



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

St. Louis Sites Fact Sheet

WHAT IS FUSRAP?



"Gateway to Excellence"

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District, is conducting a radiological cleanup program for four Missouri sites (SLDS, SLAPS, SLAPS VPs, HISS). These sites contain soils contaminated with radium, thorium, and uranium as a result of activities associated with the Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission during the nation's early atomic program in the 1940s and 50s.

The FY 1998 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, in which Congress transferred 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. Prior to the signing of this bill, FUSRAP had been managed by the U.S. Department of Energy.

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 Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) is an environmental remediation program. It addresses radiological contamination generated by activities of the Manhattan Engineer District and the Atomic Energy Commission (MED/AEC) during development of the atomic weapons in the 1940s and 50s.

BACKGROUND

From 1942 to 1957, the Mallinckrodt Chemical Plant extracted uranium and radium from ore at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) in downtown St. Louis, Missouri. During this time and until 1967, radioactive process byproducts were stored at an area adjacent to the Lambert-St. Louis Airport, which is now referred to as the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS).

In 1966, the SLAPS wastes were purchased, moved, and stored at Latty Avenue. Part of this property later became known as the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS). During this move, handling and transportation of the contamination spread the materials along haul routes and to adjacent vicinity properties forming the St. Louis Airport Site Vicinity Properties (SLAPS VPs).

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, Dow Chemical Company in Madison, Illinois operated as a uranium extrusion and rod-straightening facility. Contamination is now in dust located on roof beams at the Madison Site.

HOW HAZARDOUS ARE FUSRAP SITES?

Even though FUSRAP sites contain levels of radioactivity above current guidelines, none of the sites pose an immediate health risk to the public or environment given current land uses. The contaminated materials have very low concentrations and people are not exposed to them for long periods of time.

Although these materials do not pose an immediate hazard, they will remain radioactive for thousands of years, and health risks could increase if the use of the land were to change. Under FUSRAP, each site is cleaned to levels acceptable for the projected future use of the land such as residential development, industrial operations, or recreational use.

What Are FUSRAP's Objectives?

The objectives of FUSRAP are to:

- Protect human health and the environment.
- Execute the approved alternative for cleaning up radioactive contamination above health-based cleanup guidelines.
- Minimize adverse effects on area business operations.

HOW DOES FUSRAP WORK?

FUSRAP sites undergo several steps that lead to cleanup. Information about the site is collected and reviewed. A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is conducted to develop cleanup alternatives. The Remedial Investigation identifies the type and location of the contamination. The Feasibility Study develops and evaluates cleanup alternatives.

The public is informed about the development of the RI/FS cleanup alternatives through public meetings and the media. Public participation is especially encouraged during the selection of the final remediation, or cleanup, method.

When a cleanup alternative is chosen, a Proposed Plan (PP) is written to explain why it was chosen. Members of the public are asked to comment on all the cleanup options, including the selected alternative. After public comments have been considered, a final decision is made and documented in a Record of Decision (ROD). The Remedial Design follows the ROD and includes technical drawings and specifications that show how the cleanup will be conducted.

Cleanup, or Remedial Action, begins after the Remedial Design is complete. This phase involves site preparation and construction activities. When these remediation activities are completed, verification surveys are conducted to ensure that cleanup objectives for the site have been met and are documented in a Post Remedial Action Report (PRAR).

