

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



West Lake Update

October 6, 2014

Six-Month Progress Report

EPA has made a lot of progress in the past six months at the West Lake Landfill Site, and the Agency will continue working to ensure the public is protected from contaminants at the site.

In May, EPA completed a comprehensive surface gamma screening and soil sampling effort at the nearby Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex. This robust effort found no radionuclide contamination above a level of concern, and concluded that the park is suitable for use.

EPA has also signed two partnership agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), known as Interagency Agreements. These agreements enlist USACE support for technical assistance with the isolation barrier (IB) project and the remedy selection process. The USACE has produced an IB Alternatives Assessment and has taken an active role at monthly CAG meetings.

In response to the USACE IB Alternatives Assessment Report, EPA requested the responsible parties to prepare more detailed plans for IB alternatives. EPA expects to receive these plans in mid-October.

EPA negotiated and signed an order with the responsible parties for pre-construction activities associated with the IB, and has completed its review and approval of the work plan. Pre-construction activities have begun, including construction of the wind-blown debris barrier.

EPA has established an air monitoring system in the off-site areas surrounding the site. This system includes five air monitoring stations that collect data for a variety of constituents. A local field office has been set up as the control center for the air monitoring network, which is staffed each week by EPA On-Scene Coordinators and contractors.

EPA continues to coordinate regularly with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to stay informed about the subsurface smoldering event (SSE). EPA's Office of Research and Development reviews the SSE data and periodically advises EPA Region 7 about any observed trends.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Cancer Study

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) has released its cancer study of the Coldwater Creek area and we understand that residents living and working around the West Lake Landfill Site will have concerns about the study. MDHSS is seeking the involvement of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for further studies. We will continue to coordinate

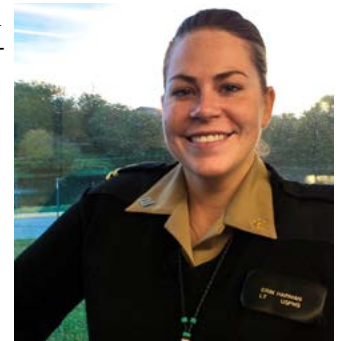


closely with these important health agencies, and we are aggressively pursuing a final remedy at the West Lake Landfill Site to ensure the protection of public health at the site.

EPA appreciates the work of MDHSS in producing this report, and looks forward to continued cooperative efforts with MDHSS and other partners as we work to protect human health and the environment in and around St. Louis.

Meet Erin Harman

Erin Harman is a Regional Representative for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Region 7 office. Erin serves as an Environmental Health Scientist and is the ATSDR team lead for the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. In this capacity, Erin works to assess human exposures at the site and recommend actions to safeguard the health of the community.



Erin joined ATSDR in 2009 and works on many Superfund sites in the region. ATSDR's primary role is to advise federal and state regulatory agencies and community members on actions needed to protect public health. Erin graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 2006 with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Health Science. She is also a Lieutenant in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS). You may notice Erin in her uniform at public meetings. Erin's mission in her work for both ATSDR and USPHS is to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of the nation.

Next CAG Meeting

The next Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting is scheduled for October 14. Technical staff from EPA will present information about EPA's Risk Assessment process and the West Lake Risk Assessment. Following the formal portion of the meeting, staff from EPA, USACE, and ATSDR will be available to meet with community members who may prefer to ask questions or engage in conversation in a more informal setting.

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