

**June 6, 2016**

Thank you to everyone who signed up to receive updates from GSA on the environmental conditions at the Federal Center. If you would like to add your email address to our distribution list, please use our [registration form](#) or send a request to [r6environmental@gsa.gov](mailto:r6environmental@gsa.gov).

In our [first update](#), we explained how the existence of contaminants at the Federal Center stems from legacy environmental issues related mostly to hazardous substances manufactured and put into use before the enactment of modern federal and state environmental laws. We also provided details on the controls being implemented at the Federal Center and how those interested in learning more can find additional information.

Moving forward, our plan is to provide you an update on current activities and continue to highlight areas of interest based on feedback we've received.

## What's Happening Now?

Several agencies are conducting independent sampling within their own work spaces at the Federal Center -- including the Social Security Administration in Building 110. GSA will work closely with each individual tenant to review findings, ensure all data is included in our research efforts, and share what information we can with you.

On June 27, representatives from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) will be conducting an initial site visit to the Federal Center to better familiarize themselves with the facility and activities taking place here. This team is expected to meet with leadership from the different agencies, union representatives, and GSA's maintenance and janitorial staffs during a three-day observational walk-through.

GSA's environmental and building management teams continue working with contractors and service providers who access areas with known contamination (basements, tunnels, crawl spaces, and above ceilings) to ensure controls are being followed and all personnel are properly trained. With the exception of a few outstanding items, most service and repair work at the Federal Center has resumed -- including the replacement of broken ceiling tiles.

In addition to managing the current environment, GSA is also researching the extent of necessary remediation at the center. The remedial investigation (RI) study to help characterize environmental conditions in the soil is now underway.

## Is the Federal Center a Superfund Site?

Several workers have asked us about the status of the Federal Center as a "superfund" site. This can be a bit confusing because the term "superfund" is often used as a common reference to describe the Federal law that authorizes the EPA and other regulatory agencies to address the release of hazardous substances into the environment. The actual name of the law is the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980*, or "CERCLA."

Through CERCLA, EPA scores potential sites or projects to determine whether or not such sites should be added to the *National Priority List*. Sites on the *National Priority List* are eligible for long-term remediation action financed under an established trust fund known as the "superfund."

The confusion in regards to the Federal Center lies in the fact that this property has previously entered the CERCLA process, but it has not been "scored" for inclusion on the EPA's *National Priority List* since it is an asset of the Federal government.

Even though the Federal Center is not eligible for the "superfund," being involved with the CERCLA process does provide [a road map](#) for addressing long-term environmental actions. CERCLA activities at the Federal Center are managed by GSA with the oversight of both the EPA and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources -- pursuant to [Executive Order 12580](#).



The process includes:

1. Conducting a preliminary assessment and site inspections (started in 2008);
2. Completing a feasibility study and remedial investigation to determine options for clean-up (underway);
3. Choosing the best options and getting public input;
4. Documenting an agreed-upon strategy (record of decision);
5. Designing a specific cleanup plan;
6. Cleaning up the physical site; and,
7. Maintaining a long-term plan for monitoring and reporting activities on the property.

Thank you for your time and interest. If you have questions, please send them to us at [r6environmental@gsa.gov](mailto:r6environmental@gsa.gov). We will provide additional updates in the coming weeks.

Thank you,

GSA Region 6 Environmental Team  
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