



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Louis District

Information Paper

FUSRAP St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS)

Remediation

Contact:

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Location: The St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) is an unincorporated 21.7-acre property in north St. Louis County owned by the City of St. Louis and adjacent to the Lambert St. Louis International Airport. The SLAPS is bounded by McDonnell Boulevard, Banshee Road, a railroad, and Coldwater Creek.

Description: From 1942 to 1957, Mallinckrodt Chemical Works processed uranium ore under contracts with the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at its facilities in downtown St. Louis, MO. In 1946, the AEC acquired the SLAPS to store processing materials. The method of contamination of the SLAPS was the storage of radioactive materials on and within the ground. Subsequent contamination occurred by the movement of contaminated soil by wind, rain, or human activities.

In 1966, the materials stored at the SLAPS were purchased by a private company and transported to a storage site on Latty Avenue, which is the present-day Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS)/Futura Site. After removal of most of the materials at the SLAPS, storage sheds were buried on the property in 1969, and one to three feet of clean fill material was spread over the SLAPS to achieve acceptable levels of surface radioactivity. The soils at SLAPS were impacted by the release of residual radium (Ra), thorium (Th), uranium (U), and their radioactive decay products, from uranium metal production processes. SLAPS, HISS, and the Futura Coatings Company property were added to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Priorities List (NPL) in 1989.

Status: From 1997-2007, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the guidelines of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) remediated the SLAPS. More than 600,000 cubic yards (cys) of contaminated material was removed and shipped off site to a licensed disposal facility. Currently, there are temporary buildings (USACE, Contractor Offices, and the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program [FUSRAP] Laboratory) and other structures, including a rail spur and loadout pad, located at the SLAPS to support remedial activities at other North St. Louis County Sites. Because of the extended period for remediation, Five-Year Reviews (FYRs) have occurred in accordance with CERCLA. FYRs are conducted to ensure that human health and the environment are being protected by the response action being implemented. The fifth FYR is due August 2025.

Importance: EPA Region 7 is the lead regulator for the St. Louis FUSRAP sites. USACE works directly with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS), the Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management (DOE-LM) and local stakeholders. All this coordination helps to execute the approved ROD alternative allowing for protection of human health and the environment while minimizing adverse effects on area residents and business operations.

Authority: The authority to investigate and remediate FUSRAP sites was transferred from DOE to USACE under the 1998 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (Public Law 105-62).

Schedule: Remediation at the SLAPS Vicinity Properties (VPs) is projected to be complete in 2036. In conjunction with VPs completion, the SLAPS rail spur will be removed, and contamination underneath will be remediated. The site will be turned over to DOE-LM for long-term management in 2038.



Figure 1: Vicinity of SLAPS

Activities for FY24: Site monitoring and maintenance of the rail spur, which is still used to ship material excavated from the various SLAPS VPs.

Activities after FY24: Continue environmental monitoring at the site. Complete remedial activities under the rail spur; remove rail spur; and transfer to DOE-LM.

Congressional Interest: Senate: Schmitt and Hawley (MO)
House: Bush (MO-1), Wagner (MO-2),
State: Bangert (MO 070), Clemens (MO 072), Nickson-Clark (MO 067), Proudie (MO 073), Gray (MO 075)
STL CO -Webb (D-4)

Financial:

FY24 Presidents Budget: \$50,000
Total Federal funding to date: \$306,568,000