F U S R A P U P D A T E

The St. Louis Sites

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • Winter 2002

(314) 260-3905 www.mvs.usace.army.mil

Gravel now covers the ground where the 58,000 cubic yard HISS piles once stood, over twenty years after the first stockpile was created on the site.

Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS)

Pile Removals Successfully Completed

The USACE has successfully completed the removal of the stockpiles from the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS). Gravel now covers ground where the interim storage piles once stood, over twenty years after the first stockpile was created on the site.

Removal of the stockpiles began in March 2000, when crews began loading spoil piles generated by the construction of the HISS railspur into railcars for disposal. Cleanup activities continued over the next eighteen months as crews removed two stockpiles from an adjacent vicinity property and two stockpiles from HISS.

Environmental control measures were instituted to protect the public from the potential off-site migration of contamination during the removal of these piles. Crews sprayed work areas with water regularly to prevent soils from drying and becoming airborne during the removal. Permanent air sampling stations monitored the perimeter of the site to assure that contaminants did not become airborne and leave the site.

Nearly 58,000 cubic yards of material were removed from the site using a woman-owned, small business contractor. Crews loaded the stockpiles of soil and debris onto railcars and sent them to an out-of-state disposal facility. The removal of the stockpiles achieved one of the objectives of the approved 1998 HISS Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis.

Now that the stockpiles have been removed, the next step for USACE is to characterize subsurface soil contamination on the portion of the site that was previously concealed by the large stockpiles. Completing the characterization of contamination at HISS will enable the USACE to design its cleanup once the final remedy is selected for the site.

What's Next?

Crews will begin pulling soil samples to characterize contamination in the newly accessible areas of HISS this spring.

Upcoming Events

Information Releases:

Spring Newsletter - May 2002

Upcoming Meetings:

St. Louis Oversight Committee Meetings at the FUSRAP Project Office at 11:30 a.m. on March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th. Please come if you are available!

St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS)

East End Extension Winding Up

Cleanup activities in the main body of the East End Extension are complete. Of the five-acre wedge that comprises the East End Extension work area at the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), only a portion of the drainage ditch next to McDonnell Boulevard remains to be addressed.

Removal of contaminated soils from the drainage ditch was delayed to avoid potential water and traffic management problems on McDonnell Boulevard during the wetter winter months. Under the approved SLAPS Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), approximately 60,000 cubic yards of material have been removed from the main body of the East End Extension. The USACE anticipates removing an additional 2,000 cubic yards from the shoulder and ditch next to McDonnell Boulevard along the northern border of SLAPS.

Crews will begin removing material from the shoulder of McDonnell Boulevard in February. Efforts to remove this material have been coordinated with the St. Louis County Highway Department to ensure the safety of McDonnell Boulevard travelers and construction crews.

Phase 1 Removal Begins

Now that the removal of contamination from the main body of the East End Extension is finished, crews are focusing on the central portion of the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), referred to as Phase 1.

The 2.3-acre SLAPS Phase 1 work area has been divided into five smaller work areas to ease the management of drainage water during the excavation. Removal activities will progress westward across the site from areas of higher to lower elevations in order to stabilize the site and berms will be constructed to prevent storm-water runoff from transporting contaminated sediments into clean areas. Although the majority of contaminated soils are within twelve feet of the surface, some areas will require excavation to depths of 20 feet.

Since December 2001, over 14,000 cubic yards have been removed and shipped to an out-of-state disposal facility from the Phase 1 work area. The USACE anticipates completing the 42,000 cubic yard excavation of the SLAPS Phase 1 work area by the end of this summer.

What's Next?

Removal activities will continue in the SLAPS Phase 1 work area through the end of this summer. In the meantime, the USACE is completing the Phase 4 and 5 designs for future work at SLAPS.

Crews lay sod as part of the site backfill and restoration process upon completing the cleanup of the East End Extension.

North County

Environmental Documentation Update

An extensive internal review of the draft North County Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan (FS/PP) is nearing completion. The FS/PP will address the presence of contamination related to the activities of the Manhattan Engineer District / Atomic Energy Commission in North St. Louis County which includes the Latty Avenue/ Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS), the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), the SLAPS Vicinity Properties (VPs), and Coldwater Creek.

Comments on draft versions of the North County FS/PP were received from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). As the USACE began incorporating modifications into the documents based on the agencies' comments, the basis for the cost of each alternative changed. A comprehensive review of each alternative's cost was performed to ensure the information, when presented to the public, is accurate.

The revised draft FS/PP, which incorporates the first group of regulatory comments and the new cost data, is under internal USACE review to ensure comments are adequately addressed. Once the internal review is complete, the USACE will submit the revised draft document to the EPA and MDNR for review over a 30-day period.

What's Next?

The North County FS/PP will be presented to the public for a 30-day review and comment period after comments from the regulatory review cycle are addressed.

St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS)

Mallinckrodt Remediation Progressing

Under the approved 1998 St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) Record of Decision for accessible soils, cleanup work is progressing steadily. Over 35,900 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris have been excavated from the site to date. Remedial activities at the Mallinckrodt facility alone produced nearly 27,700 cubic yards of this material.

The USACE completed the remediation of 10,800 cubic yards of contaminated soil from Plant 2 in April 2000. Plant 1 will be added to the list of completed work areas within the facility by the end February.

An estimated 3,700 cubic yards of contaminated soils were removed from Plant 1. Although activities within the main body of the Plant 1 work area were completed by June 2001, work in small isolated areas continued through 2002. Progress in these areas slowed as the USACE worked with the property owner to accommodate their need for access to the same isolated areas. Since these areas were only large enough to accommodate one construction crew at a time, cleanup activities in Plant 1 had to be carefully coordinated.

Remedial activities are continuing within the Plant 6 East/East Half work areas. The USACE has excavated approximately 13,200 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris from the Plant 6 East/East Half to date. While most of the contamination in this work area has required the excavation of soils within eight feet of the surface, one area of remediation reached a depth of 20 feet.

Remedial activities are well underway at the DT-7 vicinity property (located south of Mallinckrodt along Angelrodt Street).

Keeping in Touch

Mailing Lists - To receive newsletters and other printed communications, sign up for our mailing list anytime.

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Public Speaking - If your group, school, or association would like to hear from one of our experts, give us a call. We can speak on a variety of fields, including engineering, the environment, and geology.

Homepage - To reach our site, set your browser to www.mvs.usace.army.mil and select District Projects.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments, contact our office anytime.

Approximately 27,000 cubic yards of soil, concrete and debris are anticipated for disposal from the Plant 6 East/East Half work area.

Vicinity Property Cleanup Underway

The USACE is also working to cleanup properties around the Mallinckrodt facility that were contaminated by Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission (MED/AEC) activities. Under the 1998 SLDS Record of Decision, the vicinity properties are being studied to assure that any MED/AEC contamination present is addressed.

Crews are collecting soil samples to characterize the full extent of contamination at the vicinity properties. Data from these samples will confirm the absence of contamination or will be used to design the remediation of the property.

Remedial activities are well underway at DT-7 (located south of Mallinckrodt along Angelrodt Street). DT-7 is the first privately owned vicinity property to be remediated under the SLDS Record of Decision. Approximately 3,700 cubic yards of contaminated soils and debris have been removed to date. The completion of the 4,000 cubic yard excavation and restoration is expected this summer.

What's Next?

Efforts to remediate Plant 6 East/East Half will continue through the remainder of this fiscal year. DT-7 is scheduled to be complete this summer.

What is Radiation?

Q: If you were to trying to explain radiation to someone, what would you say? Radioactivity is not detectable with the five senses. You cannot see, hear, smell, taste, or feel it. How would you describe it?

A: The simplest explanation is that radiation is a type of energy. Nuclear radiation is a specific type of energy produced when an unstable atom tries to become more stable by "decaying" or releasing particles. These particles, called photons, are pure energy. Radiation may take one of two forms: ionizing or nonionizing. Ionizing radiation consists of high-energy particles capable of creating electrical charges (ion pairs) in substances they pass through. Nonionizing radiation cannot create ion pairs as it passes through material.

Nonionizing radiation consists of radiowaves and may be found in common household products such as light, microwaves, or televisions. Ionizing radiation can be found in everything in nature in trace amounts – including people. It can be found in carbon and potassium, as well as elements such as uranium and thorium. If radiation is natural, why are we spending so much to clean it up? Just like sunlight (another radiation source), radiation poses little harm until you've been exposed to too much of it. The Corps is working on the FUSRAP sites to limit the amount of radiation to which we are exposed.

Naturally occurring ionizing radiation may be one of three types (alpha, beta, or gamma). Alpha particles can only travel approximately one to two inches in air and can be blocked by a sheet of paper. Beta particles can travel 6-10 feet in air and can be blocked with Plexiglas® or glass. Gamma particles can travel the farthest but may be stopped with lead.

Some people believe radioactive materials can be treated by finding the right chemical mixture to neutralize it or "make it go away". Unfortunately, since radioactivity is a type of energy released by elements, which are already in their simplest form, it cannot be neutralized. We can only control the locations of radioactive material and wait until nature takes its course.

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