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

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For Immediate Release
February 19, 2002

Contact: Melinda Roth (314) 367-1970

Clay Secures \$5 Million for Major Environmental Clean Up

Washington, DC - Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay (D-MO) announced that a \$5-million earmark in the Department of the Army budget will be used for the clean up and disposal of toxic waste at the former Army Ammunitions Plant (SLAAP) in the City of St. Louis.

Congressman Clay -- with the help of Sen. Jean Carnahan and Minority Leader Richard Gephardt -- sought federal money to help remediate the 21-acre site found to be contaminated when the Army abandoned the facility more than five years ago.

"This is 21 acres of prime real estate that sat vacant for years despite North St. Louis' desperate need for redevelopment," Congressman Clay said. "With this appropriation, the Department of the Army will have the necessary resources to clean up the property and open it for business."

During WW II, the SLAAP site produced .30- and .50-caliber munitions. Then in 1944, the site began producing 105-millimeter Howitzer shells. After WW II, the site was placed on standby until the Korean Conflict and later the Vietnam War when it was reactivated.

The SLAAP facility, located near I-70 and the airport, provided 5,000 jobs to local residents until the Department of the Army decommissioned it during the mid-90s. Later, an environmental study found the site saturated with toxic waste, petroleum, chlorinated solvents and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs).

When the site was closed down by the Army, 4,700 St. Louisans lost their jobs and the city lost a valuable tax generator. But commercial developers showed interest in the large site early on. In addition to its access to I-70, the airport and an available work force, the SLAAP property was also a potential candidate for local and state economic development incentives.

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