



WEST LAKE UPDATE

March 24, 2026

Operable Unit 1 Pre-Excavation Confirmation Sampling Complete; Operable Unit 3 Remedial Investigation Update

OU-1 Pre-Excavation Confirmation Sampling Complete

The pre-excavation confirmation sampling at Operable Unit 1 (OU-1), which began in July 2025, is complete.

As a reminder, completing this sampling now expedites the cleanup process by minimizing the time between digging the contaminated areas and filling the holes with backfill material, which will decrease the time excavations are open. It will also result in reduced health and safety risks to workers, reduced environmental risks (e.g., birds, odors, gamma emissions), and reduced need for daily cover.

The 2018 remedy requires the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) to collect confirmation samples to confirm whether their excavation plan is accurate and, if necessary, expand the excavation to meet all the requirements in the [2018 Record of Decision Amendment](#) and the [2025 Explanation of Significant Differences](#). These requirements include excavation of radiologically impacted material (RIM) at concentrations greater than 52.9 picocuries per gram (pCi/g) generally down to 12 feet with targeted deeper excavations of higher concentrations of RIM down to 20 feet. This RIM must be sent to an off-site disposal facility permitted for radioactive waste.

More than 1,100 confirmation samples were collected and analyzed over the course of the fieldwork to check the excavation areas proposed in the PRPs' RIM excavation plan. The excavation plan proposed two larger excavations in Area 2 and several smaller excavations spread across Area 1 and Area 2. The samples were collected above, below, and around each of these excavation areas. The majority of the sample results confirmed the proposed excavation locations.

However, about 500 of the confirmation samples were step-outs. It is common at Superfund sites for confirmation sampling to result in such step-outs, and EPA anticipated that confirmation sampling would show that some minor expansions to proposed excavation areas would be necessary. While the results of confirmation sampling did not identify any new areas of RIM in other parts of site, the results did show that some of the proposed excavations needed to be expanded. This data is now being used by the PRPs to update the RIM excavation plans and other portions of the design including plans for re-grading the surface of the landfill so the engineered cover can be installed and construction of stormwater controls. The EPA is working to provide additional information about the confirmation sampling locations on the Site Profile page.

Remaining Deliverables Associated with Remedial Design Completion

The PRPs have 45 days to validate the confirmation sampling data once they receive all the results from the laboratory, which occurred on March 13. The full 100% Remedial Design (RD) package is due to EPA 150 days after validation is completed, as documented in the [May 2025 Statement of Work](#). The Professional Engineered Stamped Final (100%) RD is due within 30 days of EPA acceptance of the complete Draft Final (100%) RD package including the Updated Design Documents that incorporate the confirmation sampling data.

The EPA will continue to encourage the PRPs to expedite completion of the RD, which is still estimated to be complete by the end of calendar year 2026.

Operable Unit 3 [Groundwater] Remedial Investigation Update

The PRPs are preparing a draft preliminary remedial investigation (RI) report. The purpose of this report is to present information on the extent of contamination, identify the source(s) of the contamination, and support development of the work plan for the Baseline Risk Assessment, which will address potential risks to human health and the environment. Additional documents that will support the conclusions in the final RI report include the groundwater modeling report and the Baseline Risk Assessment Report, which the PRPs will submit for EPA review later in the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study process. The EPA expects receiving the draft preliminary RI report this summer.



Drilling operations being conducted to collect samples in Area 1 of OU-1

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West Lake Community Liaison:

EPA's West Lake Landfill community liaison, Jessica Evans, is available every week at Bridgeton City Hall to speak with the public.

Please call Jessica at 314-296-8182 for details.