US Army Corps of Engineers®

F U S R A P U P D A T E

The St. Louis Site

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers • St. Louis District
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • February 1998

Letter from the USACE District Commander

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is dedicated to removing radioactive contamination at sites formerly managed by the Department of the Energy. We will perform this work in concert with our partners in the community in an efficient, timely, safe, and cost-effective manner.

In October, Congress transferred the responsibility for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) from the Department of Energy to the Corps of Engineers (see additional article on page 3). St. Louis District of the Corps is now managing that cleanup process at sites within the St. Louis area. These sites include:

Col. Thomas Hodgini

- St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), where byproducts of the uranium processing were stored,
- St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) and vicinity properties, where uranium was processed for the Manhattan Engineer District and other programs between 1942 and 1957;
- Vicinity Properties at the St. Louis Airport site;
- Latty Avenue Properties: Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS), where ore residues were moved, and vicinity properties; and
- Madison, Illinois, site, where research and development took place in the 1950s and 1960s.

In this early phase of the Corps of Engineers' work at these sites, the St. Louis District is committed to a seamless transition from the Department of Energy to the Corps of Engineers. Through this transition, we want to continue the removal process and improve it where possible. We view this project as a commitment to the taxpayers and will complete this project in a quality manner. Let me emphasize the word "complete." That means we see an end date to this removal action, a time when we return remediated land back to the community.

The St. Louis District brings a great deal of expertise to this project. The Corps of Engineers has long been applauded for its work on environmental sites. These include active military installations, formerly used defense sites and work for the Environmental Protection Agency. This District does not stand alone; we are drawing on the expertise of our sister Districts throughout the Corps. We call this "One Door to the Corps."

Further, St. Louis District people live and work in the community; we CARE about and are committed to this community. The decision makers are here, both onsite and downtown.

The Corps of Engineers is committed to perform this work to a very high standard. We look forward to working with you in the community and with property owners, elected officials, the media and other stakeholders in this very important mission.

Sincerely,

Colonel Thomas Hodgini
USACE District Commander, St. Louis District

Transfer of FUSRAP to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Complete With Signing of FY 1998 Appropriations Bill

The FY 1998 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which transfers management of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), was signed into law on October 13, 1997. FUSRAP had been managed by the U.S. Department of Energy for the past 17 years.

In addition to transferring FUSRAP to USACE, the legislation provides $140 million to fund the nationwide project in FY 1998, approximately twice the amount appropriated in FY 1997.

Following enactment of the bill, the contracts for FUSRAP's project management contractor, Bechtel National, Inc., and its environmental studies contractor, Science Applications International Corporation, were assigned to USACE.

Cleanup of Ten Vicinity Properties Continues

The road frontages of ten commercial properties along Hazelwood and Latty Avenues in North County now meet current cleanup guidelines. This cleanup, which began in June under the direction of the Department of Energy (DOE), is a continuation of remediation activities previously conducted along "haul routes" that became contaminated in the 1960s.

Hazelwood Avenue vicinity property during recent cleanup.

Approximately 5,900 cubic yards of low-level contaminated soils were excavated and shipped out-of-state to a licensed disposal facility. Post radiological sampling results, conducted by an independent verification contractor, indicate that the properties have been remediated to current cleanup guidelines.

All ten properties have been fully restored and are ready for use without radiological restrictions.

For more information...

If you have questions or comments about our work, please call us. You can reach us by calling our local site office in Berkeley at (314) 524-4083 or by contacting the St. Louis District office at (314) 331-8002. Leave a message with your name, phone number, and area of interest, and someone will return your call promptly. You can also visit our Internet home page; the address (or URL) for FUSRAP is:

http://www.mrd.usace.army.mil

Calendar of Upcoming Activities

March 5	Issue SLAPS EE/CA for Public Comment
March 10	Issue HISS EE/CA for Public Comment
March 17	Public Meeting on SLAPS and HISS EE/CAs -- Hazelwood Civic Center - East, 7-9 pm
March 27	Issue SLDS Feasibility Study (FS) and Proposed Plan (PP)
April 7	Public Meeting on SLDS FS and PP -- Henry Clay Elementary School, 7-9 pm

SLAPS West End Excavation Completed

The finishing touches on Phase IA cleanup activities at the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) have been completed. SLAPS is a 21-acre site located north of the St. Louis airport, adjacent to McDonnell Boulevard.

The St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) aerial looking west (right) and the excavation work recently completed (below).

This cleanup, which began in late September under the direction of the U.S. Department of Energy, grew out of a series of discussions with area stakeholders on the acceleration of cleanup activities at the St. Louis site. Cleanup involved removing residual radioactive contaminated material from the west end of SLAPS, nearest to Coldwater Creek, and shipping this material to an out-of-state disposal facility.

According to project officials, the cleanup was no different from any other excavation. It consisted of the removal of approximately 6,000 cubic yards of low-level contaminated material and replacement with clean low-permeability clay backfill. A series of engineering controls prevented surface water run off from entering Coldwater Creek. There was no impact to the gabion wall adjacent to the Creek and no disruption to normal traffic patterns and commercial activities along McDonnell Boulevard.

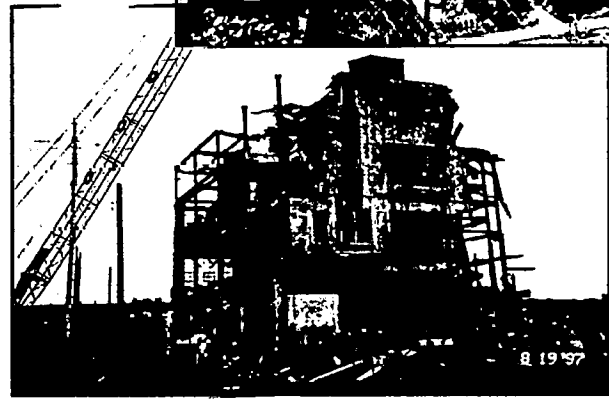
Radioactive contamination in the St. Louis area is the result of the processing of uranium and other materials associated with the early years of the nation's nuclear weapons program. The site was designated for cleanup in the late 1970s and is administered through the St. Louis District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Demolition Completed at the Downtown Site

In November, the St. Louis District of the Army Corps of Engineers completed the demolition of ten buildings at the St. Louis Downtown Site. These buildings are among the last of the buildings at the downtown site to be used to process uranium during the early years of the nation's nuclear weapons program. They were identified as containing residual radioactive contamination.

Work at the Downtown Site consisted of demolishing the buildings and trucking the masonry, brick, and other material to a staging area located on the east side of the site. The brick and masonry material, now clean to current guidelines, was crushed and left onsite to be used as backfill material in future excavation activities. Approximately 7,000 cubic yards of material was crushed and stockpiled at the site. The contaminated steel and other building debris was loaded onto gondola rail cars and shipped to an out-of-state licensed disposal facility.

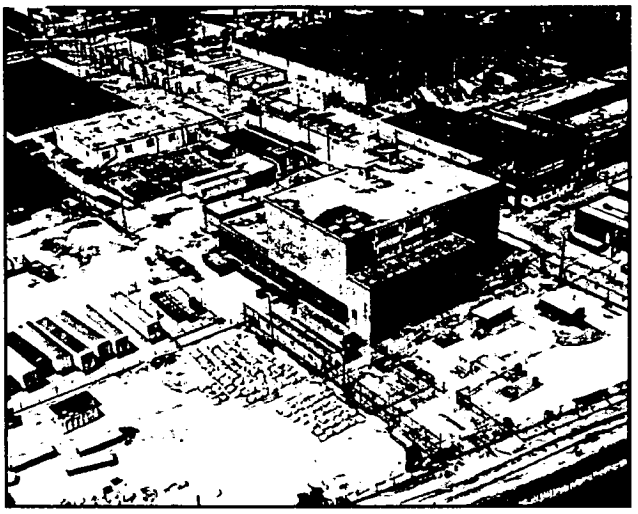
Demolition in progress at Building 700. Contaminated structural steel and other building debris shown here was shipped offsite to an out-of-state licensed disposal facility.

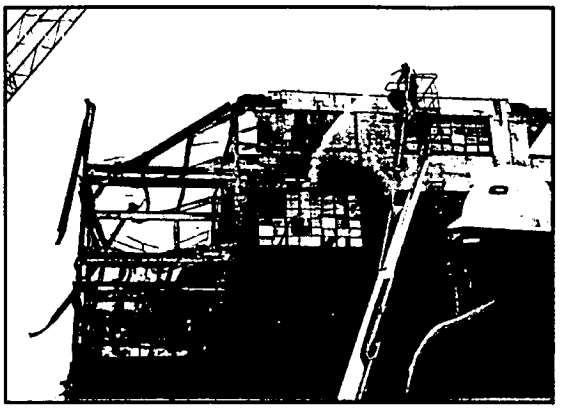


Other photos taken during this work are shown to the right on page 3.

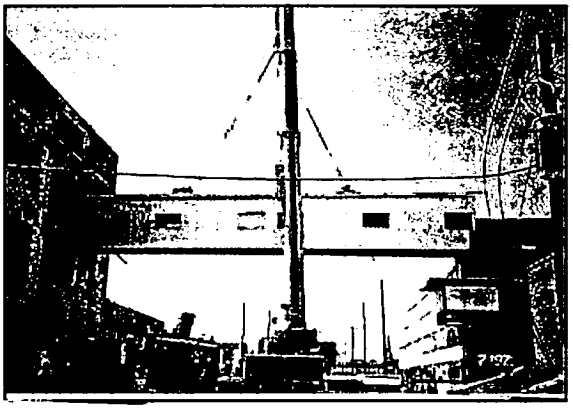
All that remains from the structures are the slabs for each of the demolished buildings. A protective sealant was applied to each slab after demolition to prevent the movement of low-level contamination that remains on the slabs' surfaces until the slabs and soil beneath can be removed.

St. Louis Downtown Site Photo Album





Clockwise from left: aerial view of building complex 704-707 in foreground; above: workmen remove structural steel; below: catwalk between Building 117 and 705 removed; below left: building debris being staged for removal.



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