

The St. Louis Sites

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • Summer 2000

(314) 260-3905

www.mvs.usace.army.mil



Uranium-contaminated dust at the Madison Site was vacuumed and scraped from overhead structures.

MADISON SITE

Madison ROD Signed

In May 2000, the St. Louis District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) released the signed Final Record of Decision (ROD) for the Madison Site in Madison, Illinois. In response to the potential risk of exposure to radioactive dust, the USACE selected a final remedy for the site entailing a cleanup that is protective of human health and the environment.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the site was used to perform extrusions of uranium metal and straightening of extruded uranium rods for the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). In 1999, the USACE identified uranium contamination in two buildings operated by a manufacturer in Madison, Illinois. The contamination was limited to dust on overhead surfaces.

In February 2000, four remedial alternatives were identified to address the contamination at the Madison Site. These alternatives were presented to the public for review and comment in a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study (RI/FS) and Proposed Plan. Based on comments received from the general public and regulatory agencies, the USACE selected Alternative 4, decontamination of accessible surfaces.

Alternative 4 is identified as the final remedy for the Madison Site in the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD incorporates public comments received on the Feasibility

Study and outlines the final cleanup method selected to address the contamination. The Madison ROD was developed in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The Madison Site Administrative Record, on which the final decision was based, was completed and released in May with the signing of the ROD.


Madison Decontamination Complete

Under the Final Record of Decision (ROD), decontamination activities at the Madison Site began in June. The USACE designed the cleanup activities so that the site would meet the specific cleanup levels established to protect human health and identified in the Madison Site ROD.

The small business contractor mobilized its decontamination teams to the site with protective clothing, scaffolding and equipment. Uranium-contaminated dust was vacuumed from overhead structures over a 12-day period. By mid-July, independent surveys confirmed that the USACE had successfully decontaminated Buildings 6 and 4 ahead of schedule and under budget. Forty cubic yards of contaminated dust and materials were sent to a licensed, out-of-state facility for disposal.

The current condition of the site will be documented in a Post Remedial Action Report for the Madison Site. This report will document how the current condition of the decontaminated areas meet the criteria established in the Madison Site Record of Decision.

What's Next?

After the Post Remedial Action Report is complete, the site will be removed from the list of active FUSRAP sites. 

Upcoming Events

Information Releases:

Fall Newsletter – November 2000

Upcoming Meetings:

St. Louis Oversight Committee Meeting at the FUSRAP Project Office at 11:30 a.m. on September 8, October 13, and November 10. (The public is welcome to attend.)



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St. Louis District



A slide-rail shoring system (shown above) prevents the walls of the excavation from caving in during the Plant 1 remediation.

ST. LOUIS DOWNTOWN SITE (SLDS)

Plant 2 Remediation Complete

Asphalt now covers Plant 2, which is the first area within the Mallinckrodt facility successfully remediated under the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) Record of Decision.

Remediation of the SLDS Plant 2 area began last year with the excavation and removal of contaminated material covering the area. By May, construction crews encountered 19th century utility lines predating available maps. Utility lines had to be temporarily relocated and/or shutoff before the excavation could proceed.

Remedial activities were temporarily delayed again in August 1999 when Civil War ordnance was discovered in the excavation. The USACE paused to develop a plan for the remediation of the remainder of the Plant 2 area in accordance with the SLDS Record of Decision while minimizing safety risks for plant personnel and remediation workers.

Over the next seven months, contaminated soils were removed in 10- to 15-inch thick layers after being scanned for the presence of metal objects. Law enforcement authorities received thirty pieces of ordnance for disposal recovered from the Plant 2 excavation.

The USACE removed approximately 10,600 cubic yards of contaminated material from Plant 2. A Post Remedial Action Report, which documents the condition of the site after remedial activities have taken place, is being prepared. This document will confirm how the current

condition of the site meets the criteria established in the SLDS Record of Decision and will be released in October.

Plant 1 Excavation Begins

Now that the remediation of Plant 2 is complete, the USACE has shifted its focus to Plant 1 where Mallinckrodt's Building K once stood.

Plant 1 site preparatory work began this spring within the anticipated excavation footprint. Crews installed fencing around the excavation area to prevent inadvertent entry. Electric, water and sewer lines continue to be routed around the area to minimize the safety risk to personnel. A temporary ramp was also built to provide access to the remediation area for transporting material to the loading facility.

For Plant 1, a steel, slide-rail shoring system will be used to provide additional support to the walls during remedial activities. The Plant 1 excavation will be completed in three separate strips reaching 12 feet in depth. The main area (or the area where Building K once stood) will be remediated using open excavation techniques expected to reach depths of up to 16 feet.

The USACE anticipates completing the 1,500 cubic yard excavation and backfill of Plant 1 by the end of this year. However, site restoration, which consists of restoring utility connections, grading and paving the area, will continue into next year.

What's Next?

Plant 1 will be backfilled and restored once survey data confirms that the remediation criteria established in the SLDS Record of Decision have been met. ■

Keeping in Touch

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

Phone: (314) 260-3905
Mail: 8945 Latty Avenue
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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 click on the FUSRAP icon.

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

NORTH COUNTY

FS/PP Nears Release

The selection of the final remedy for the North County sites is on the horizon. The USACE has been busy developing the North County Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan (FS/PP) for presentation to the public. These documents will address the presence of Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission-related contamination at the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS), the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), the SLAPS Vicinity Properties (SLAPS VPs) and Coldwater Creek.

Alternatives for remediating the North County Sites will be described in detail in the Feasibility Study, while the Proposed Plan will identify the USACE recommended alternative to address contamination at the sites.

Over the past several months, the USACE has been carefully reviewing draft documents to ensure they adequately address contamination in the North County area. Currently, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Missouri are reviewing draft copies of these documents to ensure they fully consider all applicable, relevant and appropriate requirements. Once the regulator's comments have been addressed and incorporated into the documents, the public will be given the opportunity review and comment on the North County FS/PP.

What's Next?

This winter the USACE will present the FS/PP to the public for review and comment to determine the final remedy for the site. A public meeting will be held approximately two weeks after the release of the documents to the public to gather comments. ■

ST. LOUIS AIRPORT SITE (SLAPS)

Radium Pits Excavation Continues

Excavation activities at the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) have left a large, 2-acre hole where a contaminated area known as the Radium Pits was once located.

The gross excavation of contaminated soils in the Radium Pits, which began in May 2000, is complete. While the bulk of the excavation is complete, surveys are being performed to identify the locations of residual radiological contamination for removal. To date, over 525 railcars containing 37,800 cubic yards of material have been shipped from the site to a licensed, out-of-state disposal facility. Backfill of the Radium Pits with clean soils is expected to begin in October.

What's Next?

Once confirmation is received that removal criteria have been met for the Radium Pits activity, the area will be backfilled and grass seed will be placed to prevent erosion. ■

HAZELWOOD INTERIM STORAGE SITE (HISS)

Supplemental Pile Removal

Fourteen years after its creation, the HISS Supplemental Pile, which can be seen from Latty Avenue, is being removed. This material is being removed under the 1998 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the Latty Avenue/Hazelwood Interim Storage Site. The Supplemental Pile contains 5,500 cubic yards of material that resulted from drainage and improvement project performed by the Cities of Berkeley and Hazelwood in 1986.

The USACE completed negotiations with a woman-owned, small business contractor for the removal of the HISS Supplemental Pile in August. Since then, the contractor has submitted the project plans to the USACE for approval. The project plans describe how the contractor will carry out the pile removal. Once the plans are approved, the contractor will mobilize its crew to the site and begin removing the pile.

Beginning in September 2000, the Supplemental Pile soils will be loaded into railcars at the HISS railspur, which was built in 1999. The soils will then be shipped to a licensed, out-of-state facility for disposal. The USACE has implemented additional protective measures to protect human health and the environment. Crews will spray the area with water regularly to prevent soils from drying and becoming airborne. Permanent air sampling stations have been installed around the perimeter of the site that will operate continuously to help assure soil or dust particles do not migrate from the site.

What's Next?

During the removal of the Supplemental Pile, the USACE will design the removal of the first half of the HISS Main Pile. ■



While the bulk of the Radium Pits excavation is complete, walkover surveys help identify the locations of residual radiological contamination for removal

We've Moved!

If you came by the Project Office lately, you would notice some pretty big changes have taken place. Throughout the month of July, we have been busy moving the trailers from 9170 Latty Avenue to 8945 Latty Avenue (just up the street). By moving the trailers off the site, heavy construction equipment will have more room in which to operate and begin removing the piles at the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS).

Feel free to visit us at our new location - 8945 Latty Avenue! Or call us at our new number, (314) 260-3905, if you have any questions about the program!



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