

# EPA ORGANIZATION

Internal deliberative pre-decisional - FOR USE BY 2024 PRESIDENT-ELECT TRANSITION TEAM MEMBERS ONLY

## ISSUE SUMMARY:

### St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS) – Manhattan Project Waste

In 1946, residues (waste) and scrap metal resulting from uranium processing at the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS) began to be stored at the St. Louis Airport Site (SLAPS), Hazelwood Interim Storage Site (HISS) and Futura Coatings Co., and SLAPS Vicinity Properties (VPs).

From 1942 to 1957, under contracts with the U.S. government, operators processed uranium ore at facilities in downtown St. Louis, now known as the St. Louis Downtown Site (SLDS). In 1946, residues and scrap metal resulting from uranium processing at SLDS began to be stored at SLAPS. In 1962, the scrap metal stored at SLAPS was sold and moved to Knoxville, Tennessee.

In 1966, the remaining stored material was sold and moved to HISS for interim storage; SLAPS and HISS are about 0.6 miles apart as the crow flies and about 0.9 miles apart as Coldwater Creek (CWC) flows. Residues from these operations contaminated other nearby properties, haul routes, and CWC. CWC flows through northern St. Louis County until it discharges into the Missouri River. Of the North St. Louis County sites, SLAPS is the farthest upstream, approximately 14 miles from the Missouri River. The land area of the North St. Louis County sites consists of over 770 individual properties, with approximately 650 of those in the 10-year floodplain of CWC.

## KEY POINTS:

The EPA added the sites to the National Priorities List in 1989. In 1997, Congress passed a law that transferred responsibility for the cleanup of releases related to the nation's early atomic energy program execution to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE is now conducting cleanup activities at SLAPS and SLDS as the lead federal agency. Their duties include addressing and remediating radiological contamination in and around Coldwater Creek (CWC). Over the years, the site has received increased media, stakeholder, and community interest.

The EPA provides regulatory oversight of the cleanup efforts. Cleanup includes soil removal and disposal. Sampling and cleanup are ongoing.

**Jana Elementary:** In August 2022, the Boston Chemical Data Corp. conducted an "investigation" at Jana Elementary School in Hazelwood, Missouri. They released a report in October 2023 that alleged the team found radioactive contamination on the school's property. Due to the resulting public concern, the school closed and has not reopened. The USACE and the school district conducted their investigations for radioactive contamination. Those results contradicted the findings announced by Boston Chemical and did not find contamination in the school. The property did have FUSRAP contamination near the CWC bank that was below the ground surface and in a densely wooded area. That area has since been remediated by USACE. The floodplain between the CWC bank and the school playground area was not contaminated.

The USACE is still working with municipalities for right-of-entry (ROE) to public areas along CWC to install signage. They anticipate sign installation to occur in the fall of 2024. The ROE efforts are meeting some resistance from municipalities.

#### ONGOING/UPCOMING REVIEWS FOR FY2024 AND BEYOND:

The EPA is conducting a Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA).

#### KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

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|--|---|--|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congress | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> States | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Media | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Federal Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGO                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Governments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public |                                 |   |  |

#### MOVING FORWARD:

The EPA will continue working with the USACE to install signage along CWC and support community engagement needs.

The USACE currently has two crews conducting remediation work at the Ballfields VP and at the demolished McDonnell Boulevard Bridge at CWC near SLAPS.