West Lake Update

March 14, 2014

EPA publishes West Lake Update to keep the public informed about the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo.

From Karl Brooks, Regional Administrator:

Agencies Working to Solve West Lake Challenges

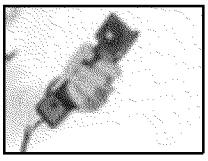
As federal partners, both the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers often work together to decisively manage some of our countries most significant environmental projects. This partnership is clearly evident at successful Superfund projects across America, including here in the Midwest.

Col. Christopher Hall, the Commander of the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers manages a top-notch staff and we are looking for ways to best leverage the considerable expertise of both our federal agencies to solve the challenges at the West Lake landfill Superfund project. The federal, state and local agencies, as well as the Missouri Congressional delegation and the Missourians they represent all wish to continue protecting the health of residents in the West Lake area.

While we are working hard to address immediate needs, like overseeing the construction of a barrier from the subsurface smoldering event, we are considering future solutions that could most effectively protect the people who live and work in the area from this decades old site. The EPA and our partners are bringing to bear the best minds in this business to ensure public health is protected.

EPA is also working in partnership with another federal agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, to ensure that the most qualified scientists are enlisted to perform a robust review of the ground water data being collected. The USGS is currently reviewing the report containing the results of the October 2013 groundwater monitoring event.

Receiving Phone Calls?



EPA Region 7 has become aware that some Missouri residents may have recently received telephone calls regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site.

These calls ask residents if they believe the site's radiologically contaminated materials should remain in Bridgeton.

Some residents have reported that the caller claims to be representing EPA.

These calls are not originating from, nor are they authorized by, EPA.

EPA has determined that a group known as the Coalition to Keep Us Safe is the organization making these calls. This organization is sponsored by Bridgeton Landfill and Rockroad Industries, subsidiaries of Republic Services.

Community Inquiries:
Ben Washburn
913-551-7364
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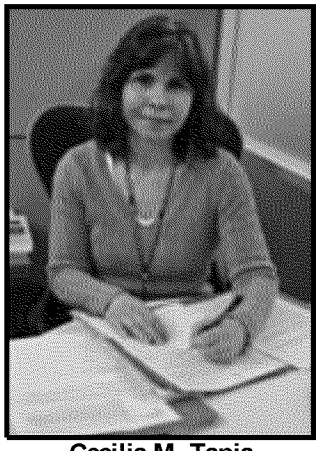
Meet EPA's West Lake Team



Cecilia M. Tapia

A Chemical Engineering graduate from the University of Kansas, Cecilia M. Tapia is leading one of the most noteworthy Superfund divisions in the country at EPA Region 7. Her work protects public health and the environment through the cleanup of hazardous waste sites and provides emergency response to immediate threats while also addressing methods that lead to the reuse of formerly contaminated properties.

Known in EPA Region 7 for her industrious and meticulous work, Cecilia understands Superfund projects from the ground up having started her career as a project manager in the Superfund Division. In addition to her experience managing Superfund sites, she has managed enforcement and case development in the Air and Waste Management Division and served as the Director of the Enforcement Coordination Office, where she coordinated a large number of regulatory programs.

Cecilia is a noted leader in managing Superfund projects and is addressing the West Lake project with her team as aggressively as any in her nearly three decades in the field.

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