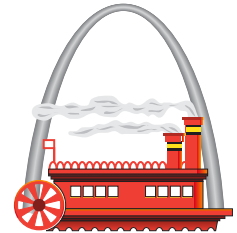




U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Louis District

## St. Louis Sites Fact Sheet

# RELEASE



"Gateway to Excellence"

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St. Louis District, is conducting a radiological cleanup program for four Missouri sites (SLDS, SLAPS, SLAPS VPs, HISS). These sites contain soils contaminated with radium, thorium, and uranium as a result of activities associated with the Manhattan Engineer District/Atomic Energy Commission during the nation's early atomic program in the 1940s and 50s.

When a property is "released", it means that the cleanup of the property has met the goals identified in the Record of Decision. Two key terms are important when the USACE makes a determination of release for a property in the Post Remedial Action Report. These terms are restricted use and unrestricted use. This fact sheet explains these terms and the circumstances under which each is assigned.

The Corps of Engineers encourages private citizens to participate fully in the cleanup program.

To learn more about FUSRAP or to inquire about public involvement opportunities, contact the FUSRAP Project Office at (314) 260-3924 or write to the St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers, FUSRAP Project Office, 8945 Latty Avenue, Berkeley, Missouri 63134

When a property is "released", it means that the cleanup of the property has met the goals identified in the Record of Decision. The property's release status is documented in a Post Remedial Action Report (PRAR) prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This report documents the effectiveness of the cleanup, demonstrates compliance with the Record of Decision, and any restrictions placed on the future use of the property.

Before finalizing the PRAR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the property owner receive copies of the document for review and comment. The Corps then addresses those comments, incorporates changes as required, and distributes the final document.

Two key phrases are important when the Corps makes a determination of release at a property in the PRAR. These phrases are "restricted use," and "unrestricted use and unlimited exposure".

### RESTRICTED USE

"Restricted use" refers to any remedial action that does not allow for unlimited use and an unrestricted exposure. Institutional controls (such as deed restrictions) or engineering controls (such as fences) are necessary to prevent an unanticipated land use change that could result in



unacceptable exposure to human health and the environment from the remaining contamination. Simplified, the controls ensure that the cleanup remains effective.

Institutional controls or engineering controls are relied upon for the period during which the radioactivity could present a threat to human health and the environment. These controls would be maintained until the material was removed or an assessment showed that the residual contamination met unrestricted use standards.

After the completion of the cleanup, a review of the site is conducted once every 5 years to evaluate the performance of the remedy and determine whether the remedy is/will continue to be protective of human health and the environment. The 5-year review typically includes document review, site inspection, monitoring results and documentation of the effectiveness of the institutional or engineered controls. The 5-year reviews continue until the area meets the unrestricted use and unlimited exposure standard.

## **UNRESTRICTED USE AND UNLIMITED EXPOSURE**

“Unrestricted use and unlimited exposure” means that the property owner can use the land for any purpose with no institutional or engineering controls. Cleanup to “unrestricted use” is not always practical. Areas where contamination is present under permanent structures (such as roads, buildings, railroads or bridges) and poses little to no risk to human health or the environment in its current state. Areas where efforts to cleanup to “unrestricted use” would present a significant safety risk or where such cleanup would be prohibitively costly are best addressed by using institutional and/or engineering controls until access can be granted to the government.

The next step is the site closeout and deletion from the National Priorities List (NPL), if applicable. The site closeout is a stand-alone document that provides a consolidated record of all removal activities for the site. The document made available for public review before it is finalized.