



WEST LAKE LANDFILL, BRIDGETON, MO

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Introduction

The West Lake Landfill site is located on a 212-acre parcel about one mile north of the I-70/270 interchange within the city limits of Bridgeton and four miles to the west of Lambert-St. Louis International Airport. The site consists of the Bridgeton Municipal Landfill, which stopped receiving waste in 2005, and several old inactive areas with municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris. The site is divided into two operable units or OUs. OU-1 consists of radiological areas and OU-2 consists of the other landfill areas, which did not receive any radiologically-contaminated soil. In 1990, West Lake Landfill was listed on the National Priorities List making it a Superfund site. EPA is the lead agency for this site.

History

The legacy of radioactive waste in the greater St. Louis area is a complex story involving an unprecedented and top-secret commitment that launched the United States into the nuclear age. Starting in 1942, St. Louis based Mallinckrodt Chemical Company became the first industrial-scale producer of uranium metal and uranium oxide. Eventually, along with the Weldon Spring Chemical Plant in St. Charles County, Missouri and the Feed Materials Production Center in Fernald, Ohio, the Mallinckrodt Chemical Company became the largest uranium processors in America.

In the 1960s, haul roads and various locations around St. Louis were contaminated when the radioactive waste and materials were trucked and stored in towns like Hazelwood and Berkeley. These sites are being handled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. In the mid-1970s, in an effort to dispose of the low-level radioactive residues left over from uranium processing, it was mixed with about 39,000 tons of topsoil and hauled to West Lake Landfill. The mix of soil and radioactive residues was used as daily cover on portions of the landfill, currently referred to as OU-1. Other documents go into great detail regarding the history of this site including *The History of the St. Louis Uranium Processing Plant Radioactive Waste Sites*, St. Louis Site Remediation Task Force, May 13, 1996.

Time Line of Historical Events

- 1939** – The site is used as a limestone quarry and crushing operation.
- 1950** – Portions of the quarried areas begin to be used as a landfill.
- 1973** – Radiologically-contaminated soil was illegally placed at West Lake Landfill.
- 1982** – Radiation Management Corporation conducts a Radiological Survey of the landfill.
- 1988** – U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission publishes report on radioactive materials in the landfill.
- 1990** – West Lake Landfill added to EPA's National Priorities List.
- 2006** – Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study work completed.
- 2008** – Records of Decision signed for OU-1 and OU-2.
- 2011** – Supplemental Feasibility Study for OU-1 finalized.

Supplemental Feasibility Study

EPA determined additional work was necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study for OU-1. EPA requested the responsible parties, which include the Bridgeton Landfill, LLC; Rock Road Industries, Inc.; Cotter Corporation; and the U.S. Department of Energy, perform a Supplemental Feasibility Study. The study evaluates the remedial alternatives at OU-1 that would remove radiologically-impacted materials that are above recommended levels. The study consists of an engineering and cost analysis of the Record of Decision or ROD-selected remedy, and two remedial alternatives: (1)excavation of radiologically-impacted materials with off-site commercial disposal of the excavated materials; and (2)excavation of radiologically-impacted materials with on-site disposal in an engineered disposal cell with a liner and cap. The Supplemental Feasibility Study was finalized by EPA on Dec. 28, 2011.

Current Status

EPA finalized the Record of Decision documents for Operable Units 1 and 2 in May and July 2008, respectively. The selected remedy includes consolidation and containment of waste in-place according to the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act and Missouri's solid waste regulations governing Subtitle D landfills. In spring 2008, the department accepted the remedies selected by EPA in the Records of Decision and supports EPA's decision with the understanding that a robust and durable stewardship plan will be implemented.

The long-term stewardship plan for the final remedy, once chosen, should include long-term monitoring of groundwater, monitoring of landfill gas generation, and regular inspections of landfill cap and drainage systems. The department has also encouraged appropriate air monitoring during construction activities on the landfill. Air monitoring will ensure the protection of the public from any radiological contamination that may leave the site.

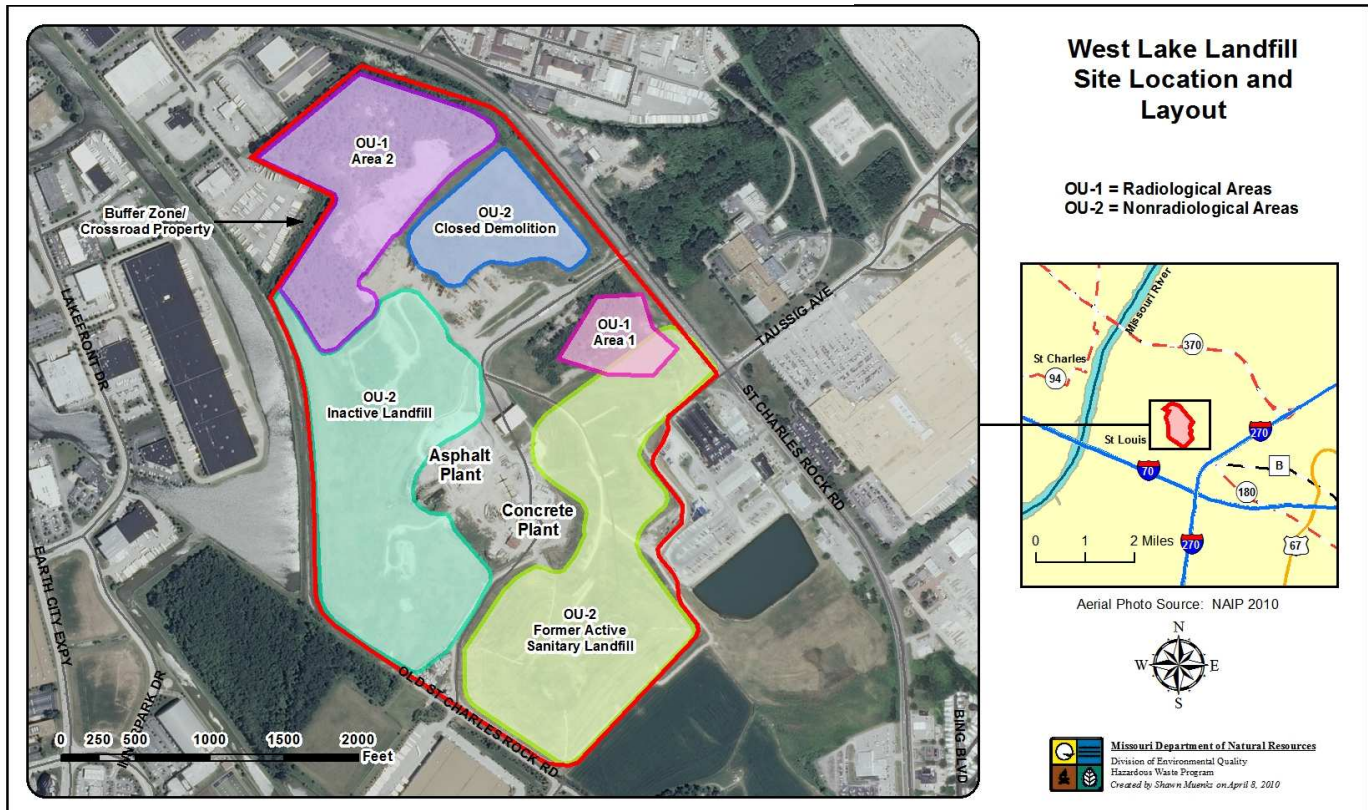
EPA is currently reviewing the Supplemental Feasibility Study in order to make a final decision about the cleanup. EPA may propose a modification to the remedy selected in the 2008 Record of Decision for the Site, based on the information provided in the Supplemental Feasibility Study. If EPA proposes any changes to the Record of Decision, EPA will hold a public meeting to answer questions and take public comments on the proposed decision. A public announcement will be sent prior to that meeting. EPA will make a final decision at the close of the public comment period.

DNR Involvement

DNR continues to review documents, attend meetings between EPA and the responsible parties, and respond to public concerns and questions. Currently, the department is awaiting EPA's decision on the final remedy for the radioactively contaminated portion of the site.

The department has provided input throughout the Supplemental Feasibility Study process. The department will continue to keep the public informed on important issues associated with this site by posting documents on the Web (dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/fedfac/westlakelandfill-ffs.htm), responding to questions from the community and by working with the EPA. DNR continues to provide input and feedback throughout the cleanup process. DNR, in support of the goals and values of EPA, remains committed to the protection of human health and the environment over the long-term management of this site.

Location of West Lake Landfill and Its Operable Units



For More Information

DNR is committed to supporting the citizens of Missouri by providing information and assistance. Please contact DNR's West Lake Landfill Project Manager with any questions regarding this site. For more information on West Lake Landfill, please visit the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Web site at dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/fedfac/westlakelandfill-ffs.htm or contact the department's Federal Facilities Section at 573-751-3907.

