



Background

Through the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is identifying, investigating, cleaning up or controlling sites throughout the United States that were part of the nation's early atomic weapons and energy programs during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Generally sites that became contaminated during the early atomic energy program were cleaned up and released for use under the cleanup guidelines in effect at that time, which were not as strict as today's revised standards. Thus, low-level residual radioactive materials remain at many of these sites.



In 1946, Manhattan Engineer District (MED) acquired the 21.7 acre tract of land now known as St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) to store residues from uranium processing from the Mallinckrodt facility in St. Louis. Most of the residues were stored in bulk on open ground, while some contaminated materials and scrap were buried in various areas of the property. In 1966-1967 most of the stored residues were sold and removed from SLAPS. Structures were razed and contaminated soils were buried with 1 to 3 feet of clean fill material, resulting in an acceptable surface dose rate with buried contamination in excess of federal guidelines. Following a 1976-1978 radiological investigation that indicated elevated concentrations of uranium and radium in area drainage ditches, the SLAPS properties were added to the National Priorities List in 1989, requiring cleanup to proceed under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) guidelines. SLAPS cleanup was originally led by Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and later the Department of Energy (DOE) until a 1997 Congressional action transferred the execution of FUSRAP to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

SLAPS is a 21.7 acre property located in St. Louis County, approximately 15 miles from downtown St. Louis. SLAPS is immediately north of the Lambert-St Louis International Airport and is bounded by Norfolk and Western Railroad and Banshee Road on the south, Coldwater Creek on the west, and McDonnell Blvd and adjacent recreational fields on the north and east.

Project Description

Remediation at the SLAPS was initiated in 1997 under Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CAs) developed by DOE and the USACE. In September 2005, the North County Record of Decision (ROD) was finalized. The remainder of SLAPS was remediated under the 2005 ROD. The area under the SLAPS rail spur still remains and will be remediated when North County is completed. The SLAPS was completed in 2007. The USACE removed over 410,000 cubic yards of contaminated material from the SLAPS site. A final Post Remedial Action Report/Final Status Survey Evaluation for the SLAPS was completed in 2009.

Ongoing Work

Current activities include site monitoring and maintenance of the rail spur which is still used to ship material excavated from the SLAPS VPs. Upon completion of remediation of the SLAPS VPs the rail spur will also be removed and the site will be turned over to the DOE for long term management.

More information about the work at the St. Louis Airport Site can be found at:

<https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/FUSRAP/>