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Rep. Otto praises DNR's efforts to identify landfill contamination

EPA Superfund's inaction prompts state agency to take initiative

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – In response to a study released yesterday by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, State Rep. Bill Otto, D-Maryland Heights, praised the department for taking the initiative to perform offsite testing around the Bridgeton Landfill and West Lake Landfill Superfund Site.

“EPA Superfund should have done this work years ago,” Otto said. “EPA’s lackluster job of analyzing the risks to our community from this site has once again cost the citizens of Missouri money and resources.”

Recognizing the needs of our community since elected to office in 2012, Rep. Otto has been working closely with state agencies and community members, resulting in increased monitoring of conditions at this problem Superfund site.

This week’s report reinforces the disturbing findings of off-site migration studies done by the Attorney General’s Office as part of the litigation against Republic Services for environmental pollution.

“EPA Superfund’s continued resistance to test for off-site contamination has led to deep mistrust by our community,” Otto said. “I am proud of our state agencies for stepping up to protect our citizens. The fact that there are findings of higher than expected levels of radiation in dust samples around the site raises concerns that must be addressed by those responsible for the presence of this material in our community.”

Otto agrees with Missouri’s congressional delegation that it is time to move jurisdiction over this site from EPA Superfund to the Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP program, which is specifically charged cleaning up lingering contamination from the Manhattan Project.

A link to the DNR study can be found at:

<http://dnr.mo.gov/bridgeton/docs/20160125westlakeinterimvicinityreport.pdf>.