BMAC Surface Screening Results Confirm that BMAC Is Suitable for Use

EPA's radiation screening of the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC) in Bridgeton, Mo., has confirmed that the facility remains suitable for use.

Analysis of the results of direct surface field screening, as well as the results of extensive soil sampling, did not indicate any levels of radiation above background levels. The readings at BMAC present no public health concerns for users of the facility, and were consistent with background levels determined at Koch and Blanchette parks nearby.

EPA Region 7 announced its plans to conduct the BMAC screening on May 9, 2014. The plan included both a surface screening using a sodium iodide detector as well as soil testing throughout the facility. Background radiation levels were also determined at Koch and Blanchette parks, which were useful to determine if the levels at BMAC were consistent 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 Rapid Assessment Tools (RAT), which house the global positioning system (GPS) linked sodium iodide sensor, three radiation detection teams thoroughly canvassed BMAC, traveling more than 45 miles of transecting lines while collecting more than 60,000 data points.

In addition to the surface screening conducted by the RAT, the teams also collected more than 100 soil samples from BMAC. Soil samples were collected from infield areas, outfield areas, grassy areas outside of playing fields, and also drainage areas. In addition to these soil samples, EPA asked the community group that screened areas of the complex earlier this year to identify the areas where they collected samples. 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 screening report is now available on EPA Region 7's website on the West Lake Landfill page: http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/

A final report detailing the results of the soil sampling is expected to be complete by the end of July. EPA will also share that report with the public when it becomes available.

GRAPHICS TO USE:

Picture submitted to Digital Team by Ben Washburn from BMAC on May 19 showing the RAT in action.

Graphic showing the data points overlaying the BMAC

Additional Content if Necessary:

The next Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting is on July 21 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Operating Engineers Local 513 Offices, 3449 Hollenberg Drive, Bridgeton, Mo.