

Bridgeton Landfill, LLC Issues Statement Regarding EPA's Amended Record of Decision for the West Lake Landfill

Today, the Environmental Protection Agency issued an Amended Record of Decision (ROD) calling for partial excavation of the West Lake Landfill, a Superfund site located in Bridgeton, MO. Bridgeton Landfill, LLC, the United States Department of Energy, and Cotter Corporation are the currently designated Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the site.

Bridgeton Landfill, LLC is opposed to the selected excavation remedy because it creates unacceptable risk with no proportional benefit, will greatly increase the time needed to remediate the site, and is contrary to EPA's own findings regarding the risks posed by the site. In 2008, EPA selected a cap and monitor remedy for the site, and EPA's recent Proposed Record of Decision Amendment stated that the cap and monitor remedy is "protective of human health and the environment" and would be "successful in reducing potential future risks from exposure to all contaminants at the Site."

EPA's decision today to excavate is arbitrary and capricious.

From here, we will continue to engage vigorously with the EPA and the other PRPs to ensure that any remedy is performed in a manner that maximizes protections for the community and for onsite workers performing such remedy.

Bridgeton Landfill, LLC is a subsidiary of Republic Services, Inc. Republic acquired the owner of the West Lake Landfill as part of a large corporate merger in 2008, shortly after the EPA issued its original ROD. Bridgeton Landfill, LLC did not generate or deliver the waste (delivered as supposed "clean fill") to the property and has been a model environmental steward and PRP throughout the Superfund program's process.

About the West Lake Landfill

The West Lake Landfill became contaminated with radiologically impacted material in 1973 when a now defunct trucking company, hired by a federal licensee (through what is now the Nuclear Regulatory Commission), improperly brought the waste, mixed with thousands of tons of soil, to the Landfill as supposed clean fill. The Landfill used the material to cover compacted trash in two areas as part of routine operations. The portions of the landfill addressed by the EPA's proposed plan ceased day-to-day operations soon after. Nuclear regulators discovered the contamination in 1974, and the EPA added the landfill to its National Priorities List as a Superfund site in 1990.

The site has been waiting for a final remediation plan for over 40 years. During that time, exhaustive studies by federal and state authorities, including the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the U.S. EPA and the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, have concluded that the Landfill currently poses no unacceptable risk to human health or the environment, even without a remedy in place.