

RESOLUTION NUMBER 10
Cleanup of the West Lake Landfill

WHEREAS, 66 years ago, the United States government began processing uranium for the development of nuclear weapons at the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works (MCW), near Downtown St. Louis. From 1946 until 1957 the radioactive wastes were trucked to a 23-acre tract at the St. Louis Airport on Brown Road (now McDonnell Blvd.) on the banks of Coldwater Creek, and were dumped there; and

WHEREAS, some of those wastes were later trucked to Latty Avenue in Hazelwood for drying and shipping to Colorado for reprocessing, with dispersal resulting along the haul roads; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 some of the Latty Avenue wastes were illegally dumped at the West Lake Municipal Waste Landfill in Bridgeton, next to Earth City, in the Missouri River floodplain; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 Congress transferred responsibility from the U.S. Department of Energy to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the remediation of the nation's abandoned sites where work had been performed for the early atomic weapons program; and

WHEREAS, the Corps has been directing the cleanup of all the sites containing MCW radioactive wastes in St. Louis City and County, under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), except for the West Lake Landfill, and expects to continue employing its trained contractors and personnel in St. Louis for an additional four to five years; and

WHEREAS, because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had placed West Lake on its Superfund National Priorities List in 1990, it therefore had assumed responsibility for the landfill's wastes and remediation; and

WHEREAS, the EPA issued a Record of Decision in May 2008 about West Lake, dictating that the radioactive wastes were to remain in the landfill, with merely a cover of rocks, construction rubble, and clay, and no liner below to protect the wastes from groundwater leaching; and

WHEREAS, residents in St. Louis County north of I-70 and most St. Louis City residents drink water from the Missouri River, downstream from West Lake.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we request that Congress transfer jurisdiction over the cleanup of West Lake radioactive wastes (Operable Unit One) from the EPA Superfund Program to the Corps of Engineers' FUSRAP and that those wastes be excavated and shipped to a licensed radioactive waste disposal site. Furthermore, the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis urges all those involved in the cleanup of the West Lake radioactive wastes to ensure that these wastes no longer migrate into the human environment, to the detriment of today's and future generations.

Introduced on the 1st day of May, 2009 by:

Honorable Kacie Starr Triplett, Alderwoman 6th Ward
Honorable Terry Kennedy Alderman 18th Ward

Adopted this the 1st day of May, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen

