Press Release

NEWS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 3, 1987

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WELDON SPRING, MO. -- The United States Department of Energy announced Thursday a plan to perform nine interim response actions designed to ensure the health and safety of on-site personnel and to minimize or preclude off-site releases of contamination.

DOE and the United States Environmental Protection Agency will cosponsor a public information meeting on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Francis Howell High School Cafeteria, off Highway 94 in St. Charles County. Representatives from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will also be in attendance.

This will be the first in a series of regularly scheduled meetings to keep the community informed of activities at the Weldon Spring Superfund Site.

At this meeting, DOE and its contractors will provide descriptions of the proposed actions and answer questions from local residents on the plan.

The interim response action will be performed prior to the publication of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and subsequent Record of Decision on the Weldon Springs Site. An interim response action is any work performed at a remedial action site, prior to a final Record of Decision, which is necessary to minimize risks to workers on the site or to the surrounding residents awaiting cleanup.

The proposed response actions, which have been agreed to in principle by DOE and EPA, and discussed with MDNR, will consist of the following:

- Electric Power and Pole Removal
- Overhead Piping/Asbestos Removal
- Removal of Electric Transformers containing PCB oils
- Ash Pond Isolation Dike (to keep contamination from Ash Pond from overflowing into Busch Wildlife Area)
- Cleanup of Vicinity Property on the Weldon Spring Army Reserve Site
- Dismantling of Building 409 (Administration Building, which is radiologically clean)

- Disposal of Containerized Chemicals

- Dismantling of Building 401 (Steam Processing Plant, which is radiologically clean, but contaminated with asbestos)

- Debris Consolidation

The agencies believe that these interim actions will improve the environmental condition of the site and surrounding area, but will not prejudice the ultimate decision for remedial action.

Both DOE and EPA agreed these interim response actions should proceed while DOE gathers the technical data necessary to complete the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

DOE published a draft EIS last February and announced in June its intention to issue a revised draft EIS.

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