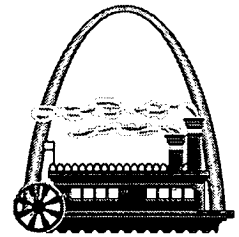




U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Summary of Activities at the

HAZELWOOD INTERIM STORAGE 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 and the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) 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 HISS 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. This area is known today as the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS).

In the years from 1966 to 1973, wastes were handled a number of times. For instance, in 1966, SLAPS wastes were purchased, moved, and stored at 9200 Latty Avenue. Part of this property later became known as the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS). Although site workers processed and shipped most of the material to Canon City, Colorado, soils remaining at the HISS site still contain contaminants. Improper storage, handling, and transportation also caused the spread of materials along haul routes and to vicinity properties.

In 1984, cleanup activities resulted in the clearing and excavation of the site and surrounding vicinity properties, but added an additional 14,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil to the HISS stockpile. A subsequent cleanup in 1986 resulted in a smaller, supplemental storage pile.

In 1996, the owner of Stone Container Corporation, located near HISS, expanded its facility and stockpiled about 8,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. The stockpile is known as the Stone Container Pile.

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 HISS/Futura Coatings and the Latty Avenue vicinity properties on the National Priorities List to expedite their 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 HISS. Surveys and field investigations were conducted at HISS and SLAPS from 1977 through 1997. These studies

Three alternatives have been evaluated to address contaminated soils at HISS and vicinity properties. The USACE prefers Alternative 2.

Alternative 1

NO ACTION

Leave the HISS and Latty Avenue vicinity properties 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: \$7.5 million

Alternative 2

EXCAVATION AND DISPOSAL WITH REUSE OF BELOW-CRITERIA SOILS

Remove contaminated soil; store below-criteria soils on HISS for potential reuse as backfill in HISS subsurface, and ship contaminated soils off site for commercial disposal. This alternative assumes a significant amount of soil will be below the selected criteria.

Cost: \$697 million

Alternative 3

EXCAVATION AND DISPOSAL

Remove contaminated soil; store below criteria soils on HISS for reuse as backfill, and ship contaminated soils off site for commercial disposal. This alternative assumes minimal quantities of soil will be below selected criteria.

Cost: \$74.4 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

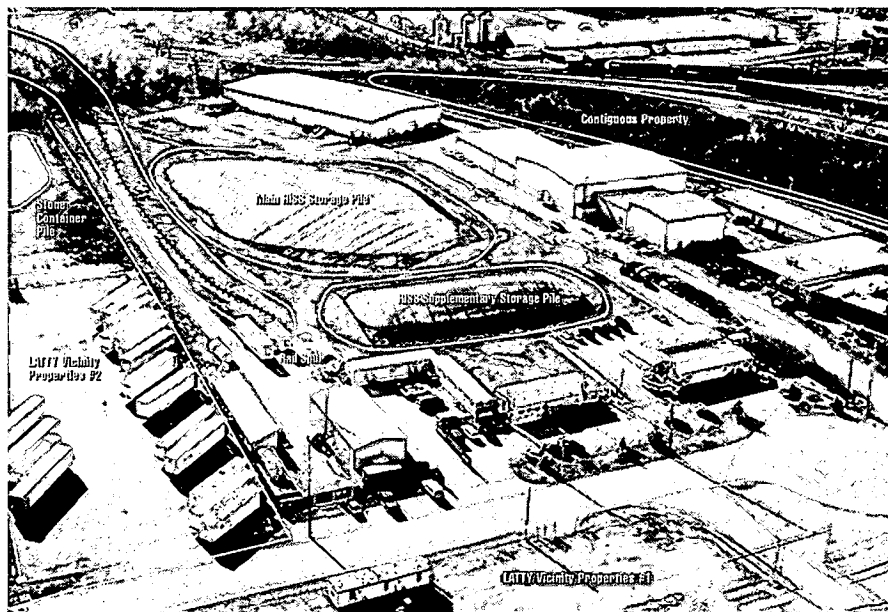
St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers
FUSRAP Project Office
9170 Latty Avenue
Berkeley, MO 63134

determined the nature and distribution of chemical and radioactive contaminants and reviewed the geology and hydrology of the sites.

The USACE has prepared draft engineering evaluations/cost analyses that identify potential cleanup measures to be used until a comprehensive cleanup can be achieved. These analyses evaluate several possible interim cleanup measures and include the Stone Container property and soils on three Latty Avenue properties as part of the HISS cleanup.

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

An interim removal action for HISS is planned to begin in 1998 and will continue until the action is completed.



Soils remaining at the HISS site are contaminated with uranium, thorium, and radium.