WSSRAP

UPDATE

VOL. 3 NO. 2 DECEMBER 1991

Distributed to residents of St. Charles County to report on the progress of the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project

PUBLIC TOURS SITE FOR LAST LOOK

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Reporting to the Community

- Open House
- Partners in Education
- Technologies Workshop
- Cleanup Progress

T NUMBER

HUNDREDS ATTEND OPEN HOUSE

Some 730 people from the community attended the WSSRAP Open House Saturday afternoon, September 21, to learn about the facility and the cleanup that is underway. The Open House was planned so that interested people could visit the site before the start of major cleanup operations.

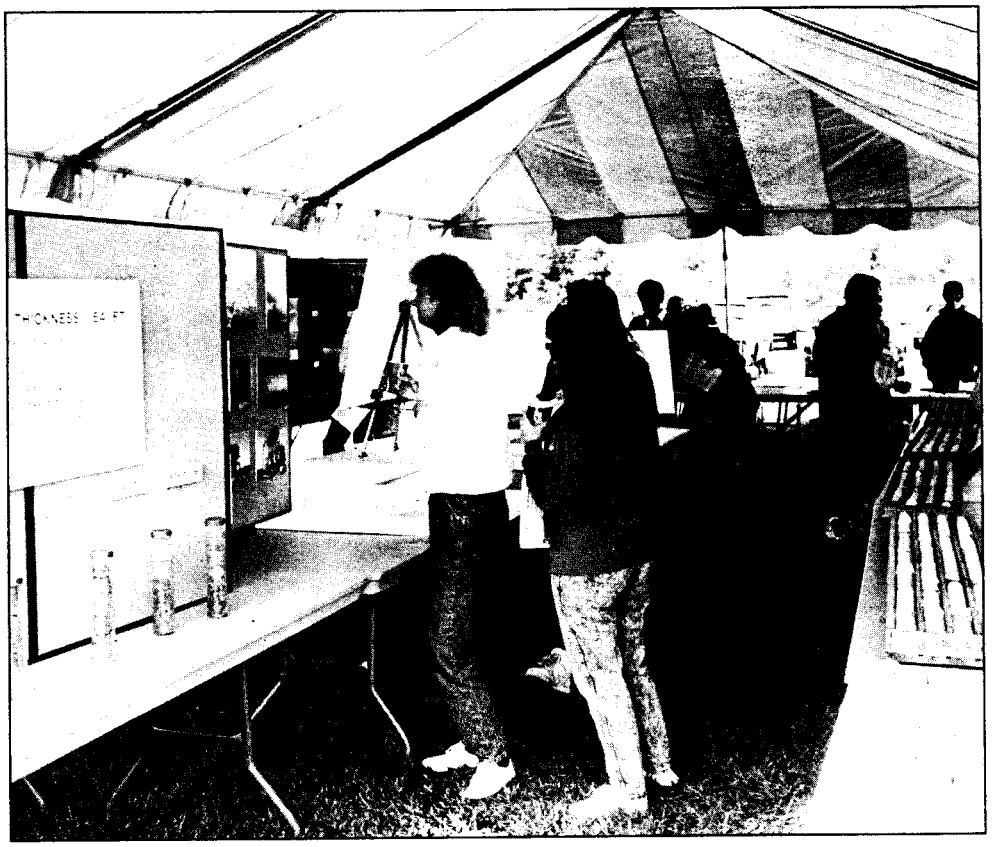
Guided bus tours, slide presentations by the technical staff and exhibits were the highlights of the three-hour program. On the tours, visitors were able to see up close the large process buildings that have been part of the Weldon Spring skyline for the past 36 years. These buildings will be dismantled beginning in the next few months along with other smaller structures that have already been dismantled. This debris will be stored in a Materials Staging Area awaiting the decision for final treatment and disposal.

A total of seven buses carried visitors around the chemical plant grounds with WSSRAP guides providing commentary. Stops were made along the way so that various operations and environmental monitoring systems could be explained.

A safety display featured the St. Charles County HAZ-MAT Team vehicle and the Site's Emergency Response Unit. Personal protective garments, self-contained breathing apparatus and rescue equipment for use during emergencies were on display. The first aid tent received no use and no parents or children were reported lost.

"The site has always had an open door policy."

Visitors were shown the



Displays in the exhibit tent described the various studies conducted at the site in the past few years. Examples of geological core drillings are in the boxes at the right of the photo. WSSRAP technical staffers were available to answer questions.

monitoring devices that can detect even small changes in levels of radioactivity, some of the many monitoring wells used to check groundwater and the surface water weirs that measure stormwater runoff.

U.S. Department of Energy Project Manager Stephen H. McCracken says the Open House was an opportunity to display information about the site all at once to hundreds of people.

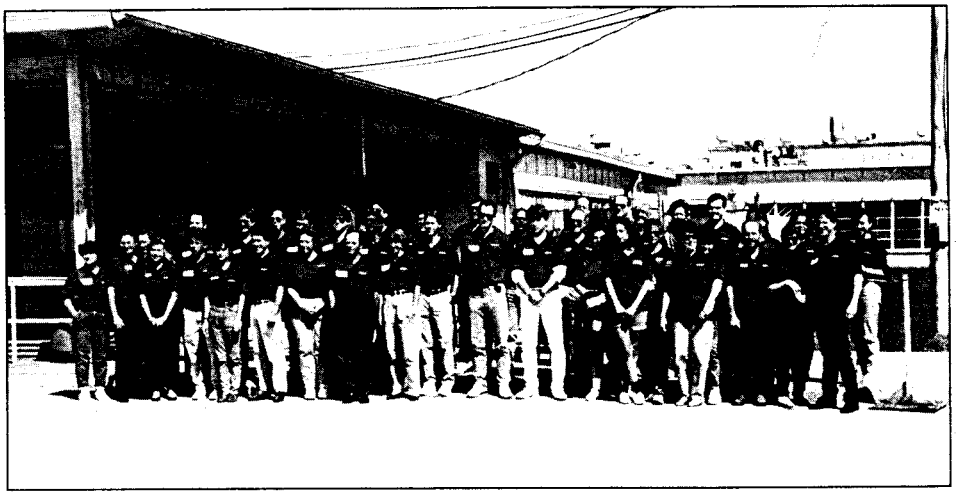
"The site has always had an open door policy," Mr. McCracken says. "We welcome groups and individuals who are concerned or curious to come and visit the site."

Four topics were covered in the slide presentations and repeated hourly for the visitors. The subjects were: WSSRAP-Past and Future, Personnel Protection, Radiation in Nature and Protecting the Environment.

The rooms were filled to capacity, and attendees themselves provided a number of historical anecdotes and facts relating to the chemical plant and the ordnance works that occupied the site beforehand.

Other features of the Open House included an exhibition tent filled with displays describing site activities, geological and technical studies, and progress of the Quarry Water Treatment Plant, which is due to start operation in the next few months.

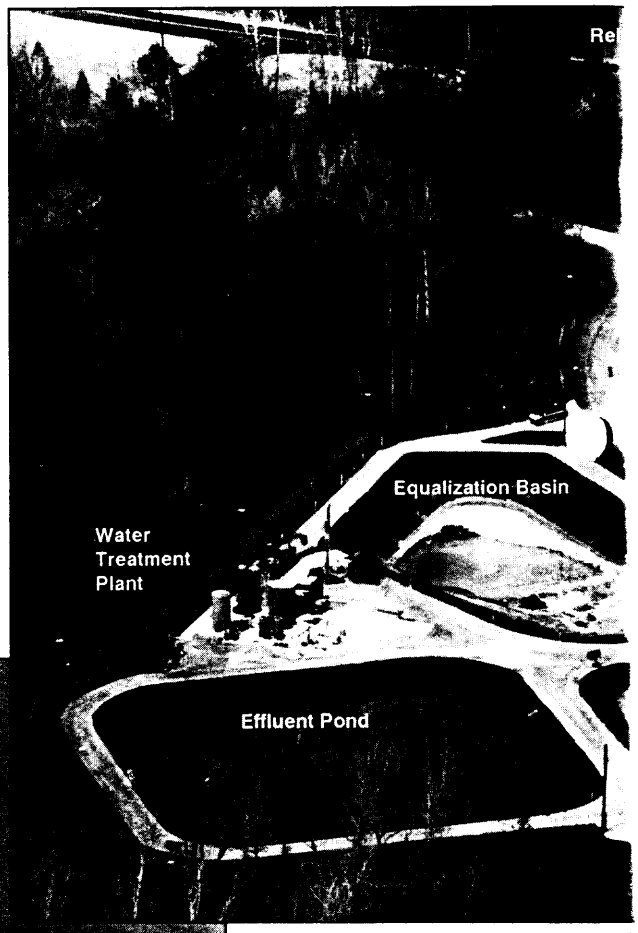
The volunteers, who had been on site since early morning, agreed that the Open House was fun and rewarding. "We got to meet many interesting people, some of whom had worked at the chemical plant and several who used to live in the old towns of Howell, Hamburg and Toonerville, one volunteer explains. "It was a great day for us, and we hope that our visitors were glad they came."



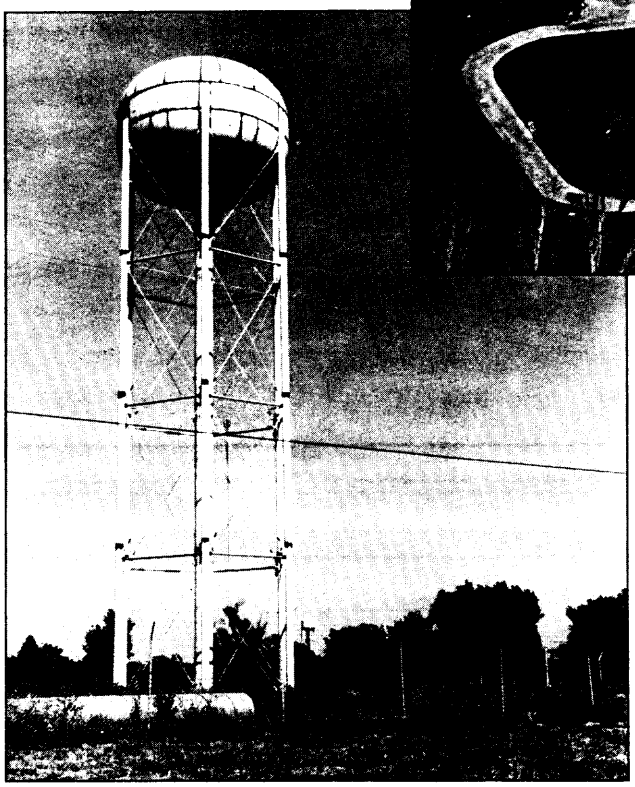
The Open House was hosted by 50 government and contractor employees, some of whom are shown here. The volunteers contributed their time to show off their project, answer questions, give presentations and provide general assistance.

PREPARING FOR MAJOR CLEANUP OPERATIONS

Preparations for major cleanup operations at Weldon Spring are underway. The Quarry Water Treatment Plant is being assembled. The temporary road for hauling waste from the quarry to the chemical plant site is nearly ready. A portion of Highway 94 South has been relocated to accommodate the haul road without interfering with community traffic. A new water tower has been constructed off-site. The Site Water Treatment Plant is under construction. The Temporary Storage Area for bulk waste from the quarry is being readied. A number of non-process buildings have been dismantled and the debris from them has been placed in the completed Materials Staging Area to await processing and final disposal.



(Right) The Quarry Water Treatment Plant is nearing completion. The processing center will receive Quarry water that has been stored in the equalization pond. Treated water will be pumped to one of the effluent ponds to await analysis. If the batch of treated water passes stringent treatment standards, it will be released to the river.

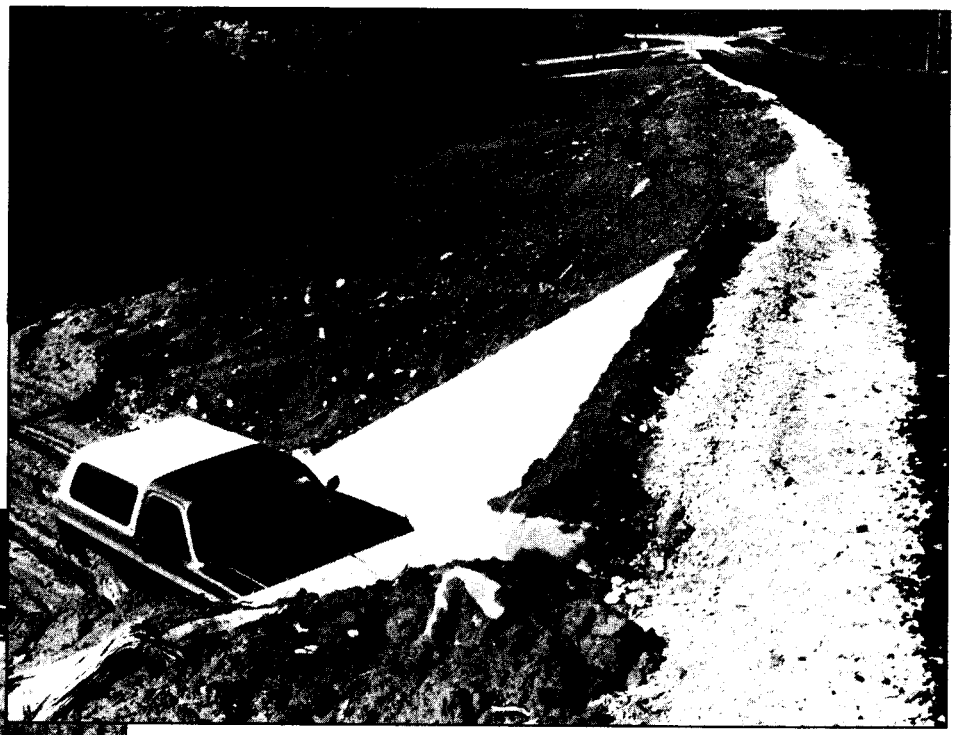


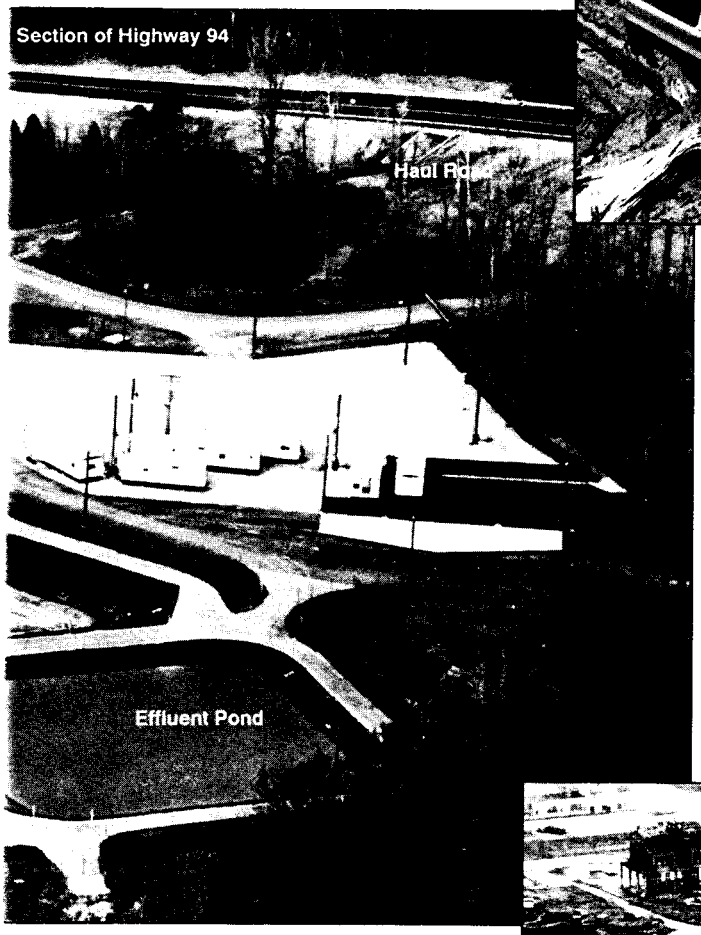
(Right) St. Charles Water Company's new 400,000 gallon water tower will replace the 350,000 gallon tower in the background.

The new tower is located one-half mile south of the original tower on the U.S. Army Reserve property adjacent to the chemical plant site.

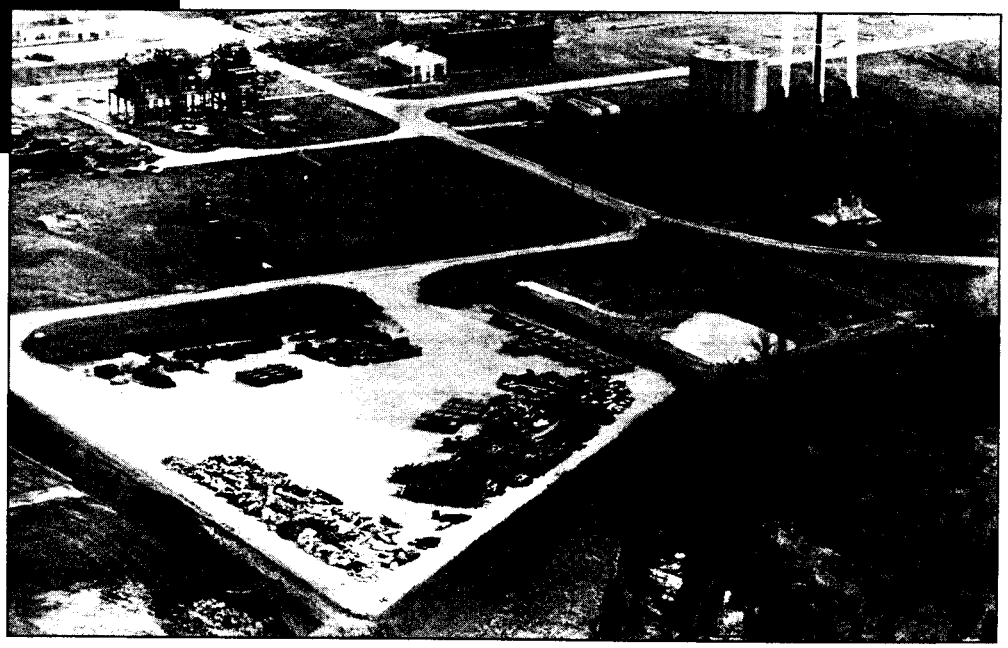
The new water tower, financed by DOE, was required because lines to the old tower are located in the area designated for the site's temporary storage area for bulk waste that will be removed from the Weldon Spring Quarry.

The original tower has been in service since 1955.





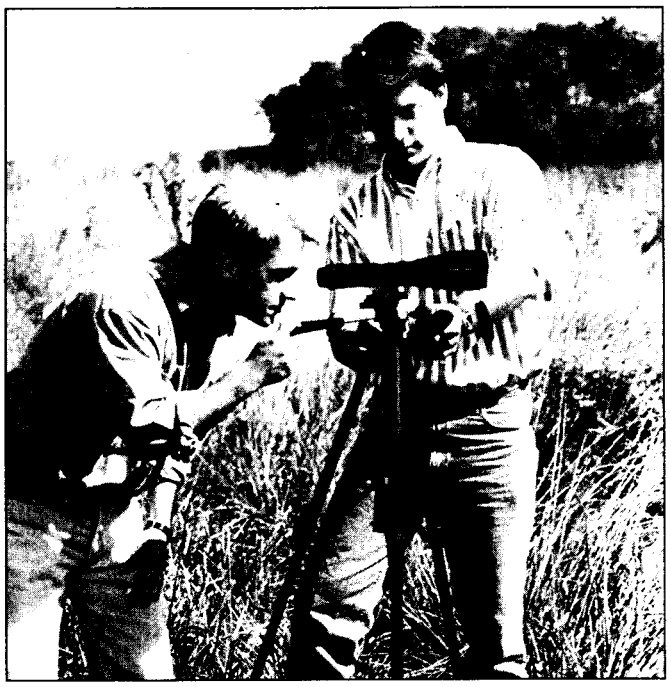
(Above) The relocation of a section of Route 94 not only eliminates some hazardous curves, but also allows transport of bulk waste from the quarry without interfering with local traffic. A tunnel beneath the new roadway connects the quarry area to the private haul road that follows the old railroad line to the chemical plant.



The Materials Staging Area (right) has been constructed to store debris from the site cleanup activities and building dismantlement. Material will be stored in this specially engineered area until a final disposal decision is made. Stormwater runoff from this area is collected in the lined holding pond and tested prior to release.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM EXPANDS

The Partners in Education (PIE) program at the WSSRAP, has expanded to include an Environmental Internship Program (EIP) for graduate students enrolled in area colleges.



Tom Underwood, an intern at the Weldon Spring Site since May, shows Eric Danielson, a new intern, how to survey wildlife habitat on the site. The program enables college students to get first-hand experience solving real environmental problems.

The PIE program began in response to requests from the Francis Howell School District for volunteers to serve as classroom speakers, and in its present scope, the program has grown to include other school districts and has reached out to offer speakers to nearby colleges.

The EIP will maintain the fundamental goals of the PIE program, which is to achieve better understanding of environmental issues and to encourage students to pursue meaningful careers in science and engineering.

Dr. Charles Reith, Project Technical Manager and Site Representative for Jacobs Engineering Group, one of two Project Management Contractors here says, "This internship program will enable the WSSRAP to expand its commitment to higher education. Under this internship program, the site hopes to cultivate environmental professionals, who, in many cases, will dedicate extended careers to waste management and cleanup."

Under the EIP, the site will employ up to two interns for a term of four to six months. Work for the internship must pertain to WSSRAP programs and focus on a technical problem.

Currently, the program at the site employs two interns. Tom Underwood, a graduate student at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville (SIUE), was the first recipient of the EIP internship.

Mr. Underwood has been working since May on a project to characterize local land usages.

"The internship has provided me with the opportunity to use the skills I have acquired in the classroom," says Mr. Underwood, "and apply them to the environmental arena."

Eric Danielson of St. Louis began his work in September studying bioremediation, which is the use of microorganisms to consume or immobilize contaminants in soil or water.

SITE ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR 1992

- **Complete the haul road from the quarry to the Site Temporary Storage Area**
- **Begin operations of the Quarry Water Treatment Plant**
- **Initiate Quarry Bulk Waste Removal**
- **Complete construction of the Site Water Treatment Plant and begin operation**
- **Initiate dismantling of buildings**
- **Complete construction of support facilities**
- **Issue the Draft Site Feasibility Study-Environmental Impact Statement to the public for review (This is the study that would outline the proposal for final cleanup and disposal)**

TECHNOLOGIES WORKSHOP DRAWS LARGE CROWD

On August 6, the Weldon Spring Site hosted a Technologies Workshop at the Ramada Inn in Wentzville.

The Workshop attracted 90 attendees from the community, area universities, special interest groups, scientists and government agencies.

The event featured several speakers who discussed the different technologies being considered for treating the waste at the site, and the process by which these technologies are selected.

DOE Project Manager Stephen H. McCracken says if everything goes according to schedule, the public will be presented with a proposed plan for the final cleanup of the site early next year .

"This technologies workshop, and a similar workshop held in February discussing geology," Mr. McCracken says, "were held in order to give the public a head start in understanding the important issues that will be addressed in the thousands of pages of text that will support the final cleanup proposal."

The speakers at the workshop presented a number of technologies that potentially apply to WSSRAP and the criteria for evaluating those technologies.

Topics and Speakers included:

Evaluating Technologies For Site Cleanup, Dr. Margaret MacDonell, Argonne National Laboratories.

An Overview of Potential Remedial Technologies of the Weldon Spring Site, Don Carpenter, MK Environmental Services.

The Application of Vitrification Technology to Remediate Weldon Spring Wastes, John Ansted, MK Environmental Services.

Vortec Vitrification System Case Study, Dr. James Hnat, Vortec Corporation.

Vitrification Offgas Evaluation, Richard Hardy, MK Environmental Services.

The Application of Chemical Solidification/Stabilization Technology to Remediate Weldon Spring Site Wastes, Don Carpenter, MK Environmental Services

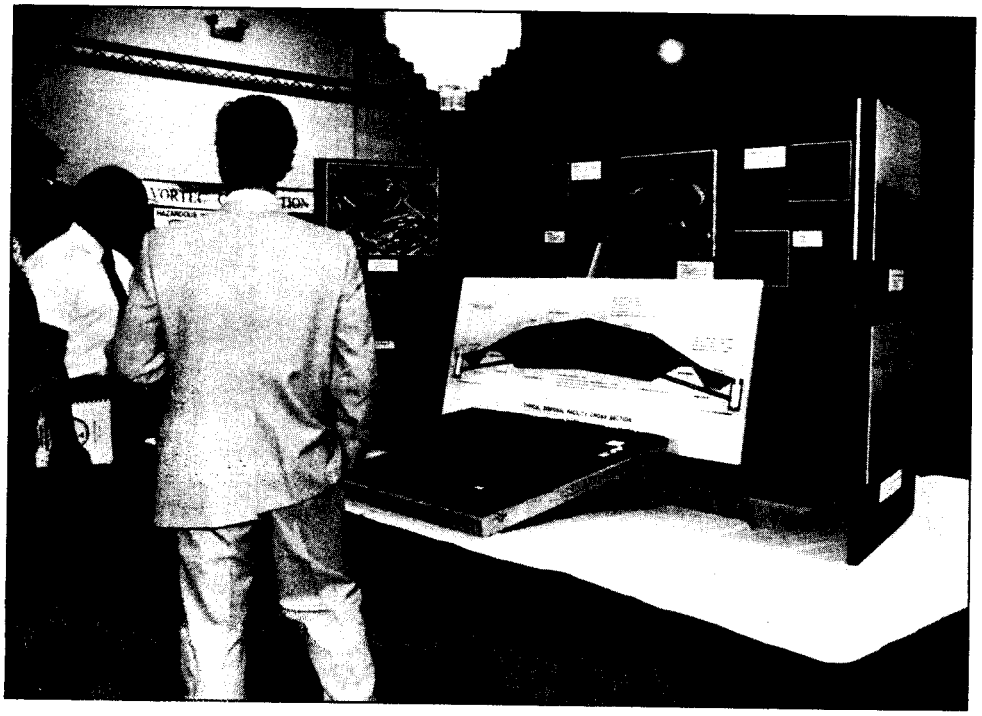
Summary of Treatment/ Stabilization Technology for the Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project, Michael Jump, Waste Technologies Group, Inc.

A Comparative Analysis of Chemical Stabilization/Solidification and Vitrification Technologies, Don Carpenter, MK Environmental Services.

Disposal Cells: Introduction and Overview, Dr. Charles Reith, Jacobs Engineering Group.

Disposal Cell Design and Construction, Jack Caldwell, Jacobs Engineering Group.

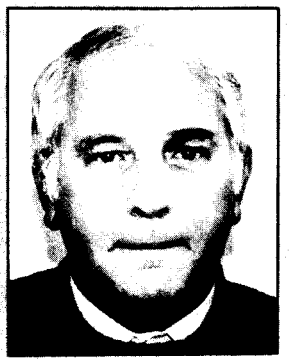
Disposal Cell Case Studies, Marjorie Wesely, MK-Ferguson.



An adjoining room at the Workshop contained technology exhibits. The main feature of the exhibit room was a table sized model of a "typical" disposal facility accompanied by a cross section color drawing of a disposal facility. Poster sized photos of before and after shots of disposal facilities at other sites around the nation accompanied the display.

Mr. Gibson

Dr. Reith



Mr. Williams

Mr. Cate

Mr. Green

A NEW CITIZEN

Raj Sundram of Wentzville, a WSSRAP Industrial Hygienist, became an American citizen in naturalization ceremonies October 4 at the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis.

Mr. Sundram

Mr. Sundram has been working at the site for the past three years. Prior to his employment here he was a substitute math and science teacher at Ritenour High and Middle Schools while working toward his teaching certificate at Lindenwood College. He is a graduate of Northeast Missouri State University.

A native of Malaysia, Mr. Sundram came to the United States to attend college where he met his wife, Sherry, a native of Nassau, Bahamas, and the daughter of American parents. His three children were born in the United States and are American citizens, a status Mr. Sundram wanted for himself. "It's a great feeling to belong to the country that welcomed me 11 years ago," he says.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Several new managers have been added to the WSSRAP staff in the past six months.

Alan Gibson has joined the Department of Energy staff as an Environmental Engineer. He comes from St. Louis where he was Environmental Coordinator for the Department of Defense Aviation Systems Command. James Williams comes to the WSSRAP as Engineering Department Manager. Prior to this assignment he was Construction Engineering Manager and Assistant Project Manager for Glaxo, Inc., at Zebulon, N.C. Phil Cate has become Quality Assurance Manager, having served in the same capacity at a DOE Project in Albuquerque, N.M.

Two other changes involved people already on site. Dr. Charles Reith has become Project Technical Manager and Jacobs Engineering Site Representative, and Steve Green has succeeded him as Environmental Safety and Health Manager.

WSSRAP Update

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