



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.



From 1942 to 1957 the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) contracted with Mallinckrodt Chemical Works to process various forms of uranium compounds, for machining and recovery of uranium metal at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. This site consists of nearly 45 acres owned and operated by the chemical manufacturing facility Mallinckrodt LLC and multiple surrounding properties owned by other parties. It is located on the eastern border of St. Louis, approximately 300 feet west of the Mississippi River and 11 miles southeast of Lambert-St. Louis International Airport in North St. Louis City.

SLDS cleanup was originally led by AEC and later the Department of Energy until a 1997 Congressional action transferred FUSRAP responsibility to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

Project Description

The final cleanup remedy for accessible soils was outlined in a Record of Decision (ROD) which was finalized in August 1998. Under the ROD, radiological and chemical contamination in accessible surface and subsurface soil resulting from MED/ AEC processing activities will be excavated and shipped to a licensed out-of-state disposal facility.

Inaccessible soils potentially affected by MED/AEC include soils in sewer lines, on building surfaces, and beneath buildings or other permanent structures such as roads and railroads. The St. Louis District has completed the characterization and investigation of the designated SLDS Inaccessible Soils Operable Unit (ISOU). The ISOU has been separated into two groups, Group 1 and Group 2. A No Further Action ROD for the Group 1 Properties was finalized in September 2014. The remaining Group 2 properties are currently undergoing further characterization to determine if they represent No Further Action and can be included with the Group 1 ROD, could be remediated under the accessible ROD with property owner concurrence, or if a Group 2 ROD will be needed.

Ongoing Work

From the beginning of USACE FUSRAP remedial activities in 1998 through Fiscal Year 2018; 315,824 cubic yards of contaminated soil have been removed from the SLDS. Remedial activities have recently been completed at the Mallinckrodt Plant 1 Former Building 17 location. Currently, remedial activities are being conducted on Destrehan Street and Plant 7W in the Mallinckrodt Plant and in formerly inaccessible areas at Gunther Salt Properties.

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

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/CentersofExpertise/FormerlyUtilizedSitesRemedialActionProgram.aspx>