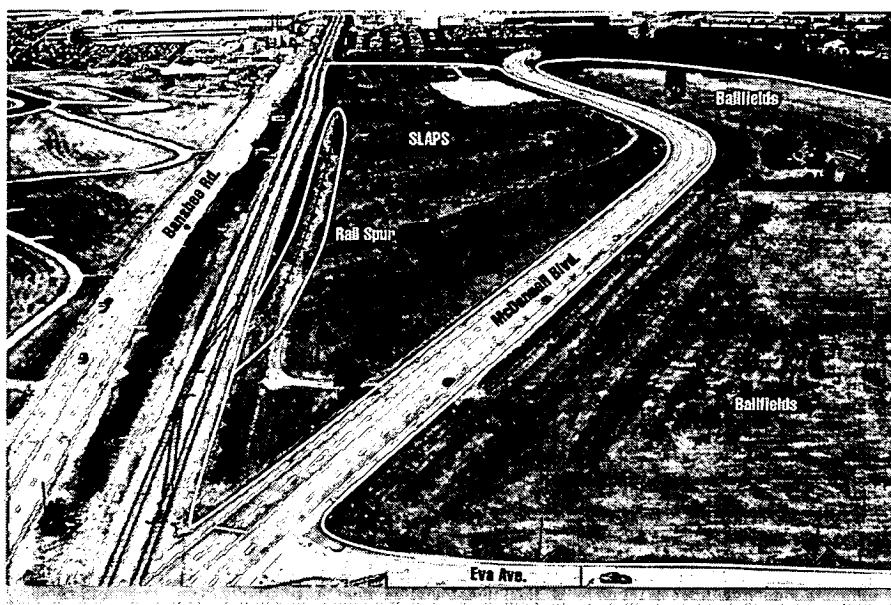
or write

St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers
FUSRAP Project Office
9170 Latty Avenue
Berkeley, MO 63134

possible interim cleanup measures and include the nearby Ballfields property as part of the SLAPS cleanup.

The interim cleanup measure that is selected will be just one part of a comprehensive cleanup program for SLAPS. Comprehensive cleanup measures will be selected after completing the remedial investigation/feasibility study process. This process is required by CERCLA and results in a Record of Decision (ROD) that identifies how SLAPS will be cleaned.

An interim removal action for SLAPS is planned to begin in 1998 and will continue until the action is completed or a ROD is issued for the site.



The St. Louis Airport Site and the Ballfields contain soil contaminated with uranium, thorium, and radium.