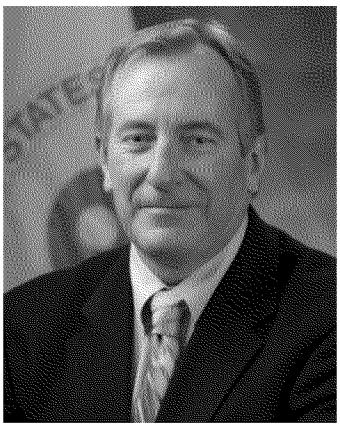
West Lake Update

January 11, 2016

West Lake Landfill Superfund Site: *2015 in Review*

Message from Mark Hague,
EPA Region 7 Regional Administrator



2015 was a busy year at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. We've completed field investigations necessary to further define the extent and location of the radiological materials at the site, which is a critical step to move us toward proposing a final remedy by the end of 2016. We also recently announced our decision for the installation of an in-ground, physical isolation barrier on site along with other engineering controls.

In recent years, EPA has directed and overseen numerous air, soil and groundwater tests related to the West Lake Landfill. The scientific data demonstrates that the wastes at the landfill do not currently pose an off-site health risk to the surrounding community.

A recent Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's health consultation confirmed previous EPA and Missouri Department of Natural Resources assessments that show groundwater, air, and soil data do not indicate a current health risk to communities surrounding the West Lake Landfill.

As the lead regulatory agency at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site, EPA will continue to direct and oversee plans and actions that will lead to a proposed final remedy decision for the site by the end of 2016. At that time, EPA will present the proposed final remedy decision to the community with an opportunity to comment. After the public comment period closes, EPA will release a final decision.

We have a lot of work planned for 2016 to meet this goal. In December 2015, EPA reached an agreement with Bridgeton Landfill, LLC; Rock Road Industries, Inc.; and Cotter Corporation to prepare and submit an updated summary of all sampling investigations at the site, referred to as a Remedial Investigation Addendum. In addition, the responsible parties will submit a Final Feasibility Study in which they evaluate the various remedial options against specific criteria as required under the Superfund law.

Please visit www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/ to stay updated about ongoing work at the site.

Highlights from 2015

EPA Calls for an Isolation Barrier at the Site

After careful consideration of available scientific information, EPA has decided it is prudent to proceed with the installation of a physical isolation barrier at the site. The decision also calls for the installation of other engineering controls, such as cooling loops, to further mitigate the potential impact of a subsurface smoldering event reaching radiological materials. The agency is now working through the highly complex details of implementing this decision and the associated legal steps. The details of the plan will be released to the public once finalized.

EPA will continue to work closely with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other stakeholders related to this decision. The agency will use all available enforcement authorities to ensure implementation of this work.

EPA Orders West Lake Landfill Parties to Implement Surface Fire Prevention Measures

EPA Region 7 in December issued a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) to Bridgeton Landfill, LLC; Rock Road Industries, Inc.; and Cotter Corporation to develop and implement surface fire prevention measures at the West Lake Landfill Site. The order fol-

lows a surface fire incident at the landfill. That surface fire did not contact any radiologically impacted material (RIM).

The parties must submit a surface fire prevention work plan to the agency that includes plans for taking down vegetation in the areas in Operable Unit-1 (OU-1) where RIM is known to be at or near the ground surface, and placement of a non-combustible cover over areas where RIM is at or near the surface.

It must also include plans for air monitoring to ensure protection of on-site workers and the surrounding community during clearing of trees and vegetation as well as during placement of non-combustible material.

As a part of its continued coordination with its partners at the site, EPA will engage with local first responders, including the Pattonville Fire District, to inform responders of the work plan and Incident Management Plan submitted by the parties.

Each of the parties has notified EPA of its intent to comply with the Order. The Order requires the parties to submit two work plans that will detail the necessary surface fire prevention actions as well as the preparation of an Incident Management Plan. Following EPA's review and approval, the final work plans will be available to the public on EPA's West Lake webpage.

The order is available on EPA Region 7's West Lake Landfill web site:
www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/

Additional Radiologically Impacted Material Characterization Field Work Completed

The major focus of field work in 2015 was the completion of additional site characterizations in Operable Unit 1, Areas 1 and 2, to identify the extent of radiologically impacted material (RIM). The completion of this site work was critical to EPA's continued work toward the final site remedy as well as evaluating locations for the isolation barrier.

Defining the scope and location of RIM is critical to accurately evaluate all remedial alternatives, including full and partial excavation options.

The potentially responsible parties used gamma cone penetrometer testing to screen for gamma radiation in Area 1. Following that, the PRPs collected over 25 samples in Areas 1 and 2. Those samples will be analyzed for the following isotopes: Radium-226, Radium-228, Thorium-230, Thorium-232, Uranium-234, Uranium-238, Actinium-227, Potassium-40, Protactinium-231, Scandium, and Lead-210.

All corings were completed in December, with laboratory analysis, data verification, and preparation of the final report to follow. EPA expects the final report to be available by late Spring 2016. The report will be posted to EPA Region 7's West Lake Landfill website when complete.

EPA Completes an Enforceable Schedule for Completion of a Final Feasibility Study

In December 2015, EPA and the potentially responsible parties reached agreement on dates for the submission of a Remedial Investigation Addendum, including an updated Baseline Risk Assessment, and a Final Feasibility Study. Each of these steps are critical milestones necessary to support the final decision on the soils in Operable Unit 1 at the site. A draft work plan was submitted to EPA in late December for review. Following review and approval, the work plan will be made available to the public on the West Lake website.

EPA Releases Off-Site Air Data Summary Reports for Radiation and Volatile Organic Compounds

In February, EPA released the results of off-site air monitoring conducted over the course of a year in five areas around the West Lake Landfill to document baseline conditions prior to any potential on-site construction or work. EPA's efforts to monitor the air and conduct a thorough scientific analysis are vital to ensuring any construction activities are protective of public health.

EPA released two reports that focus on two types of contamination that are of particular importance to the agency's work at West Lake Landfill--radiation and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). What the data show EPA scientists is that the people around West Lake Landfill are not being exposed to levels of radiation or VOCs at concentrations greater than what is found in similar industrial cities including St. Louis.

The main effort of EPA's monitoring system was to sample for alpha, beta, and gamma radiation, and typical solid waste landfill gases, including VOCs. The radiation levels measured by EPA are consistent with other Midwest cities. For alpha and beta radiation, all monitored median values were consistent with median values for the air monitor placed in St. Charles. EPA placed this monitor in St. Charles to act as a reference for the monitors placed in the immediate area of the West Lake Landfill. Gamma radiation monitors around West Lake Landfill showed values that were also consistent with the variability of natural geological radiation sources in the area.

These air monitoring reports are available on EPA Region 7's West Lake Landfill website: www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/

To find more stories, and stay updated about all work at the site, visit :

www3.epa.gov/region07/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/.

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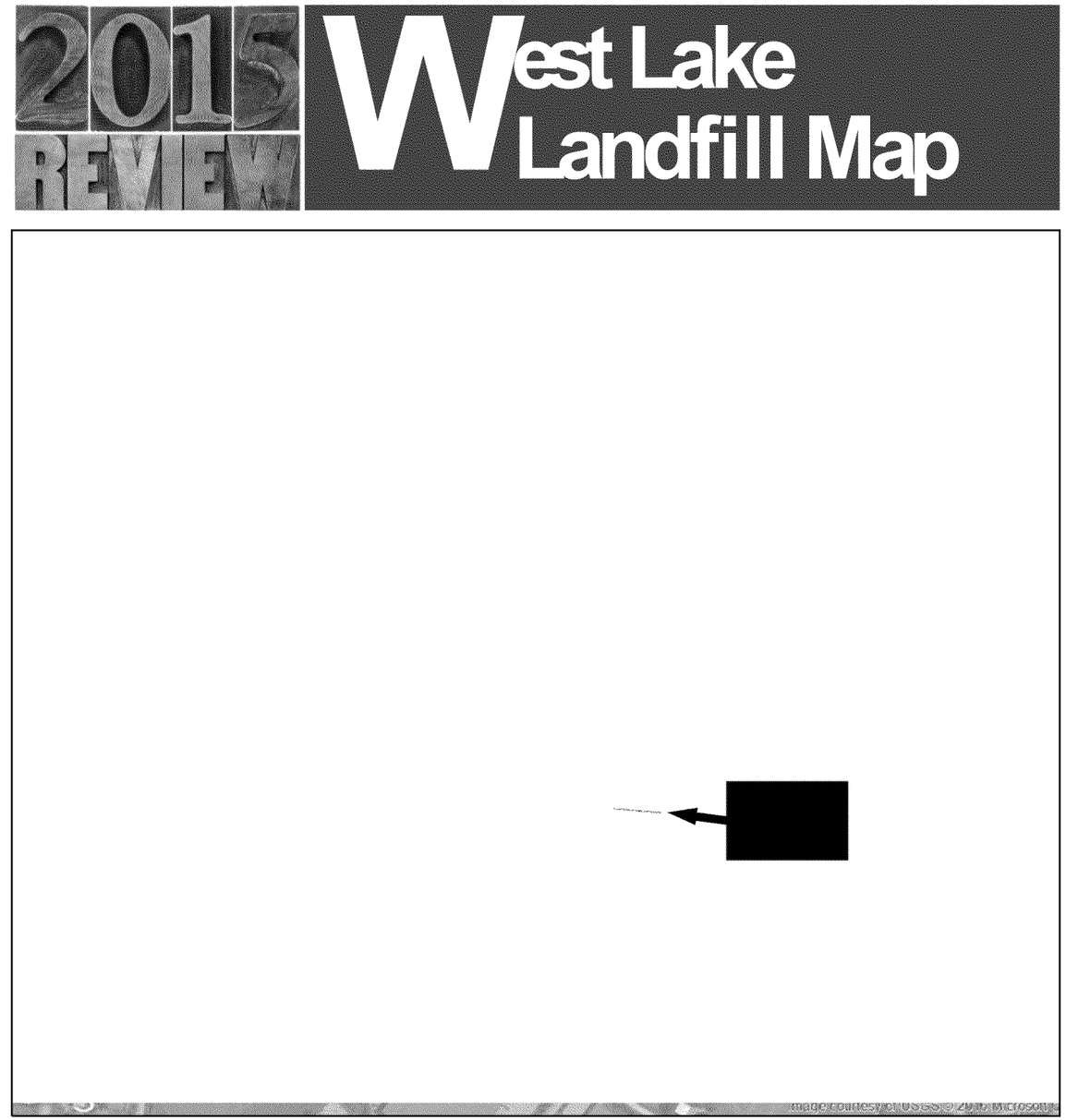

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