

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 7
11201 RENNER BOULEVARD
LENEXA, KS 66219

NOV 29 2013

OFFICE OF
THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Chris Koster
Attorney General of Missouri
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Koster:

Thank you for your letter of November 27, 2013, regarding work overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. This agency appreciates the State of Missouri's interest in expediting safe construction of the isolation barrier at the West Lake/Bridgeton Landfill complex in Bridgeton, Missouri.

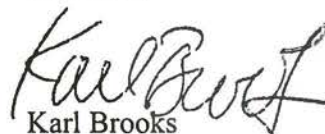
After reviewing the preliminary Gamma Cone Penetrometer Testing (GCPT) that suggests the presence of some radiologically-impacted material well beneath the surface of the West Lake Landfill, Region 7 has ordered PRP contractors working under EPA oversight to perform a more comprehensive engineering survey, at and below the surface, in the area between West Lake Landfill and Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill. The expanded survey will provide additional information to more precisely determine the extent and location of radiologically-impacted material.

The preliminary data, while subject to change, does not change this agency's assessment that the buried waste does not currently pose a threat to public health and safety. I want to emphasize three key facts about the West Lake landfill given the GCPT preliminary findings in Area 1: (1) The material has been preliminarily identified to be many feet below the surface. (2) The entire survey area remains within a secured portion of the site closed to public access. (3) Contractors and EPA Region 7 staff working at the site are following detailed health and safety plans that provide for their protection while this work continues, and will implement additional health protections, should survey work warrant, in accordance with applicable health and safety protocols.

When the survey is complete and all available data is finalized and subjected to quality control checks, EPA Region 7 will make this data available to the public. The agency will also use this data to inform its decisions about the placement and design of the isolation barrier, and to inform its reconsideration of the 2008 ROD for West Lake. Detailed plans for construction of an isolation barrier are expected to be developed early in 2014.

Thank you for working with the Environmental Protection Agency to accomplish these important objectives.

Sincerely,


Karl Brooks

