

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

## EPA Public Statement Regarding the West Lake Landfill

We are committed to providing the public accurate and complete information about our progress at the West Lake Superfund site. Most recently we held a public meeting to build relations with the community and to provide a framework and timeline for our upcoming decisions regarding the final remedy at West Lake.

EPA, the Missouri Attorney General's office and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources agreed in the fall of 2015 that it was important for us as government agencies to ensure we collectively address the many environmental issues at the site, including management of the air quality concerns from the Bridgeton subsurface smoldering event and the remedy for the radiologically-impacted material at the West Lake Landfill. The public relies on us to work together to solve problems when there are multiple jurisdictions involved.

We've continued to engage with the state and federal partners regularly on reviewing the substance of the draft workplans and data reports provided by the Potentially Responsible Parties.

Regarding our plans to release the extent of RIM and associated maps from the comprehensive radiological survey at West Lake/Bridgeton, we expect to make that information public in the coming days. The report continues going through detailed reviews by EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Missouri.

We will release that report as soon as we are confident in its completeness and accuracy.

We have also publicly shared a detailed schedule for the proposed isolation barrier. When we announced that we would proceed with installation of an isolation barrier and other engineering controls we noted that we would share the specific details once we have a final agreement on the alignment and an enforceable order in place to ensure implementation. That work continues and is moving at a deliberate pace. We have been collaborating extensively with the USACE and the State of Missouri on our final plans to ensure that all matters relating to controlling the subsurface smoldering event are being addressed by the State and/or EPA, in its federal regulatory oversight role. As soon as that work is concluded and we have a signed agreement, the information will be released to the public.

The pyrolysis testing is underway. Samples from the field were collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis. Those samples are being analyzed consistent with a detailed quality assurance plan, which is a fundamental underpinning needed to ensure that data collected by EPA is accurate. Samples are currently being analyzed and once those validated data and a complete comprehensive report are available they will be released.

This agency is committed to making sound scientifically valid decisions for the community. While projected deadlines must sometimes change due to the complexity of a scientific review or negotiations, we endeavor to be clear when those adjustments are necessary. We will not compromise on our commitment to complete, fully reviewed and scientifically sound decisions.