West Lake Update

March 24, 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: EPA Enlists Army Corps Expertise

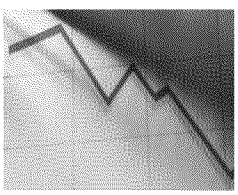
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has an expression: "One Team, One Fight." That's a principle we live by when it comes to the West Lake Landfill Site. EPA, the St. Louis area Congressional delegation and the Missouri Attorney General are in agreement that this site requires a team of the best people. This is why I have been in discussions with the Army Corps to enlist their construction management expertise for the isolation barrier to separate the Radiologically Impacted Material from the subsurface smoldering event at Bridgeton Landfill. I'm hopeful construction on the isolation barrier can begin shortly.

Attorney General Chris Koster's letter highlights that shared commitment to protect public health, and we are working to ensure continued close collaboration at the site between the state and federal partners. The complementary regulatory authorities held by the State and EPA will continue to hold the responsible parties to their duties.

EPA's legal authority under Superfund provides the authority to compel the potentially responsible parties to take the actions that are required to protect public health. What's more, EPA has the responsibility to protect the public no matter where the RIM, resulting from the disposal of leached barium sulfate, may be located at the site.

We will continue to share new information on our progress as our plans come together.

EPA Releases Fourth GW Monitoring Report



The fourth round of groundwater sampling data is now available online at http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm.

This round of data is generally consistent with the previous three rounds of groundwater sampling. Of particular note this round is the inclusion of eight recently added deep bedrock sampling wells at the southern portion of the site.

These eight sampling wells were not drilled as part of EPA's engineering survey. Rather, they were installed because the Missouri Department of Natural Resources wanted Republic Services to sample for benzene in groundwater in an area adjacent to the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill. Working under EPA's oversight, Republic's contractor used the same wells to conduct additional sampling for radionuclides and other analytes, and added those to the fourth quarterly groundwater sampling report submitted to EPA. The sampling results do not change EPA's approach to managing the site, and do not indicate an increased risk of exposure to the public.

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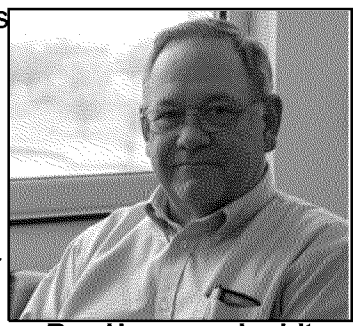
Meet EPA's West Lake Team



Ron Hammerschmidt

Ron Hammerschmidt has served as Director of EPA Region 7's Environmental Services Division since February 2008. The activities of the Division include environmental assessment and monitoring, field compliance activities, quality assurance and operation of the regional laboratory. These activities support the implementation of a broad range of environmental protection programs by the Regional Office. From January 1995 until he joined EPA, Dr. Hammerschmidt was Director of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Division of Environment. He began his service with KDHE in March 1980. He received his graduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August 1978.

Dr. Hammerschmidt served as the President of the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) in 2001-2002. He also served as the President of the Board of Directors for the Environmental Research Institute of States which provides research and education support for ECOS including the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC). Dr. Hammerschmidt received the ECOS 2008 Founders Award for his contributions and efforts on behalf of state environmental programs. Ron serves as the Region 7 liaison with EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD). ORD is currently working with EPA Region 7 in a number of scientific areas related to the West Lake Site.

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