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October 15, 2013

Gina McCarthy, Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
***Mail Code:*** 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Westlake Landfill Site

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am writing to respectfully urge the EPA to reconsider its position on delaying work at the Westlake Landfill in Bridgeton, Missouri. On October 7, 2013, EPA Region 7 Regional Administrator Karl Brooks issued a letter indicating that the Gamma Cone Penetration Testing ("GCPT"), which Bridgeton Landfill had agreed to perform beginning October 10, 2013, would not commence on schedule because, due to "the funding hiatus" associated with the shutdown of the federal government, your agency is currently unable to oversee the testing.

The GCPT field work, which will test the Westlake Landfill for radioactive material in advance of constructing a protective wall, or "isolation barrier," between Westlake Landfill Site and the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill, is a prerequisite to the larger work that EPA and the State of Missouri have undertaken to protect the public and the environment. It is essential that this work proceed without delay.

As you may know, the Bridgeton Landfill, located directly adjacent to the Westlake Landfill Site, is currently undergoing a subsurface smoldering event. Although conditions at the site are being closely monitored, the smoldering event may migrate unexpectedly or a new one may develop spontaneously. The isolation barrier is intended to guard against the possibility that the smoldering event at the Bridgeton Landfill reaches the radioactive material at Westlake. The sooner work can begin on this essential safeguard, the better protected the public will be.

Timing is crucial. Currently, weather conditions are ideal for work in the field, but in a few short weeks, cold winter weather may force outdoor work to be suspended until the spring.

As a result, every day lost impedes not only the testing at the Westlake Landfill, but also the construction of the isolation barrier itself.

Bridgeton Landfill has committed to performing the GCPT and building the isolation barrier, and they are ready to begin work immediately. Likewise, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources stands ready and willing to do everything necessary to ensure timely and safe execution of the project.

Therefore, I respectfully request EPA to reconsider delaying the GCPT and allow this essential work to move forward.

Respectfully,

**CHRIS KOSTER**
Attorney General

cc: Senator Claire McCaskill
Senator Roy Blunt
Congressman William Lacy Clay, Jr.
Congresswoman Ann Wagner
Karl Brooks, EPA, Region 7