

The St. Louis Sites

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • Winter 1999

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Aerial layout of the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS).

ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN SITE (SLDS)

Plant 2 Remedial Action Underway

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has completed the remedial design plan for final cleanup activities within the Mallinckrodt Plant 2 area. The plan was developed according to the criteria established in the approved St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) Record of Decision (ROD).

Plant 2 is located in the middle of Mallinckrodt as indicated in the map above. This area was selected for remediation to minimize disruption to current business operations and permit Mallinckrodt to utilize the site in accordance with their strategic development plan.

The remediation of Plant 2 began with the removal of the concrete slab in January. In preparation for this action, the area was surveyed and staked to mark the limits of excavation. The asphalt was then removed and sheet piling placed to support the foundations of structures close to the excavation area and to prevent cave-ins. A backhoe and excavator will be used to remove contaminated material from under the slab and load it into the onsite railcars for disposal.

The USACE contractor is currently preparing to excavate the


subsurface of Plant 2. Once crews complete the excavation, the floor will be surveyed and sampled to confirm that the radiological contamination, as defined in the SLDS ROD, has been removed to the approved criteria. Upon receiving confirmation from a final site survey that the site has been remediated, the site will be restored to grade.

The USACE currently anticipates Plant 2 remediation will be finished in July 1999. Approximately 8,500 cubic yards of contaminated material will be removed from this area.

City Properties Completed

The St. Louis City Properties remediation is nearing completion. These properties are located between the Mississippi River, the Mallinckrodt plant, and the McKinley Bridge. Sampling has verified that above-criteria radiological contamination was successfully removed from the property. Approximately 4,390 cubic yards of contaminated material were removed. The restoration of the site is scheduled for completion in late February, assuming no further weather delays are encountered. Once the restoration is completed, the properties will be released for use to the City of St. Louis.

What's Next?

While the Plant 2 remediation is underway, remedial design work will begin on Plant 1. The USACE anticipates issuing the Plant 1 design in June 1999. The USACE and Mallinckrodt will also begin developing the remedial strategy and design plans for Plants 6 and 7. 

Upcoming Events

Information Releases:

Spring Newsletter – May 1999

Upcoming Meetings:

St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) Open House, Henry Clay Elementary School Gymnasium, February 25, 1999 from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Oversight Committee Meeting at the FUSRAP Project Office at 11:30 a.m. on March 12, April 9, and May 14, 1999.



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ST. LOUIS AIRPORT SITE (SLAPS)

SLAPS East End Removal Underway

In October 1998 under the authority of the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), March 1998, the USACE began a two-phase removal action on the East End of SLAPS as part of the site stabilization effort.

The Phase 1-East End work is currently being performed in the wedge between McDonnell Boulevard and Banshee Road. Previously, the area sloped to the northeast sending surface runoff to the McDonnell Boulevard drainage ditches just outside the existing fence line. The surface water runoff will be collected in the Sedimentation Trap for sampling and, if necessary, treated and released. As part of the site stabilization effort, this removal action will minimize further contamination release into nearby Coldwater Creek through the removal of the source material. Before completion in late-April, approximately 40,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils will be removed from SLAPS.

Phase 2 work will begin in mid-May. Approximately 20,000 cubic yards (including a portion of the Radium Pits) will be moved this year.

Radium Pits Removal Design Underway

Under the authority of the previously mentioned EE/CA, the USACE is finalizing a design and planning to remove contamination from an area of SLAPS

Each month, the USACE presents a monthly progress report on the St. Louis Sites to the Oversight Committee. These meetings are open to the public. Exact dates and times are published each quarter in this newsletter.



St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) east end during excavation and construction.

Keeping in Touch

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showing elevated radiological activity. The targeted area, referred to as the "Radium Pits," was used by the

Atomic Energy Commission/ Manhattan Engineer District (AEC/MED) as a storage area for residues removed from the manufacturing operations at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS). An estimated 40,000 cubic yards of

contaminated soils will be removed during this cleanup action, which is scheduled to begin in June. The final design document will be completed in April 1999.

What's Next?

While contamination is being removed from the radium pits, the USACE is finalizing its strategy to stabilize the remainder of the site. ■

HAZELWOOD INTERIM STORAGE SITE (HISS)

Railspur Construction Underway

In October 1998, the USACE began construction of a rail loading facility for the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) under the authority of the HISS EE/CA. Recently, crews began clearing and grubbing activities near the existing rail line to prepare the area for the installation of the HISS railspur. During the railspur design process, engineers became aware of a sewer line near the proposed construction site. According to railroad requirements, underground utility lines within



Crews begin clearing activities for the HISS railspur construction and sewerline encasement.

twenty-five feet of a proposed rail line must be moved or encased to prevent damage and provide access for utility workers. The USACE has finished encasing the sewerline and is progressing with railspur construction.

As construction crews grade the soil for the rail spur, excess soil is temporarily being stockpiled between the main and supplementary storage piles. This temporary pile, which will contain approximately 2,000 cubic yards, is covered with a heavy liner to ensure that soil or dust particles do not move from the site. Air and water resources near the construction area are constantly monitored for the release of contamination from the site.

What's Next?

Upon completion of the railspur construction, a small, woman-owned business will begin removing the Eastern Pile (approximately 5,000 cubic yards) this summer. The removal will be completed in late 1999. ■

MADISON SITE

Characterization Report Released

In February 1999, the USACE presented the Draft Final Characterization Report for the Madison Site to the property owner and regulators. Last summer and fall, the USACE took samples to validate existing site data. The report defines the site contamination and updates the risk associated with it. Using this document, the USACE will develop a Feasibility Study/Proposed Plan (FS/PP) presenting a range of alternatives for the final action to be taken at the site.

You're Invited!

You are invited to attend the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) Open House on Thursday, February 25, 1999 from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Henry Clay Elementary School Gymnasium. The USACE will provide information explaining the Remedial Design for the Mallinckrodt Plant 2 area. The Remedial Design is the actual plan that implements the approved cleanup method established in the SLDS Record of Decision.

What's Next?

The USACE will meet with regulators to determine the next step in developing a ROD for the site. ■

NORTH COUNTY

Document Development Underway for ROD

The St. Louis District recently briefed the regulators and Oversight Committee on the Potential Contaminants of Concern Assessment Memorandum (PAM), which updates the Baseline Risk Assessment. As defined by FUSRAP, the USACE is authorized to remove site contaminants associated with MED/AEC activities of the '40s and '50s. The PAM defines the contaminant levels and associated risks. This information will be used to assist in developing a ROD for the final cleanup of North County sites.

What's Next?

A list of the preliminary applicable, relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs), which are laws and regulations to be enforced during the remedial action, will be coordinated with the regulators. The ARARs enforced during the final cleanup will be directly related to the site's primary contaminants of concern. ■



Construction crews grade soil for rail spur at the HISS site. Excess soil is temporarily stockpiled between the main and supplementary storage piles.

Are you sure you're ready?

Q Have you ever wondered how the USACE makes sure crews are ready to perform environmental cleanup work or how the Corps ensures the work is done correctly?

A Before entering the site, crews are given site-specific and refresher training for working on a radioactively contaminated site. A key component of this review is how they will comply with the USACE-approved Site Safety and Health Plan. Surrounding the site, fencing and signs are in place to prevent inadvertent and unauthorized access. If necessary, additional barriers will be temporarily installed to further restrict site access. Prior to entering the site, equipment and workers are inspected to certify operability of equipment, verify appropriate wear of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by workers, and assure compliance with published safety standards and plans. While work is being performed, environmental monitoring devices monitor the surrounding area to ensure no contaminants are released from the site.

The USACE construction management team is physically located on-site to monitor contractor activities and ensure they are in compliance with the contractual requirements. Contractor activities are reported in both weekly and monthly progress meetings between the resident engineer and the construction crew. Additionally, daily inspections are conducted by the Corps to ensure the correctness of work being performed. Data gathered from the environmental monitoring devices is carefully reviewed to ensure the public remains unaffected by operations. Engineering representatives of USACE also perform regular site investigations to verify that individuals' health and safety are protected and to assure contractor compliance with the published Plans and Specifications.

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