



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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 • June 1998**

fusrap @ usa. net

<http://144.3.144.51/engr/fusrap/Index.htm>

This edition of the FUSRAP Update is part of our ongoing community outreach effort to keep the public informed of cleanup activities at the St. Louis Downtown Site. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

A Message from the St. Louis District Engineer

The St. Louis District of the Corps of Engineers is proud to bring to you this Special Edition of The St. Louis Site FUSRAP Update. This edition was developed to commemorate a milestone achievement at the St. Louis Downtown Site.

This past November, the Corps of Engineers completed the demolition of ten buildings at the St. Louis Downtown Site. This work originated with the Department of Energy. These buildings were located in an area of Mallinckrodt's downtown plant known as Plant 6 and 7. They were among the last of the buildings at the site that were used to process uranium during our nation's development of the first atomic bomb.

These buildings were identified through radiological characterization surveys as having fixed radioactive contamination along the walls, floors, and ceilings as well as contaminated soils beneath the buildings.

The federal government and the St. Louis community have worked together for a long time to clean up the radiological contamination that was a legacy of World War II and the Cold War. Demolition of the buildings closed one of many chapters in that effort. It moved us a step closer to developing a comprehensive cleanup strategy for the complete cleanup of the Downtown Site.

As we move forward in our mission to clean up the radioactive contaminated materials at the downtown site and other parts of the metropolitan area, your continuous involvement in the decision-making process is essential. We look forward to working with you in the community and we encourage you to become involved and participate fully in this important mission.



Aerial view of the Downtown Site, looking east.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Hodgini
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer

A New Chapter in the St. Louis Downtown Site's History

Demolition of nine of the original uranium process buildings in the past year began a new chapter in Mallinckrodt's history of association and cooperation with the U.S. government. This also successfully completed the first chapter of the Corps of Engineers' cleanup of low-level radioactive waste in the St. Louis region, which dated from the development of the atomic bomb in World War II.

What began at the St. Louis Downtown Site in 1942 as a small pilot-scale operation to produce extremely pure uranium compounds for the war effort soon developed into a sprawling industrial complex. The site produced the first significant quantities of reactor-grade uranium oxide.

All of the buildings, initially constructed to house different stages of the uranium purification process, were of similar design and arranged in clusters within the complex. Mallinckrodt's downtown facility became one of the primary suppliers of uranium products to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), predecessor of the Department of Energy (DOE).

After uranium operations were transferred to the Weldon Spring Plant in 1957, all buildings involved in such work were cleaned up using guidelines of the time. Ownership of the buildings was returned to Mallinckrodt without any radiological restrictions.

When radiation levels at the St. Louis plant were rechecked in the early 1970s, many of the buildings still contained contamination levels

higher than newer, more stringent, and more protective standards. The site was included under DOE's FUSRAP program.

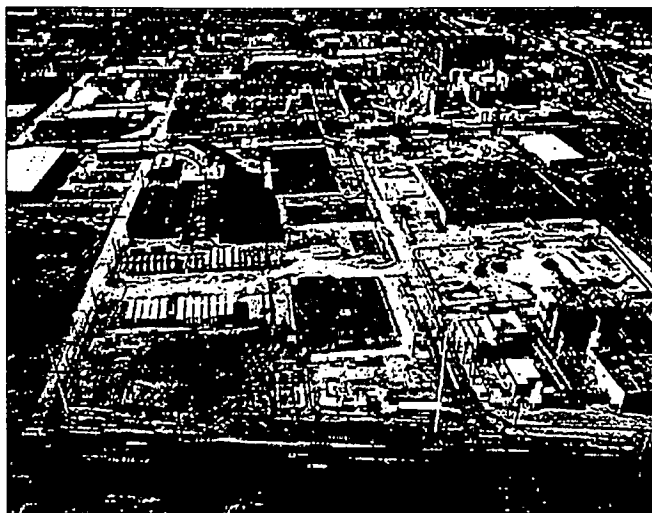
In 1996 DOE and Mallinckrodt began discussing cleanup strategies for the site. Detailed radiological surveys found radioactive contamination throughout the buildings. It was decided that demolishing the buildings rather than decontaminating them

- was the most cost-effective strategy,
- would enable Mallinckrodt to move ahead with plans for future plant expansion and modernization, and
- would facilitate the next stage in the cleanup process by making contaminated soils under buildings more accessible for removal.

Remediation of the entire site is currently pending public approval.



Views of Destrehan Street Plant in the 1950s (top), demolition of Building 700 (above), and remediated area today (left)



A New Information Repository for the St. Louis Downtown Site

Working with members of the St. Louis Oversight Committee and the administration of Henry Clay Elementary School, the St. Louis District of the Army Corps of Engineers established a new information repository for the St. Louis Downtown Site in the Henry Clay Elementary School Library, 3820 North 14th Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63107. This repository is the first to be established since FUSRAP was transferred to the Corps of Engineers in October 1997.



Reviewing documents in the new FUSRAP Information Repository are, (l. to r.) Community Coordinator Howard Hays; School Principal Frank Muehlheausler; Teacher Assistant Michele Anderson; Librarian Dorothy Jones, and FUSRAP Oversight Committee member Jack Trauenhoffer of Mallinckrodt.

Like the Administrative Record and Information Repository located in the Government Information Section of the St. Louis Public Library - Main Branch, this repository was created to provide residents in the St. Louis community an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. It contains key site-related documents, fact sheets, and newsletters regarding the cleanup of the St. Louis Downtown Site, as well as other FUSRAP sites in the St. Louis area. It is updated quarterly and is available for review by the public during school hours.

For more information on the repository at Henry Clay Elementary School contact:

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USACE Environmental Projects

Public Information Office

9170 Latty Avenue

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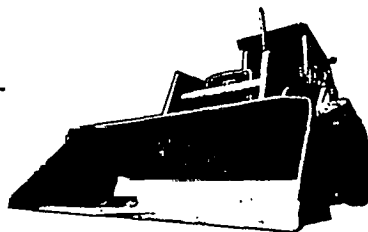
chris.haskell@mvs01.usace.army.mil

Cleanup Activities at the Downtown Site Enter A New Phase

Cleanup activities at the St. Louis Downtown Site moved into a new phase this spring. In early April, the St. Louis District issued a draft feasibility study and proposed plan (FS/PP) identifying and evaluating six alternatives for cleanup of the site. These alternatives address removal and disposal of radioactive contaminated materials that originated at the site during the development of atomic weapons for World War II by the Manhattan Engineer District and later by the Atomic Energy Commission (MED/AEC).

The FS/PP are part of a series of four major documents required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The first document, a *remedial investigation report*, defined the nature and extent of contamination. Then, the *feasibility study* determined the practicality and cost of a range of alternatives to remediate the site. The *proposed plan* presents the Corps of Engineers' recommendation. Finally the *record of decision* (ROD) describes and analyzes the selected cleanup strategy.

The ROD for the St. Louis Downtown Site is being developed by the Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the community and in consultation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The ROD is expected to be issued in July after receiving EPA approval.



Since our last newsletter, we've added a way to stay in touch — our homepage:

<http://144.3.144.51/engr/fusrap/index.htm>

Realizing that not everyone gets information from online sources, we will continue to use all reasonable alternative means to communicate with our neighbors.

Mailing Lists

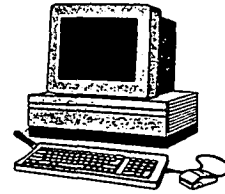
Be sure you're on our mailing list and tell us of neighbors or other interested parties you think might want to be on it too. People can get on our mailing list 24 hours a day by:

Phone: (314) 524-3334 / 524-4083

Fax: (314) 524-6044

Mail: 9170 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, MO 63134

Email: FUSRAP@usa.net



Public Speaking

Let us know if your neighborhood association, business, community, youth, school, or other group would like to hear from one of our experts. They may not always be immediately available on short notice, but give us a call and see if we can't work out a speaking schedule. Experts are available in such fields as engineering, the environment, geology, journalism, and media relations.

Homepage

If you do join us online, you'll find hundreds of pages of documents (the full texts of all Engineering Evaluations/Analyses/Feasibility Studies, etc.), color digital photographs, maps, directions, names, addresses, resources. Many items are available online now and our webpages are being continually updated.

Be aware that if searching for "FUSRAP" on search engines (Infoseek, Alta-Vista, etc.) you'll find many pages that are NOT ours. Many of these pages were posted by others in the past. The only official FUSRAP homepage for the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is:

<http://144.3.144.51/engr/fusrap/index.htm>

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