



# West Lake Update

May 15, 2014

## EPA Up to Bat at BMAC

On Friday, May 9, EPA joined Bridgeton Mayor Conrad Bowers at a press conference at Bridgeton City Hall to announce the details of planned radiation screening at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC). While EPA has seen no scientifically validated data that indicate migration of radiological contaminants from West Lake landfill to the BMAC, it is necessary to conduct this screening so that the families that use the



facility can base their decisions on credible science provided by environmental experts using professional methods and technology. The screening will begin the week of May 19.

EPA Region 7 is teaming up with EPA Region 5 to conduct the screening using radiation detection instruments, global positioning system equipment, and laptops with software to create mapping products indicating where radiation may be present above natural background levels. The equipment will be mounted on an all-terrain type vehicle or a push cart to maneuver the detectors across the fields in a pattern similar to a grounds keeping crew meticulously mowing Busch Stadium.

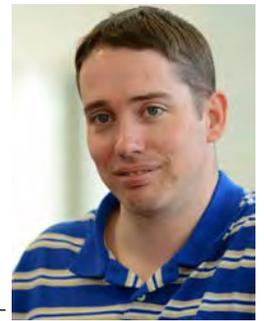
The field screening will measure all the gamma activity at BMAC. Soil samples will then be collected and submitted to a laboratory for analysis. The lab will perform three separate analyses on each sample specifically for Ra-226, all radioactive Thorium isotopes including Th-230, and all radioactive Uranium isotopes including U-238. This level of analysis will allow EPA to determine whether any of the radionuclides in the U-238 decay series are present at levels above health standards. EPA is in the process of finalizing the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the BMAC testing. The QAPP will be released as soon as it is finalized and approved by EPA's Quality Assurance Program.

The highest priority within EPA is protecting public health and the environment. The field screening work will take at least a week to complete. After the field work is complete, the data will be subject to a rigorous quality-control and quality-assurance analysis to ensure the scientific validity and usefulness of the data. EPA expects final results to be available 30 to

60 days after completion of the field work. The results of the screening will be made available to the public at the EPA Region 7 West Lake Landfill page: [www.epa.gov/region7/clean-up/west\\_lake\\_landfill](http://www.epa.gov/region7/clean-up/west_lake_landfill), and through social and news media. In the meantime, EPA encourages the St. Louis community to enjoy the facilities at BMAC and to be confident that this screening will provide the public with definitive results with which to base family decisions. Keeping with our mission of protecting human health, if the data indicates that any further testing or response is necessary, EPA is prepared to take appropriate action.

## Meet Ben Washburn

Ben Washburn has worked in EPA Region 7's Office of Public Affairs since 2010 as a Community Involvement Coordinator and Press Officer. As a Community Involvement Coordinator, Ben conducts outreach with communities affected by Superfund sites throughout Region 7. Community involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members, encouraging community participation, keeping the community informed,



and explaining to the community what EPA has done and why. In Ben's Press Officer role, he prepares news announcements regarding enforcement of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and other environmental regulations.

At the West Lake Landfill site, Ben works closely with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) to provide support and assistance. He also works closely with other members of the community, answering questions, listening to feedback, and providing information.

Prior to joining EPA, Ben served four years in U.S. Army Public Affairs and spent time at Fort Riley, Kan.; Baghdad, Iraq; and Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. He holds a bachelor's degree in History from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

## Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

The federal team working at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site isn't just EPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), based in Atlanta, Georgia, is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and an important part of the combined federal team working to protect public health at the site.

ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances.

By partnering with EPA at West Lake landfill, ATSDR brings a wealth of health-based knowledge and expertise from which EPA can draw to ensure that the community's questions and concerns about potential health effects from the site and its contaminants are accurately and completely answered.

Find out more about ATSDR at [www.atsdr.cdc.gov](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov).

### Community Inquiries

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