

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

**AUG 13 2014**

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Jeff Rainford  
Office of the Mayor  
1200 Market  
Room 200  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

Ms. Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge  
Director  
Lambert-St. Louis International Airport  
P.O. Box 10212  
St. Louis, Missouri 63145-0212

Dear Mr. Rainford and Ms. Hamm-Niebruegge:

Thank you for your August 11, 2014, letter about the discussions that this Agency, along with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, had with you on August 6 regarding potential impacts to public health and safety associated with work at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. I appreciated your courtesy in inviting staff from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7 and the COE St. Louis and Kansas City Districts to brief you, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Attorney General of Missouri about the COE preliminary evaluation of issues posed by locating and constructing the proposed isolation barrier at the site.

Our August 6 conversation offered this Agency a valuable opportunity to update important stakeholders about the project. As the COE briefing established, the isolation barrier is a tremendously complicated construction project that would very likely require disturbing substantial quantities of landfill cover and exposing large expanses of putrescible waste for lengthy periods of time.

Your letter requests that this Agency work with you as the project develops so that the Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and the FAA can ensure that construction of the isolation barrier does not pose a bird strike hazard to aircraft for any of the 13 million passengers who fly in and out of the Lambert Airport each year. I can assure you that the airport's various legal interests in activities at West Lake, already well documented in the record, will always receive the EPA's careful consideration. I also take note from your letter that the FAA intends to scrutinize any and all proposed West Lake activities that would affect the risk of bird strikes to aircraft.

This Agency, with technical support from the COE, will require that the Potentially Responsible Parties supply analytic information of sufficient detail to enable the FAA, the airport, the city and this Agency to better understand the bird strike hazards associated with options for construction of the isolation barrier and any feasible mitigation approaches. Once Region 7 receives this more detailed design and mitigation information, we will share that information with you for your evaluation and input to this Agency on final decisions on excavation and construction of the isolation barrier.



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Attorney General Koster has requested that this Agency work with the COE, the PRPs, the airport and the city toward final decisions on the isolation barrier by the end of this calendar year. This Agency will use this goal in establishing our directions to the PRPs and managing our tasks that Region 7 has assigned to the COE.

Thank you again for engaging the airport's and city's senior leadership at a very important time on this vital issue. This Agency acknowledges many interests have an important stake in decisions about West Lake. I anticipate briefing the congressional delegation, local elected officials, and the site's Community Advisory Group about the EPA's more intensive analysis of bird strike hazards very soon. Their confidence in this Agency's technical expertise, and their assurance that the COE will advise the EPA about the isolation barrier project, remain important assets as work moves forward.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Lynn Slugantz at (913) 551-7883.

Sincerely,



Karl Brooks