



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

MAR 11 2016

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Chris Koster
Attorney General of Missouri
P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Mr. Koster:

Thank you for your letter of March 9, 2016. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is committed to providing the public accurate and complete information about our progress at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. In addition to postings on our West Lake Landfill web page, our distribution of the West Lake Landfill newsletter, and our participation at the community advisory group meetings and other public forums, EPA Region 7 recently conducted a public meeting to build stronger relations within the community and to provide a sound framework for our upcoming decisions regarding the final remedy at the West Lake Landfill site. I appreciate your office's past and on-going participation in these efforts and specifically with the community dialogue process.

Since I and the EPA West Lake Landfill project management team met with your office and Missouri Department of Natural Resources in November 2015, we've been working in close coordination with your staff and the MDNR. We have had frequent communications about our progress on efforts regarding our actions at the West Lake Landfill site. As we all agreed in November, it is important for us as government agencies to ensure we collectively address the many environmental challenges associated with the sites. This includes management of the air quality concerns from the Bridgeton Landfill subsurface smoldering event, implementation of our decision on the isolation barrier, and the remedy for the radiologically-impacted material at the West Lake Landfill site.

Regarding our plans to release the extent of RIM and associated maps from the comprehensive radiological survey at West Lake/Bridgeton, we expect to make that information public in the coming days. As we have discussed extensively with your office, the detailed report has undergone reviews by EPA Region 7, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the MDNR. We continue to work with the potentially responsible parties to complete that final report to ensure it conforms with the direction and purpose of the work plan we approved in consultation with the USACE and the MDNR.

EPA Region 7 will continue to ensure that work performed by PRPs in support of our efforts to protect public health at this site is complete, thoroughly reviewed and accurate. At this time, we continue to exercise our oversight responsibilities to ensure that the final report's conclusions and interpretations regarding the radiological investigation meet our requirements. The EPA will release that information as soon as we are confident in the completeness and accuracy of the information contained in the report. The release of anything other than scientifically-sound information and reports by anyone involved in public health protection at this or any other site would be irresponsible.



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The EPA has also recently publicly shared a schedule for the proposed isolation barrier. At that time we clearly stated that the details of the IB system will be publically released once agreement on the technical and legal details is reached. As I'm sure you are aware, these actions are necessary for the EPA to ensure our oversight authority and the IB's timely implementation. That work continues and is moving at an expeditious pace. In conjunction with this action, we have also been collaborating extensively with your office, the USACE and the MDNR on our final plans to ensure that matters relating to controlling the subsurface smoldering event are being properly addressed by the state and/or the EPA in its federal regulatory oversight role. We expect that these efforts will be advanced and made publicly available over the next several weeks.

A study of the potential impacts from a subsurface smoldering event coming into contact with RIM is currently underway. As previously discussed with your office, the MDNR and members of the CAG Technical Committee, the development of a pyrolysis study that could provide usable and accurate scientific results that would inform us about what could be expected at the West Lake Landfill site has been challenging. After extensive research and coordination with a number of experts across the country, and with support from other federal agencies, including the USACE and the U.S. Geological Survey, we developed a sampling/quality assurance project plan for tests resulting in data to be used in calculating radon emanation from RIM exposed to very high temperatures (such as would be expected for a SSE). Samples collected from the site this year have been provided to our supporting laboratory for analysis. These samples are currently being analyzed while the EPA continues to evaluate the feasibility of additional tests. Once validated data is available, a comprehensive report will be written. This report will be shared with the project stakeholders, including the public, once complete.

This agency has demonstrated our on-going commitment to protecting and supporting the community. While projected deadlines sometimes change due to the complexity of a scientific review or negotiations, we endeavor to be clear when and why those adjustments are necessary. EPA Region 7 is on a steady course to make a decision on a proposed final remedy by the end of this calendar year. I and my team are working toward that goal each and every day. I will not, however, compromise on our commitment to provide fully reviewed and scientifically-sound information in support of project decisions.

EPA Region 7 remains committed to continue to work in partnership with the USACE, USGS, the state of Missouri, and other project stakeholders including the public to address the complex technical issues present at the West Lake/Bridgeton Superfund sites. I know, together, we will be able to reach our common goal of providing workable solutions to address the site's many environmental challenges. I look forward to continued coordination and constructive input in support of the on-going investigative and remedial efforts. This agency is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Hague", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Hague