

The St. Louis Sites

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • Winter 2001

(314) 260-3905

www.mvs.usace.army.mil

Foreword

It's no secret that bad weather heavily impacts the progress of outdoor work. Remedial activities at the FUSRAP project are no exception. Excavation activities at the St. Louis FUSRAP Sites slowed considerably after the sites were hit with not only the second coldest December on record but also with heavy snowfall-nearly 14 inches in two weeks. Soils at the sites were effectively frozen in place by the sudden cold snap.

With this temporary delay, we thought this was a good time to consider how far work has come on the project. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District assumed responsibility for completing the cleanup of FUSRAP sites in the St. Louis area nearly three and one-half years ago. In addition to the current activity update normally presented in this newsletter, we have added a brief description of achievements since the Corps assumed responsibility for FUSRAP. We hope you find this review as encouraging as we did. ■

North County

Project Review

When USACE took over in 1997, the DOE had just begun removing contamination from the West End of the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) under a 1997 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). Since then, the USACE-St. Louis District has successfully accelerated work and made substantial progress toward the final cleanup of SLAPS and the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) in North County.

Upcoming Events

Information Releases:

Spring Newsletter – May 2001

Upcoming Meetings:

St. Louis Oversight Committee Meeting at the FUSRAP Project Office at 11:30 a.m. on April 13th, May 11th, and June 11th. (Please feel free to attend if you are available!)

St. Louis Earth Day Celebration - April 22nd in Forest Park (Please stop by and see us!)



Since October 1997, the USACE has removed 112,600 cubic yards of contaminated material from SLAPS.

Under separate EE/CAs, the FUSRAP team obtained public approval to conduct specific actions at the SLAPS and HISS sites. The USACE constructed railspurs at HISS and SLAPS to safely increase shipping and disposal capacity.

Upon completing the West End removal action at SLAPS, site stabilization efforts began. A sedimentation basin was constructed to limit the migration of contamination offsite via stormwater runoff. The Radium Pits, believed to contain the most contaminated soils at the site, were safely removed. Approximately 112,600 cubic yards of material have been removed by USACE from the SLAPS East End, Radium Pits and adjacent ditches to date.

Perhaps the most dramatic change since 1997 has been the removal of the piles that stood at HISS for nearly twenty years. Roughly 28,400 cubic yards of soils from the railspur construction piles, two Eastern Piles, the HISS Supplemental (or Front) Storage Pile, and part of the HISS Main Pile have been removed. Today, only a portion of the Main Pile remains at HISS.

FS/PP Release Scheduled

The North County Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan (FS/PP) will be issued this summer for public review and comment over a 30-day period. These documents will address the presence of contamination related to the activities of the Manhattan Engineer District / Atomic Energy Commission in North St. Louis County.

Six alternatives have been developed to address contamination at the North County Site, which includes the Latty Avenue/Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS), the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), and the SLAPS Vicinity Properties (VPs), and Coldwater Creek.



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While the Feasibility Study (FS) describes each alternative in detail, the Proposed Plan identifies the alternative recommended by the USACE. Once these documents are ready, the public will be given 30 days to review the documents and provide comments to the USACE on the alternatives. In addition, the USACE will host a public meeting to explain the alternatives presented in the documents and accept comments from interested citizens.

The USACE will review all of the comments received and select a final remedy for the North County Sites. The final selected remedy will be based on the comments received during the 30-day comment period and may not necessarily be the alternative identified as the preferred alternative by the USACE in the Proposed Plan.

What's Next?

The North County FS/PP will be released to the public for review and comment once the USACE, EPA and State agencies put the finishing touches on it. Copies of FS/PP will be available for public review at the Project Office and at the local information repositories. ■

SLAPS Vicinity Properties (VPs)

Letters to Property Owners

SLAPS Vicinity Property owners will soon be receiving letters from the USACE regarding FUSRAP contamination on their property. Although owners are aware of the presence of the contamination on their property, the USACE is concerned that not everyone may understand how to request assistance with managing contamination on their properties.



Twenty years after its initial creation, the removal of the Main Pile from HISS has begun. The pile contains approximately 25,000 cubic yards of soil.

Keeping in Touch

Mailing Lists - To receive regular updates on the project, sign up for our mailing list anytime.

Phone: (314) 260-3905

Mail: 8945 Latty Avenue
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Fax: (314) 260-3941

Public Speaking - If your group, school, or association would like a presentation on our work, give us a call. We would love to talk to you!

Homepage - To reach our site, set your browser to www.mvs.usace.army.mil/engr/fusrap/home2.htm

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

Owners may wish to make property improvements before a final remedy is selected for the North County Site. They are encouraged to contact the FUSRAP Project Office to allow the USACE to verify the presence of radiological contamination in the impacted area and advise owners of the potential impacts it may have on their work. By working with the property owners, the USACE can minimize the adverse effects of contamination.

What's Next?

Once the final cleanup alternative is selected, the USACE will begin developing plans for the design and cleanup of the site. Progress will be based on the level of funding received from Congress. ■

Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS)

Main Pile Removal Underway

Twenty years after its initial creation, the removal of the Main Pile from the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) has begun. This final pile will be removed under the approved 1998 Engineering Evaluation / Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the Latty Avenue/Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS).

The Main Pile contains an estimated 25,000 cubic yards of soil and debris from two property development / improvement projects on Latty Avenue. The USACE completed removal of a portion of the northeastern corner of the Main Pile in November using a small business contractor. Crews will continue removing the Main Pile this spring by working in a clockwise pattern. Approximately, 4,400 cubic yards have been removed to date.

What's Next?

Using a small business contractor, the USACE anticipates completing the removal of half of the Main Pile this summer if funding is available. Removal activities will continue through the end of October. ■

St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS)

East End Extension Removal

In November, the USACE began excavating contaminated soils from areas adjacent to the recently decontaminated East End of the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS). The removal action, referred to as the East End Extension, is progressing in two general areas: work in the drainage ditch along McDonnell Boulevard, and work between the Radium Pits and East End.

The USACE designed the work to progress from east to west across the site to create a continuous decontaminated area and further stabilize the site. Under the approved 1998 SLAPS Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis, approximately 46,000 cubic yards of soil will be removed during the East End Extension removal action. The USACE anticipates completing this effort sometime late this year. Nearly 4,000 cubic yards of soil have been removed to date.

What's Next?

The USACE will continue removing contamination from the East End Extension through the end of this summer. In the meantime, the USACE is completing the design for the next phase of work at SLAPS. ■

St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS)

Project Review

In 1997, the Department of Energy (DOE) was in the process of completing its building demolition activities in the Mallinckrodt facility at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS). Contaminated soils along the Mississippi River had been removed to support the construction of the Riverfront Trail.

In October 1997, Congress transferred responsibility for FUSRAP from the DOE to the USACE. Within six months, the USACE presented cleanup alternatives for the final cleanup of SLDS to the public. By October 1998, the final SLDS Record of Decision (ROD) identifying the selected site cleanup alternative for accessible soils was issued.

Nearly 18,000 cubic yards of contaminated material have been removed under this ROD. This material has been



Once the small, isolated areas of contamination are removed, permanent supports (called pylons) and piping are being constructed by the owner to support business operation.

removed from the remainder of the property bordering the Mississippi River, the Mallinckrodt Plant 2 area, and portions of Plant 1 and Plant 6 East Half.

Plant 1 Remediation Progressing

Remedial activities in Plant 1 began late last summer when the concrete pad covering the former Building K foundation was demolished. Work continues as the USACE focuses its efforts in two separate areas of the plant - the main excavation area located beneath the Building K pad, and the small, isolated areas of radiological contamination scattered about the remainder of the plant.

Work in the isolated areas is progressing slower than originally anticipated as the USACE attempts to accommodate the owner's need to meet regulatory requirements for current operations. The owner is installing temporary overhead piping to carry wastewater from on-going business operations. After the USACE completes removal of the small, isolated areas of contamination, the owner's construction crews erect permanent supports (pylons) and piping. Since these areas are only large enough for one crew, backfill activities must be delayed as the pylon bridge is constructed.

The remediation area in Plant 1 contains 2,400 cubic yards of accessible contamination within a 6.5-acre area. Approximately 2,100 cubic yards of contaminated material have been removed from Plant 1 to date.

What's Next?


Although the remediation of the Main Area of the Plant 1 cleanup will be complete this spring, work in the isolated areas will continue through the end of this summer. As work winds down in Plant 1, the USACE will intensify efforts to cleanup Plant 6 East Half. ■

Do I Count?

Q: You often mention a “30-day public review period”. What does the public review of a document have to do with cleaning up waste? Even if I review your documents and turn in comments, will my opinions really make a difference?

A: Congress believed that most citizens want to be aware of and participate in decision-making processes that affect their communities. When it created CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation Liability Act) in 1980, Congress required agencies to encourage community involvement in the cleanup of hazardous waste sites, especially during the selection of the final remedy. Upon completion of the Feasibility Study (FS), 30 days are set aside for interested citizens to review alternatives presented in the document and provide comments to the issuing agency. However, recognizing that lengthy technical documents can be intimidating, agencies also host a public meeting during the 30-day comment period to provide an understandable explanation of the proposed alternatives and accept comments on the alternatives.

Based on the comments received during the 30-day period, a specific long-term remedy is selected and identified in the Record of Decision (ROD). As the primary decision document, the ROD will substantiate the need for a remedial action, describe the proposed action and justify the action selected. Public comments, responses to those comments and any new information provided during the public review period are detailed in the Responsiveness Summary, a section of the ROD.

If you review the FS and provide written comments to the agency, you could influence the final remedy selected for a site. Although the issuing agency will identify its preferred alternative in the Proposed Plan, the final remedy for a site may be different from the alternative preferred by the agency. So yes, your comments really do make a difference. 

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