

St. Louis Airport Sites (aka Coldwater Creek) Remediation Timeline Evaluation
US EPA – Region 7, Superfund and Emergency Management Division

April 2025

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 Superfund and Emergency Management Division provides the following information regarding the timeline associated with the ongoing remedial action at the St. Louis Airport Sites (aka SLAPS, North County Sites, and Coldwater Creek). The intent of this document is to summarize discussions the EPA has had with the lead federal agency at the site regarding potential timeline efficiencies, considerations for improvement, potential barriers to achieving an expedited timeline, and assumptions for the key criteria.

The lead agency for the site is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). EPA is the regulator of CERCLA cleanup of the site per the Federal Facilities Agreement to ensure site cleanup follows CERCLA processes. The FFA between the agencies works to ensure the site is thoroughly and cooperatively investigated and remediated to protect public health, welfare, and the environment, as well as to establish a procedural framework and schedule for developing, implementing, and monitoring appropriate response actions at the site in accordance with federal laws and guidance.

The FUSRAP program and EPA have worked together with community input to establish a remedy at the site, which was recorded in the Record of Decision for the site in 2005. The FUSRAP program has been implementing that remedy since then, with approximately 13 years until full completion of the cleanup based on their current schedule.

Cleanup activities over the next six years have been prioritized according to potential public risk and availability of access and scheduled in detail. The FUSRAP program plans to complete remediation at 45 different collections of parcels over the next six years. This improved operational tempo is due to the increased funding over the last seven years and the resulting buildup of the FUSRAP program operational capabilities.

The current overall project schedule estimates complete transfer of the site to the Department of Energy legacy management program in 2038. That date marks the complete remediation of the site according to the requirements of the 2005 ROD as well as placement of land use controls on properties where accessibility did not allow complete cleanup to target levels.

The EPA has consulted with FUSRAP about what barriers may exist that prevent the cleanup from proceeding more quickly and efficiently. The FUSRAP program identified two barriers; 1) the FUSRAP ability to gain access to properties for further sampling and remediation, and 2) the vast amount of area that requires further sampling remedial design, and remediation. The program has been well funded for the last seven years (\$30-35 million annually), after experiencing lower funding rates in the earlier stages of the project. FUSRAP currently has three remediation teams operating at the site. The St. Louis District U.S. Army Corps of Engineer leadership have stated publicly that the use of additional remediation teams is limited by operational space and logistical considerations, such as staging areas, off-site shipping and disposal capacity, and quality assurance concerns. Project funding was not mentioned by the FUSRAP program as a limiting factor in the progress towards cleanup at the site.