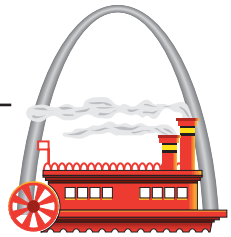
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

Summary of Activities at the

ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN SITE PROPOSED PLAN



"Gateway to Excellence"

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District, is conducting a cleanup program for the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS). The Site contains soils contaminated with radium, thorium, and uranium from federal defense activities performed under contracts with the Manhatten Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission in the 1940s and 50s.

The USACE has issued a Proposed Plan detailing the preferred alternative, **Partial Excavation with Off-Site Disposal**, for cleaning up SLDS. Public comment and regulatory review will help determine the remedy selected for the site. Engineering plans, work instructions, health and safety plans, and an environmental compliance plan will be prepared before cleanup begins.

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

To learn more about the St. Louis Downtown Site or to inquire about public involvement opportunities, contact
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Background

From 1942 to 1957, the Mallinckrodt Chemical Plant extracted uranium from ore at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) in St. Louis, Missouri. These processes, conducted under contracts with the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission, resulted in radioactive contamination.

The Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District, conducted site characterization activities at SLDS. Samples of the site's soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment, air, and structures have confirmed the presence of radium, thorium, and uranium contamination.

Continuing in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, the USACE issued a Proposed Plan describing the preferred remedy for cleaning up these contaminants at SLDS. This Plan provides background information on the SLDS, describes the alternatives being considered to clean up the site, presents the rationale for selecting the preferred remedy, and outlines the public's role in helping USACE make a final decision on a cleanup approach.

The Preferred Alternative

Six site-wide alternatives are discussed at length in the Feasibility Study (FS) for SLDS. The Proposed Plan provides a summary of each alternative, identifies the preferred alternative, and provides a rationale for the selection of this alternative.

The USACE prefers **Alternative 4, Partial Excavation with Off-Site Disposal**. This alternative protects human health and the environment and is believed to provide the best balance of effectiveness, cost, and implementability. Alternative 4 includes the following activities:

- Excavate acceptable soils to composite criteria in the top 2 feet and clean to 50/100/150.
- Excavate Plant 7 area to composite criteria to depth.
- Decontaminate and dismantle buildings, if necessary, as they are made available by the owner.

Six alternatives were evaluated to address contaminated soils at SLDS. The USACE prefers Alternative 4 with a cleanup level of 5/15/50.

Alternative 1

No Action

Leave SLDS in its current state.

(Required for comparison under CERCLA.)

Cost: $22 million

Alternative 2

Institutional Control and Site Maintenance

Prevent access to contaminated areas. Perform site maintenance to restrict use and monitor area.

Cost: $29 million

Alternative 3

Consolidation and Capping

Consolidate and cap contaminated soils and waste. Decontaminate or dismantle buildings.

Cost: $100 million

Alternative 4

Partial Excavation with Off-Site Disposal

Excavate accessible soils to composite criteria* in the top 2 feet and clean to depth 50/100/150. Excavate Plant 7 area to composite criteria* to depth.

Cost: $92 million

Alternative 5

Complete Excavation with Off-Site Disposal

Excavate accessible soils to composite criteria* depth.

Cost: $140 million

Alternative 6

Selective Excavation and Disposal

Excavate accessible soils to composite criteria* to 4-6 feet. Below 4-6 feet, clean to 50/100/150. Excavate Plant 7 area to composite criteria* to depth.

Cost: $114 million

* Composite criteria is 5/5/50 for the top 6 inches and 15/15/50 below 6 inches for radium, thorium, and uranium respectively.

- Ship contaminated soils off site to an authorized disposal facility.
- Implement institutional controls (such as fences and signs, site monitoring and surveillance, deed restrictions, and 5-year reviews) for areas where inaccessible soils beneath rail lines and buildings are left in place.

Public Participation

The USACE encourages public input to ensure the remedy selected for SLDS meets the needs of the local community and is an effective solution to the problem.

Comments on the proposed remedial action will be accepted for 30 days after the draft FS and Proposed Plan are issued. Verbal comments will be recorded during a public meeting scheduled to be held on April 21, 1998. Written comments may be submitted at any time during the 30-day comment period.

The USACE will respond to all significant comments and will consider these comments when working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make a final decision. The final cleanup remedy will be outlined in the Record of Decision, which will be submitted to the EPA by July 3, 1998.

Loading material removed during preparation of buildings for demolition