WSSRAP

SPRING SITE REMEDIAL ACTION PROJECT

UPDATE FEBRUARY 1989

DOE Project Manager Rod Nelson points out dismantling activities at Building 409, the former administration building, to U.S. Congressman Harold Volkmer and George Benedict, of DOE-Oak Ridge Operations. The Congressman received an in-depth briefing and tour of the site by Nelson and site personnel in January.

DOCUMENT NUMBER: I-1600-1606-1.06

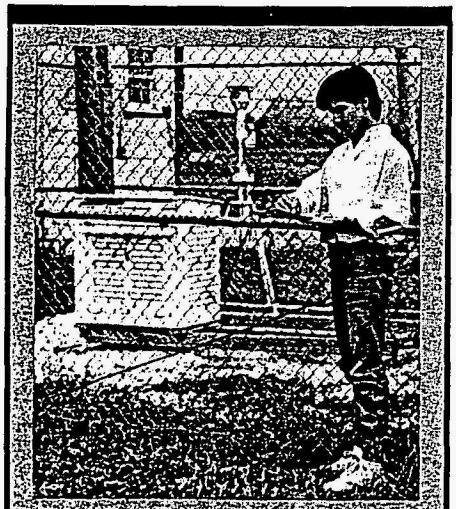
Public Participation... Our Link to the Community

It was a suggestion from a citizen in the community that got this WSSRAP Update started and is one example of how public participation in the project can help us be more responsive to the community.

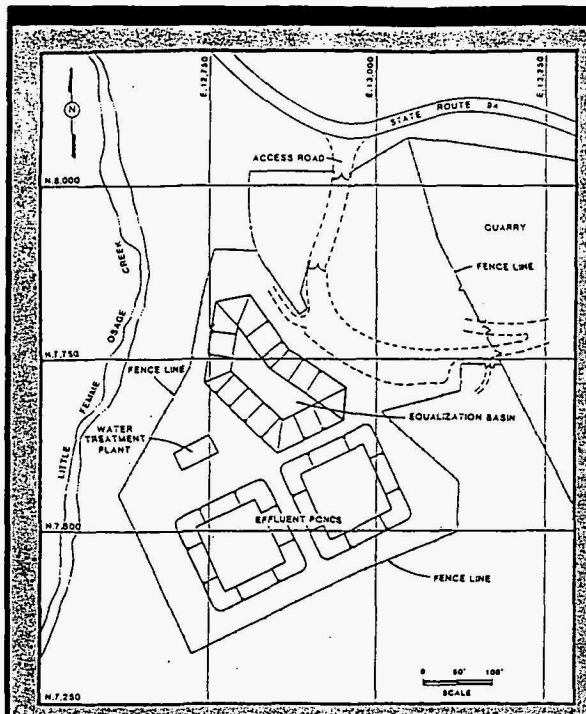
Marsha Sinkler of Defiance received a copy of our handout on the Weldon Spring Site from her son who goes to school in the Francis Howell School District. The handout, prepared in response to a request from the School District's Interim Superintendent, Roger Russell, explained, in summary form, the environmental conditions at the site.

She suggested, in a letter to the editors of local newspapers that we send out periodic mailings informing students and parents in the Francis Howell School District of site cleanup activities.

We hope that this WSSRAP Update, released periodically as activities change at the site, is responsive to that request and we thank Marsha Sinkler for her interest and her suggestion.



Brian Benson, a sophomore at Francis Howell High School, writes down ambient air measurements of radiation at the school. In the background is an air particulate monitor installed by WSSRAP personnel.



Engineer's sketch of proposed water treatment plant at the Weldon Spring Quarry.

IN THE NEWS...

Contaminated Water in the Weldon Spring Quarry to be Treated

The DOE has proposed building a water treatment plant at the Weldon Spring quarry to take out radioactive and chemical contaminants in the ponded water.

The ponded water poses a potential threat to the drinking water supplied by the St. Charles County Wellfield nearby, if left untreated.

The water treatment plant will treat the water in the quarry to levels that meet, or are better than, federal and state standards.

The water will be treated and then released to ponds where it will be tested prior to its direct discharge into the Missouri River at a point downstream of the St. Charles County Wellfield.

The document describing the water treatment plant is available for review in the local public repositories. A public hearing will be held by the State Department of Natural Resources on the proposed water treatment plant on February 14, at 7 p.m., at the Wentzville Ramada Inn.

Proposed Budget Could Affect Length of Cleanup Project

The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 1990, substantially cuts funding for the Weldon Spring Site cleanup activities. Funding beyond 1990 has also been reduced, moving the estimated completion date of the project from 1998 to the year 2010.

Although there is a significant impact on future site work activities, work already started can continue.

WSSRAP will be able to build and operate the water treatment plant at the quarry, finish up the Interim Response Actions already begun, and can continue its work toward reaching a final cleanup decision in the spring of 1991. However, plans to build a water treatment plant for the site raffinate (sludge) pits, take down 22 structures, and remove the bulk solid waste from the quarry, will be delayed under this budget.

DOE site personnel will continue to work with DOE headquarters in Washington to direct more program funds toward the Weldon Spring Site.

Local Firm Now Part of Cleanup Solution

Cliff Metcalf has lived in St. Charles County long enough to see the Weldon Spring Site grow from public concern into a DOE cleanup project. Now the firm, Metcalf & Associates, is participating in the cleanup solution, as well as providing hazardous waste education for contractors and subcontractors on the site.

Metcalf is proud of the fact that the firm, located at 217 N. 2nd Street in St. Charles, is staffed mostly by individuals who live in St. Charles County.

Metcalf & Associates was subcontracted to perform the cleanup and removal of PCB-contaminated transformers which was completed in July 1988. The firm safely removed more than 13,000 gallons of PCB-contaminated oils as well as the 25 transformers which held the liquid.

At present, Metcalf & Associates are repacking and storing the estimated 4000 individual containers of 300 different types of chemicals which were left behind at the Weldon Spring Site. These materials are being prepared to be shipped off the site later this year.

Cliff Metcalf, head of Metcalf & Associates, reviews progress with some of his staff working on the containerization of chemicals left at the Weldon Spring Site. This is the second Interim Response Action performed by this St. Charles County cleanup firm.

Workers at WSSRAP complete the first stage of overhead piping/asbestos removal, the wrapping of the pipe so that no asbestos will be released to the air during removal.

"Many of the containers for these chemicals, which are mostly paints, solvents and other industrial-type chemicals, have deteriorated and cannot be moved or stored in their present condition," Metcalf explained. "Our first job is to identify the chemicals, combine those that can safely be stored together, and package them in a manner that allows them to be moved safely."

In addition, Metcalf & Associates is the subcontractor responsible for conducting the 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations Training for site personnel and subcontractors. This 40-hour training is required by OSHA for any worker that performs work on a hazardous waste site.

"I've lived in St. Charles for 12 years and have been in this business for 10 of those 12 years," Metcalf said. "I've watched the project grow from one of just public concern to remedial action and I'm pleased to be a part of that cleanup process."

Metcalf lives with his wife, Beth, and their three children, Jesse, Jon and Zac in O'Fallon, Missouri.

Construction/Operations - Safety First

In January, a request was made by Dr. Wanda McDaniel, Francis Howell School District Superintendent, that any trucks carrying hazardous materials off the Weldon Spring Site not drive past the school on school days during school hours. In response, a site policy has been established in writing that no truck carrying hazardous material will drive past the high school on school days between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. Furthermore, as an additional safety measure, trucks carrying non-hazardous debris will not leave the site between 7 and 8:30 a.m., and between 2 and 3 p.m. This will minimize the potential for accidents with the large amount of vehicle traffic entering and exiting Francis Howell High School.

Interim Response Action Progress Report

IRAs Completed:

- Power Line/Pole Removal
- Army Vicinity Property #7
- PCB Transformer Removal

IRAs Underway:

- Dismantling of Site Steam Plant
- Dismantling of Site Administration Building
- Removal of Containerized Chemicals
- Overhead Piping/Asbestos Removal
- Ash Pond Diversion Dike

Remedial Investigation Data Available Soon

Remedial Investigation is the first part of the cleanup action at the site. In brief, Remedial Investigation identifies any contamination present, the concentration of the material and the quantity.

All Remedial Investigation activities, except for the actual writing of the reports from the information gathered in the field, was completed by the end of 1988. This includes chemical and radiological soil sampling, lake and stream sediment sampling off site, bio-uptake studies of fish and wildlife, groundwater monitoring wells, raffinate pit sludge sampling, and numerous geological studies.

Completion of the Remedial Investigation Report requires extensive evaluation of the data gathered in the field. Information and conclusions about the remedial investigation will be discussed at upcoming public meetings.

Fact Sheet

Want fact sheets about The Weldon Spring Site?

Fact sheets and information handouts are available from the Weldon Spring Site Community Relations Office.

Available Now:
History of the Weldon Spring Site
Interim Response Actions
Handout on the Weldon Spring Site
Water Quality Studies
Superfund Facts
Interim Response Action Update
Quarry Water Treatment Plant Proposal

Please send in your request with your name and address to:
WSSRAP
Community Relations Department
Route 2, Highway 94 South
St. Charles, MO 63303
(314) 441-8086

PUBLIC REPOSITORIES... Your Information Source For The Weldon Spring Site

Do you want to know more than just the basic information provided at public meetings and in fact sheets?

Are you researching information about the Weldon Spring Site and need past historical studies and reports?

Do you want to know the reports from which these cleanup decisions are made?

If so, your first stop might be to one of the public repositories in St. Charles County. The public repositories are set up so that local citizens can read about, comment on, and gain a greater understanding of the cleanup project and its ongoing activities.

WHERE ARE THEY?
- Spencer Creek Branch, St. Charles City-County Library
- Cobbs Hall, Lindenwood College
- Francis Howell High School Library
- Weldon Spring Site Community Relations Reading Room

EXAMPLES OF PAST DOCUMENTS:
- Environmental Monitoring Reports
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Descriptions of Interim Response Actions

NEW DOCUMENTS:
- Work Plan for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
- Environmental Impact Statement for the Weldon Spring Site.
- Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for the Proposed Management of Contaminated Water in the Weldon Spring Quarry

Field technicians prepare soil samples as part of soil characterization activities. Soil samples were analyzed for possible radiological and chemical contamination.

Site Videotape Available At Local Libraries

A videotape of the Weldon Spring Site is now available for checkout at St. Charles City-County libraries in St. Charles, St. Peters, O'Fallon, and Wentzville. There is also a copy available at the Francis Howell High School library for checkout in classrooms. This thirteen minute videotape presents a broad overview of the history, environmental conditions, project mission, and activities underway to clean up the site.

WSSRAP Update

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