# HISTORY OF THE WELDON SPRING SITE

* LOCATION..... The Weldon Spring Site is located about 30 miles west of St. Louis and 14 miles southwest of St. Charles. The site is comprised of four areas: raffinate pits, chemical plant and quarry area cover approximately 229 acres. The vicinity properties are specific areas located outside of the current boundaries, but are radioactively contaminated above current criteria for unrestricted use, and are mainly along ditches, roads and railroads.

* 1941-1944.... The Department of the Army operated the Weldon Spring Ordnance Works for the production of the trinitrotoluene (TNT) and dinitrotoluene (DNT). The Army used the quarry for disposal of rubble contaminated with TNT.

* 1957-1966.... During the mid 1950's, 220 acres of the ordnance works property was transferred to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission which is now the main site area consisting of the chemical plant and raffinate pits. From 1957-1966, the AEC operated a uranium processing facility which purified yellow cake uranium and shipped off uranium metal for further purification at other sites. Radioactive sludge residues (raffinates) resulting from the processing were placed in the four on-site pits. Other radioactive wastes, which included the entire contents of the Destrahan Street Facility operated by Mallinckrodt, were disposed of in the quarry by the AEC.

* 1967-1969.... After closure by the AEC, the chemical plant was reacquired by the Army in 1967. The Army partially decontaminated the buildings, dismantled some of the equipment and began converting the facilities to produce an herbicide. In 1969, prior to becoming operational, the herbicide project was canceled.

* 1969-Present.. In 1971 the Army returned the 52-acre portion of the site containing the raffinate pits to the AEC. In November 1984, DOE and Department of the Army reached agreement on showing the cost for remediation of the Chemical Plant. In October 1985, the DOE accepted custody and accountability of the Chemical Plant from the Army. In February 1985, DOE proposed designating the Weldon Spring Site and the activities that will be required to control and decontaminate the various facilities as a major project for DOE management purposes. In August 1986, the DOE and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) signed a Federal Facilities Agreement for cleanup of the quarry area.