West Lake Update

March 5, 2014

Welcome to West Lake Update

This update is provided by EPA Region 7 in an effort to inform the community about the progress of environmental activities taking place at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo.

Percussive Drilling to Begin This Week

A different drilling technology known as percussive drilling is being introduced at the site this week. EPA approved the use of this technology to achieve better core recovery for collecting laboratory samples to design the isolation barrier. EPA technical staff onsite will oversee the work as it begins.

"Percussive drilling differs from sonic drilling in the way the drill head advances into the ground," EPA project manager Dan Gravatt said. "With sonic drilling, the drill head advances by applying a constant down-pressure along with rotation of the drill head. With percussive drilling, the drill head does not rotate, and the drill head advances by applying a 'hammering' down-pressure. Percussive drilling through the waste should be more effective at collecting core samples than the grinding motion of the sonic drilling in these wastes."

How You Can Be Involved

Get involved in the Community Advisory Group (CAG) (http://www.westlakecag.org/). EPA encourages residents to attend routine CAG meetings to stay informed.

Community Inquiries:
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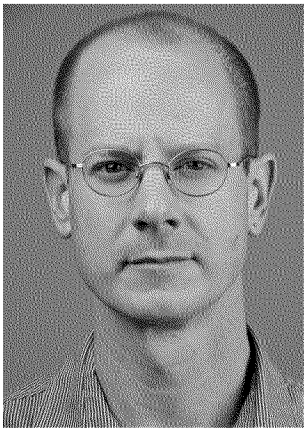
Listening to You

On February 25 and 26, Ben Washburn of EPA Region 7's Office of Public Affairs and Karim Dawani of R7's Environmental Justice program conducted community interviews with people living and working in the area of Bridgeton and West Lake landfills. Ben and Karim met with individuals, small groups, business owners and employees.

Information gathered from these interviews will be used to update EPA's Community Involvement Plan (CIP). The CIP will outline how the agency will conduct community outreach and engage the community throughout the Superfund process. The CIP will be made available to the community once the update is complete.

Meet EPA's West Lake Team

EPA staff working on the West Lake project will be featured in future editions of the West Lake Update.



Dan Gravatt earned a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from the University of Rochester (N.Y.) in 1994 and a Master of Science degree in geochemistry from Cornell University in 1996. He holds a Professional Geologist's license from the State of Kansas. He began working for EPA in 2004 doing corrective action under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) program, then moved to EPA's Superfund program in 2009. Dan has been the project manager for the West Lake Landfill Site since early 2010.

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