

**Congressman
Lacy Clay**
*1st District
Missouri*

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Clay Calls on Army to Clean up its Mess

Says Army Ammunitions Plant is impediment to economic progress in North St. Louis

Washington, DC - In a recent letter to Col. Abraham, Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay (D-Mo.) requested that the Department of the Army take immediate action to expedite the disposal of the St. Louis Army Ammunitions Plant (SLAAP) site at 4800 Goodfellow Blvd.

The 21-acre site, vacant since the mid-1990s, is in poor physical condition and is toxically contaminated. Despite its condition, several commercial developers have expressed interest in purchasing the land for commercial purposes. The Department of the Army has not given the City of St. Louis, however, of any definite timetable for its clean up and/or disposal.

In his July 23 letter to Col. Turner, Congressman Clay pointed out that the St. Louis community lost thousands of jobs as of result of the Army's 1989 decision to close SLAAP and the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's action to close the nearby ATCOM facility. St. Louis received no economic redevelopment assistance to help replace the job loss.

"The residents of the St. Louis community were loyal workers for the Department of the Army for several decades," Clay stated in his letter. "The community deserves more than to be encumbered by acres of toxic land with an uncertain future."

Congressman Clay further stated that the "redevelopment of the SLAAP site is integral to the future economic development of the entire surrounding North St. Louis community. At a minimum, the Department of the Army owes the residents of St. Louis the highest possible level of cooperation in a timely disposal of the SLAAP site."

Congressman Clay called the situation "intolerable" and asked for a meeting with Army officials within the next several weeks.

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