West Lake Update

June 30, 2014

Play Ball at BMAC

EPA's surface gamma radiation screening of the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC) in Bridgeton, Mo., suggests the facility remains suitable for use.

EPA Region 7 announced its plans to conduct the BMAC screening on May 9, 2014. The plan included both a surface gamma screening using a sodium iodide detector as well as soil sampling throughout the complex. Radiation levels were also determined at Koch and Blanchette parks, which were useful to determine if the levels at BMAC were comparable with what is found naturally in the environment.

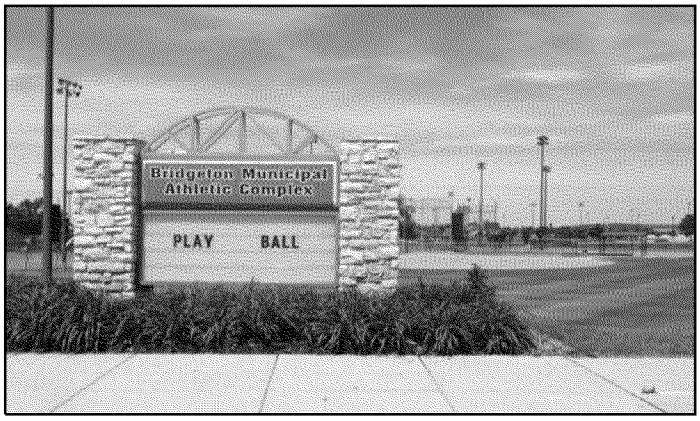
The screening of BMAC began on May 19, with radiation experts from EPA Region 7 teaming up with experts from EPA Region 5 in order to complete the screening as quickly and thoroughly as possible while maintaining the scientific integrity of the investigation.

Using a global positioning system (GPS) linked sodium iodide sensor, three radiation detection teams thoroughly canvassed BMAC, traveling approximately 45 miles of transecting lines while collecting more than 58,000 data points. The gamma screening results did not indicate any areas of unusual or elevated gamma activity, including the areas tested by the community group in April.

The equipment used by EPA is so sensitive that it was able to detect slight differences in gamma signatures from the various types of soils and surface amendments present at BMAC. These differences are shown as colored dots on the maps in the report, and do not indicate areas of concern.

In addition to the surface gamma screening, the teams also collected more than 100 surface soil samples from BMAC. Soil samples were collected from infield areas, outfield areas, grassy areas outside of playing fields, and also drainage areas. EPA also worked with the community group to identify the areas where they collected samples earlier this year, so that EPA could sample the same locations. All of the EPA soil samples were sent to a certified laboratory for analysis. EPA expects to have the final report detailing the results of the soil samples by the end of July. When the soil sample results are complete, EPA will share them with the public.

The BMAC surface gamma screening report is now available on EPA Region 7's website on the West Lake Landfill page: www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill



Community Inquiries
Ben Washburn
913-551-7364
Washburn.Ben@epa.gov

Find Us On
www.facebook.com/eparegion7
www.twitter.com/eparegion7
www.scribd.com/eparegion7
www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill