West Lake Update – EPA to Conduct Additional Sediment Sampling at the West Lake Landfill

In January 2016, the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) collected three sediment samples as part of the additional characterization work for Area 1 and Area 2. EPA also took a split sample from each location. One of the samples taken by the PRPs, and confirmed by EPA's duplicate sample, contains radionuclides which meet the definition of RIM for OU-1 of the site. Specifically, the Combined Thorium concentrations for Sediment Sample 4 and EPA's duplicate sample are 16.16 and 20.63 respectively, which exceeds the established limit of 7.9 picocuries per gram.

As a result of these samples, EPA is directing the PRPs to perform a gamma survey and collect five additional sediment samples to the northwest of Sediment Sample 4 taken in January. Contractors under EPA oversight will begin by surveying surface soils at each of the selected drainage feature locations sodium iodide (NaI) scintillation detector. Survey personnel will scan surface soil in a serpentine pattern, with the detector held approximately 6 inches above ground surface, moving the detector at approximately 1 to 2 feet per second. If the surveyor detects elevated gross gamma radiation, the contractor will flag the area for possible sediment/soil sampling.

After completing the gamma survey, EPA and START will select soil sampling locations that appear most likely to contain deposited sediment. Selection of the sampling location will be based on the best professional judgement of the sampler using results of the gamma survey, visual inspection of the area, and any historical information to inform the decision. Samples will be collected within the top 2 inches of soil/sediment by use of a disposable hand trowel and packaged in food-grade plastic containers or sealable bags. A new, disposable hand trowel will be used at each sample location to prevent any potential cross-contamination. The analytical laboratory will dry and homogenize samples before analysis.

EPA has updated the existing Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) used in the January sampling event for use in the collection of these additional samples. EPA expects the work to begin this week. The QAPP is available on our website: [insert link]

EPA is also requiring the PRPs to provide definitive information on the locations of stormwater drainage that runs along the east side of the site between the northern portion of the Bridgeton Landfill, OU-1 Area 1, and St. Charles Rock Road.

The figure included below depicts the locations of the samples taken in January as well as the five proposed sampling locations for the current effort. EPA remains committed to protecting human health and environment at the site as we continues towards proposing a final remedy by the end of this year.