



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

## St. Louis Sites Fact Sheet

# NORTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY SITES RECORD OF DECISION



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District is conducting a cleanup program for the North St. Louis County sites. The sites contain soils primarily contaminated with radium, thorium, and uranium as a result of activities associated with the Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission in the 1940s and 50s.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and USACE have signed the Record of Decision that outlines the final remedy to cleanup the North St. Louis County sites.

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The Corps of Engineers encourages private citizens to participate fully in the cleanup program.

To learn more about FUSRAP or to inquire about public involvement opportunities, contact the FUSRAP Project Office at (314) 260-3905 or write to the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers, FUSRAP Project Office, 8945 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, Missouri 63134

The North St. Louis County Sites Record of Decision (ROD) was finalized on September 2, 2005. These sites consist of the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), the Latty Avenue Properties including the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) and the Futura Coatings Property, and the SLAPS Vicinity Properties (VPs), which include Coldwater Creek.

### BACKGROUND

Under contracts with the Manhattan Engineer District and Atomic Energy Commission (MED/AEC), the Mallinckrodt Chemical Plant extracted uranium from ore at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) in St. Louis, Missouri from 1942 to 1957. During this time and until 1967, radioactive by-products from this process were stored at a property adjacent to the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport, which is now referred to as the SLAPS. In 1966, the SLAPS wastes were purchased, moved, and stored at a property on Latty Avenue. Part of this property became known as the HISS, while the other part became known as the Futura property. During this move, handling, transport, and storage of the contamination spread the materials along haul routes and to adjacent properties forming the SLAPS and Latty Avenue VPs.

On October 4, 1989, Congress added SLAPS, HISS and Futura to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List. In 1990, EPA negotiated a Federal Facilities Agreement, which described the process that would be used to cleanup contaminated soils in St. Louis, Missouri. At the direction of Congress, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) became responsible for the cleanup of FUSRAP sites in 1997.

### CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN

The sites contain soils primarily contaminated with radium, thorium, and uranium as a result of activities associated with the MED/AEC in the 1940s and 50s. The Selected Remedy addresses soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater, and structures contaminated as a result of MED/AEC uranium processing activities. Co-located contaminants from sources other than MED/AEC will be addressed concurrent with the implementation of this remedy.

### PUBLIC REVIEW

In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, the USACE developed a Feasibility Study (FS) outlining six alternatives for the final cleanup of the North St. Louis County sites. The Proposed Plan (PP) identified the USACE's preferred alternative and the rationale for this preference.

A 75-day public comment period (May 1 – July 14, 2003) followed the release of the FS/PP for North County to gain the opinions of citizens, public officials, and agencies. Further, the USACE presented the FS/PP at a public meeting held on May 29, 2003. Comments have been addressed and incorporated into the approved ROD—the document that describes the final remedy to address contamination present at the North St. Louis County sites. Responses to the comments can be found in the Responsiveness Summary, which is an appendix to the ROD.

## SELECTED REMEDY

In response to the potential risk of radioactive exposure, the USACE will implement Alternative 5, *Excavation with Institutional Controls under Roads, Bridges, Railroads, and Other Permanent Structures*.

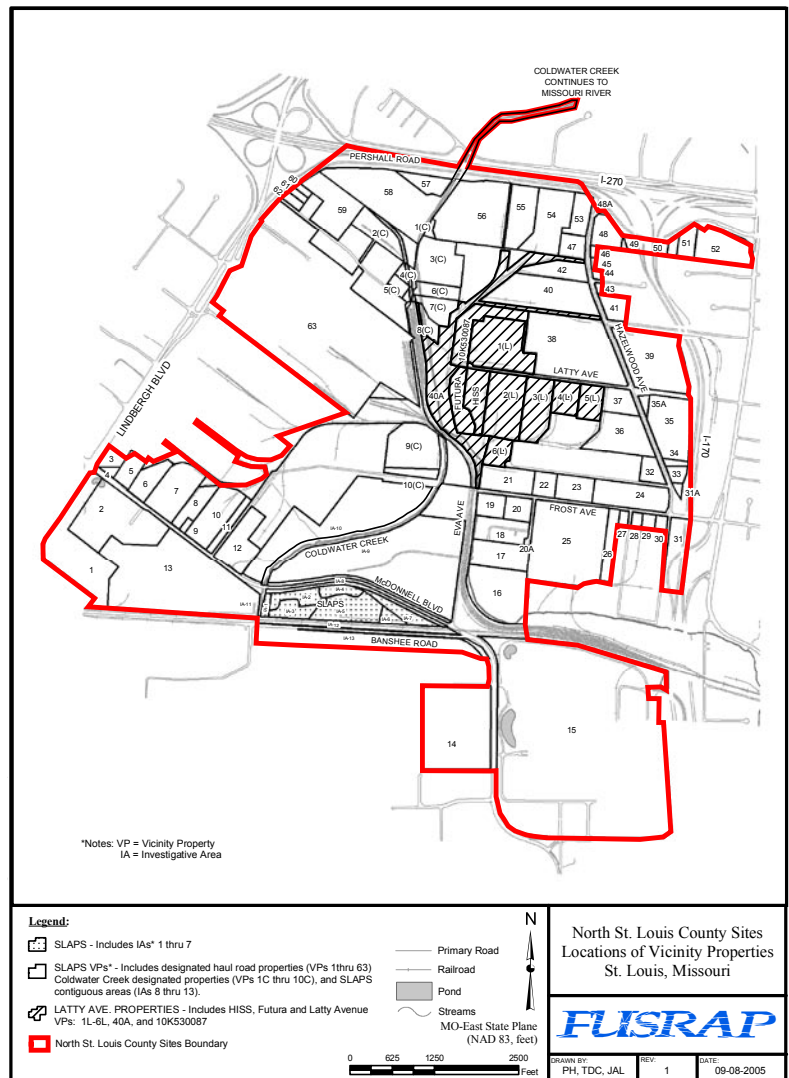
The major components of the selected remedy are:

- excavate all accessible contaminated soil;
- dredge contaminated sediment from Coldwater Creek;
- remove contaminated soils from the surfaces of buildings and structures;
- dispose of soils and sediments at a properly permitted, off-site disposal facility;
- impose institutional controls (or use restrictions) on contaminated soils under roads, active rail lines, and other permanent structures; and
- monitor ground water and surface water.

These components provide the basis for development of the remedial design. In addition, areas of the North St. Louis County sites that were cleaned up under interim criteria will be evaluated. The evaluation will confirm that cleanup activities undertaken prior to the effective date of this ROD achieve the remedial goals. Any previously cleaned up areas that do not meet the remedial goals will be further cleaned up consistent with this remedy.

In general, the long-term protectiveness of this alternative is high. This alternative protects human health and the environment and provides the best balance of effectiveness, cost, and implementability. The total cost is \$274.3 million.

The ROD was approved by both the USACE and EPA on September 2, 2005 and was supported by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.



Locations of Vicinity Properties