

The St. Louis Sites

Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program • Spring 2000

(314) 524-4083

www.mvs.usace.army.mil



The selected remedy addressing uranium-contaminated dust, found on overhead eaves in Buildings 4 and 6, will be identified in the Record of Decision for the Madison Site.

Madison Site

Record of Decision (ROD) Coming Soon


Comments received from the public on the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) are assisting the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in developing a final plan to address the Madison Site.

Four remedial alternatives were developed to address the presence of uranium-contaminated dust on overhead steel beams at the Madison Site. These were presented to the public for review and comment in the Feasibility Study.

The USACE developed remedial alternatives to address uranium-contaminated dust based on detailed site-specific characterization data presented in the Remedial Investigation. The alternatives presented at the public meeting included No Action (for baseline comparison), Institutional Controls, Containment, and Decontamination of Accessible Surfaces. The USACE identified its recommended alternative, Decontamination of Accessible Surfaces, in the Proposed Plan.

The Madison Site RI/FS and Proposed Plan were presented to the public at the Madison City Hall in February. Comments received during the public comment period on these documents are being carefully weighed and considered as the USACE develops the final Record of Decision (ROD), which identifies the approved selected alternative for addressing site contamination.

What's Next?

The USACE will respond to comments received during the public review of the Madison Site RI/FS and Proposed Plan. The approved Madison Site Record of Decision (ROD) is expected in May 2000. 

North County


Feasibility Study Nears Release

The USACE has been busy developing a North County Feasibility Study and Proposed Plan (FS/PP) for presentation to the public. These documents will address the presence of low-level, radioactive 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 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 prior to releasing the document to the public for review.

What's Next?

The FS/PP will be presented to the public for review and comment this summer. After the public review, the USACE will consider comments on the FS/PP and select the final remedial alternative, which will be identified in a North County Record of Decision. 

Upcoming Events

Information Releases:

Summer Newsletter – July 2000

Upcoming Meetings:

St. Louis Oversight Committee Meeting at the FUSRAP Project Office at 11:30 a.m. on May 12, June 9, and July 14. (The public is welcome to attend.)



US Army Corps
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St. Louis District



The first significant removal action at HISS began with the disposal of 5,900 cubic yards of excess soils generated by the construction of the railspur.

Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS)


Pile Removal Underway

The first significant removal action at the Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) is underway. The contractor, a woman-owned small business, mobilized its crew to the site in February.

Removal work began in March with the construction of a haul road alongside the HISS railspur. In the first 20 days, 5,900 cubic yards of excess soil generated last year during the railspur construction was removed from the site. After the excess soils stored between the main and supplementary storage piles were removed, the contractor began to focus on the removal of the Eastern Piles.

The Eastern Piles contain approximately 8,000 cubic yards of material. The Corps is removing these piles under the 1998 Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the Latty Avenue/Hazelwood Interim Storage Site.

What's Next?

The USACE is reviewing characterization data and developing designs for the removal of the Supplemental (or Front) Pile immediately behind the Project Offices. 

St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS)

Radium Pits Removal Underway

The removal of low-level, radioactive contamination from an area of the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) commonly referred to as the Radium Pits is underway. In September 1999, the Corps sampled the area to better define geological, chemical and safety issues specific to the Radium Pits.

While historical records indicated that the USACE could reasonably anticipate encountering elevated levels of radium and thorium in the Radium Pits area, data collected from this sampling effort found significantly lower radium levels than expected. The decreased concentrations somewhat eased concerns over exposure to radon, which is a daughter product of the decay of radium. In contrast, sample results found higher levels of thorium than anticipated.

To maintain site safety during this removal action, air monitors are operating continuously in and around the excavated area. Crews regularly spray the area with water to prevent soils from drying and becoming airborne. New fencing and barriers were installed around the perimeter of SLAPS to prevent inadvertent access. Berms and sumps are located around and within the Radium Pits to ensure the water that falls on contaminated soil is collected, sampled and, if necessary, treated prior to release.

Approximately 29,000 cubic yards of contaminated material are scheduled for removal from the Radium Pits to a permitted, out-of-state disposal facility by July 3, 2000.

Keeping in Touch

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

Phone: (314) 524-4083
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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.

What's Next?

The USACE hopes to complete the Radium Pits removal action in July 2000. Once the bulk of the excavation is complete, crews can begin surveying the area to verify that it meets the cleanup criteria set forth in the 1998 SLAPS Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA).

East End Removal Complete

Site stabilization work on the SLAPS East End resulted in the removal of approximately 27,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. Removal work, which began on the East End to create a continuous path of excavation from east to west across the site, concluded in February.

Once radiological surveys confirmed the removal of the contamination, the area was partially backfilled with clean soil. Final backfilling and grading activities will occur after the USACE develops its final site grading plan.

What's Next?

Removal work will continue to move westward across the site from areas of higher to lower elevations in order to stabilize the site and prevent storm-water runoff from transporting contaminated sediments into clean areas. ■

St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS)

Plant 2 Excavation Complete

The excavation of the Mallinckrodt Plant 2 footprint was concluded in April 2000 with the removal of approximately 10,200 cubic yards of material. Remedial work was delayed temporarily in late August when unexploded Civil War ordnance was discovered during excavation activities.

Ordnance experts developed a plan to address the possibility of encountering more ordnance in Plant 2. The plan enabled the USACE to continue remediation of the site in accordance with the approved St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) Record of Decision while minimizing safety risks for plant personnel and remedial workers.

Magnetometers, which can detect buried metal objects four feet below the surface of the soil, were used to verify the work area was clear of all metal objects. Once a work area was cleared, excavators removed the top 10- to 15-inches of soil for disposal. Roughly 5,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils were removed this way and resulted in the discovery of additional Civil War ordnance in December and March.



Excavation of Plant 2 concluded in April with the removal of approximately 10,200 cubic yards of material.

What's Next?

The USACE anticipates completing backfill activities in the Plant 2 area in May.

Plant 1 Work Underway

SLDS Plant 1 site preparatory work began in March with the staking of the excavation footprint. Electric, water and sewer lines will be routed away from the area to minimize safety risks to personnel.

Since the Plant 1 remediation area is adjacent to currently operated buildings without the cushioning barrier of a street or walkway, a great deal of care and coordination will be required to protect plant workers. The USACE is working closely with Mallinckrodt personnel to coordinate remedial activities and minimize the impact on daily business operations as much as possible.

Pre-design characterization data indicates that Plant 1 contains approximately 1,500 cubic yards of contaminated material in the main area of excavation. Another 500 cubic yards, divided between an additional eleven nearby areas of elevated radiological activity, will also be remediated.

What's Next?

Sheet piling, which are steel sheets used to reinforce and protect the foundations of nearby buildings during remediation of the Plant 1 area, will be driven into the ground. Once this is complete, the excavation of radiological contamination in Plant 1 will begin. ■

Am I Protected?

Q. As I pass by your sites, I see workers dressed in moon suits and white garments? Am I protected from the radiation at your site?

A. Radiation presents a hazard if taken into the body. Radioactive particles can be taken into the body through inhalation or ingestion (eating or drinking). Three factors can be used to protect the body from external radiation—distance, time and shielding. Individuals are better protected the farther from the source of radiation, the shorter the time of exposure, or the thicker the shielding.

As you pass by one of the St. Louis Sites, you are protected from its radioactive materials by a variety of protective measures taken by the Corps. First, a fence around contaminated areas reduces the potential for inadvertent entry and distances you from the radiation. Second, water sprayed on the site prevents dust from becoming airborne (or inhaled) as crews excavate contaminated soils. Third, continuously operating air monitors positioned around the excavated area, assess the effectiveness of these protective measures by monitoring the levels of airborne particles present.

Because they may work directly with materials for long periods of time, workers are exposed to the greatest risks posed by FUSRAP contamination. Depending on the levels of radiation and their proximity to the material, workers are dressed in varying degrees of protective clothing. As you pass by one of the FUSRAP sites, you will see workers dressed in varying levels of protective gear.

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