

WEST LAKE LANDFILL PROPOSED FINAL REMEDY COMMENT PERIOD

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has announced the proposed final remedy for West Lake Landfill. The proposal, Excavation Plus (Alternative 4), calls for the removal of 67 percent of the radioactive waste to a maximum depth of 16 feet, the installation of an engineered cap to cover the remaining wastes, institutional controls, and monitoring.

As with all proposed remedies, there is a 45-day public comment period from February 6 through March 22, 2018. During this time, we will have the opportunity to provide our questions, concerns, and wishes to the EPA regarding the proposed remedy.

We have compiled a short list of topics we encourage everyone to consider when submitting your written comments.

Relocation -- It is always important to remember the entire landfill is one Superfund site. This includes the area that is currently experiencing the underground fire. The chemicals being released and the constant uncertainty of danger is reason enough to permanently relocate those living within a one-mile radius surrounding the landfill complex.

Relocation is a top priority for Just Moms STL. We will continue to fight for and fully support a voluntary relocation plan.

Disposal/storage -- EPA wants our input as to whether the removed waste should be stored on or offsite. If onsite, the structure could be similar to Weldon Springs in St. Charles; off-site will remove and transport to a licensed nuclear facility just the same as the radioactive waste around Coldwater Creek.

Just Moms STL supports off-site storage at an out-of-state licensed nuclear facility.

Depth of Excavation -- Currently EPA says they will excavate to a maximum depth of 16 feet. We know there is radiation much deeper within the complex. Typically, no site receives 100% removal as agencies such as EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP remove wastes to certain allowable levels and, for varied reasons, there are always areas they deem inaccessible. However, the depth of excavation and percentage of radiation removed can increase from 67% as the public comment period, design, and implementation phases proceed.

Just Moms STL would like to see the percentage of removal increase to the highest possible amount. Thus, resulting in the safest, most permanent solution.

We are now in the negotiation phase and EPA is legally bound to give us a seat at the table. We encourage everyone to participate as this is the only opportunity the public has to ensure our voices are heard. While this is a time to celebrate, we must also remain vigilant and engaged as we shift our focus towards achieving the safest, most protective clean-up for families and workers. Now is the time your voice really matters.

Please keep in mind, the radioactive waste at West Lake is:

- in the Missouri River floodplain
- upstream from the drinking water intake that serves hundreds of thousands of St. Louis residents/businesses
- in earthquake and tornado zones
- in an unlined quarry
- within 500-600 feet from an underground fire
- located in a highly populated residential and commercial area

A Public Meeting to inform residents of the Proposed Plan, and obtain comments on the Proposed Plan and EPA's preferred remedy, will be held:

**Tuesday, March 6, 2018
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
District 9 Machinists Hall
12365 St. Charles Rock Road
Bridgeton, Missouri**

Written comments will be accepted throughout the comment period, and oral comments may be submitted at the EPA Public Meeting.

EPA encourages residents to register in advance to submit comments at the Public Meeting. Registration will be held on a first-come, first-serve basis. Residents may register by contacting Ben Washburn, community involvement coordinator, at 913-551-7364 or washburn.ben@epa.gov.

Written comments on the Proposed Plan may be submitted as follows:

ONLINE:

<https://www.epa.gov/mo/forms/west-lake-landfill-public-comment-period>

VIA EMAIL:

R7_WestLakeLandfillPublicComments@epa.gov

POSTAL MAIL:

**Ben Washburn
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Blvd.
Lenexa, KS 66219**

***Mailed comments must be postmarked by March 22, 2018.**



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