

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# West Lake Update

October 29, 2014

## The Role of Risk Assessment in CERCLA Decisions and at West Lake Landfill



Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as the Superfund law, when environmental data confirms a release of hazardous substances into the environment, EPA

may perform a Baseline Risk Assessment to evaluate potential exposures and health risks resulting from the release. The purpose of a risk assessment is to help EPA determine if it needs to take an action to protect public health from the release. The risk assessment conducted at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in 2000 accomplished that.

Risk assessments consider exposure pathways that are known to be occurring or are reasonably anticipated to occur in the future. The 2000 West Lake Landfill Baseline Risk Assessment looked at the potential risk to current and future on-site and nearby off-site workers. That assessment determined that if an appropriate response action was not taken then the calculated health risks to those workers would exceed a threshold value (1 in 10,000 for carcinogenic). Therefore, EPA has required actions to reduce or prevent those increased health risks.

Because the purpose of the Baseline Risk Assessment is to help EPA determine whether or not to act to protect public health, and because EPA did determine that an action needed to be taken at the West Lake Landfill, EPA does not currently need to revise or update the 2000 baseline risk assessment.

However, EPA will still consider the protection of public health for all on-site and off-site workers and residents as it uses environmental data to determine the appropriateness of various remedial alternatives. We will consider hypothetical exposures associated with potential natural disasters during the evaluation, selection and design of the final remedial action.

## EPA Updates West Lake Landfill Website

EPA Region 7 has updated its West Lake Landfill website in order to more clearly and effectively communicate with the public about Agency activities at the site. The new website features several new sections, including a map of the Superfund site and its boundaries, a "What's New" section, and a section dedicated to the West Lake Update Path Ahead – to provide a single resource to which the community can easily refer for

site information. Region 7's Twitter feed and Region 7's Facebook photo gallery are also available from this website. All of the documents available on the previous website are still available via the document archive, which is directly linked from the new website.

The link for the new website is the same as before: [www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill)

## Meet Brad Vann, the "new Dan Gravatt"

Brad Vann joined EPA Region 7 in 2007 as a Brownfields Project Officer in the Superfund program. In 2009, Brad accepted a position as a Superfund Remedial Project Manager (RPM) and has successfully managed several complex sites. When Dan Gravatt chose to seek a new job opportunity at Region



7, after many years of effective technical work at the West Lake Site, Region 7 selected Brad to become the lead RPM. Like Dan, Brad will work with stakeholders throughout the remedial process to investigate the site, characterize contamination, and help select and implement remedial actions in accordance with laws that protect human health and the environment. Prior to working at EPA, he served for 13 years as a hydrogeologist and project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). At USACE, he worked on the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) sites and the former Weldon Spring Ordinance Works.

Brad earned a Master's degree in Geology from Oklahoma State University in 1994. Prior to college, Brad served on active duty in the 1st Infantry Division as Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Non-Commissioned Officer. His wide range of environmental experience, strong sense of service to the nation, and commitment to protecting communities from environmental hazards will serve the community well.

### Community Inquiries

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