

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# West Lake Update

April 21, 2014

## EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Team Up at West Lake Landfill

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has entered into an Interagency Agreement with EPA Region 7 to provide construction management support for the design and construction of the proposed isolation barrier. The proven successes in the field by the Corps in design engineering, construction management, and environmental remediation will be indispensable assets to ensure that the isolation barrier's construction meets the strictest standards of safety and effectiveness.

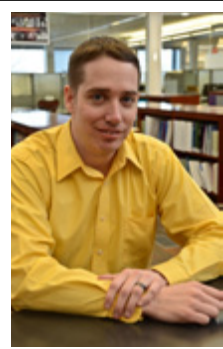
The Corps will review and comment on the draft design of the proposed isolation barrier, including providing input regarding potentially applicable technologies for constructing the barrier. The Corps will review other related technical documents, such as plans for air monitoring that will occur during construction. The Corps will also review work plans provided by the PRPs associated with construction of the barrier. During field work, the Corps will observe and provide oversight of pre-construction activities required for installation of the barrier as well as observe and provide oversight during construction of the barrier.

EPA will continue to ensure the community remains protected from the site during construction of the isolation barrier. EPA is working closely with the Corps, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to focus on protecting the health of those living near the site while we continue our work towards a final remedy.

## Citizen Lawsuit Filed

On April 11, 2014, a class action lawsuit was filed on behalf of a Bridgeton resident against seven defendants, including Republic Services, alleging that radioactive contaminants from West Lake Landfill have migrated off-site. As a matter of policy, EPA does not comment on litigation in which EPA is not a party.

State and EPA data both show there is no evidence that radiological material has traveled beyond the boundary of the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site, and that the site remains protective of public health.



### Community Inquiries

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## From Regional Administrator Karl Brooks

On April 11, 2014, EPA issued an Administrative Order on Consent to Bridgeton Landfill, LLC and Rock Road Industries, Inc., subsidiaries of Republic Services. Bottom line up front: by issuing the order EPA expects the PRPs to expedite pre-construction activities for the proposed isolation barrier at the West Lake Landfill and begin activity by early May.

The order outlines specific steps that must be taken as a part of the pre-construction activities. These steps include identifying all areas to be used for the storage and staging of excavated wastes; developing a bird hazard mitigation plan; developing an air monitoring and sampling plan to obtain background data and to assess potential exposures in the community; and to install a mesh barrier inside the fenced area to minimize and capture any potential on-site windblown solid waste during construction activities.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Update, EPA has now entered into an Interagency Agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Their expertise and oversight is a welcome addition to the broad state and federal team already working on the project.

Construction of the barrier will ensure the subsurface-smoldering event will not come into contact with the radiologically-impacted material and will allow EPA to focus its efforts on the long-term remedy at the landfill.



A contractor overseen by EPA Region 7 staff surveys a core sample at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo., March 13, 2014.