

ST. LOUIS

Construction for Velsicol site on track

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Work on cleaning up the Velsicol superfund site in St. Louis continues.

The in-place thermal treatment system used to treat the toxic chemicals and capture gases is still under construction but should be done around mid-February depending on the weather, according to Tom Alcamo, Environmental Protection Agency Project Manager.

A session was held Wednesday at St. Louis city hall by the EPA to update the public on the project's progress.

October is approximately the time when the treatment system at an acre of the site south of the Pine River will be completed and the ground will be reseeded.

The entire capturing process

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will take about 18 months and will cover a less than two acre section of the site.

"This is a first remedy of the site itself," Alcamo said. "What this will do is help with treatment of the

groundwater in the contaminated site."

A website for residents to track the project's progress is on track to be completed and online later this month.

"We're happy to see it going forward," said city manager Kurt Giles. The major issue with the project is looking long-term. Alcamo said.

"We don't want the river contaminated by chemicals next to the site," he said. "All the risk now is at the plant site."

The heating project happening now costs approximately \$13 million, including for design of the cleanup, construction management and paying contractor CH2M and engi-

neering firm TerraThern, which is conducting the actual heating of the soil, according to Alcamo.

"There's a steady stream of money coming (in future years)," he said. "I just don't know how much."

Designs for the site years from now have already been created.

Other sites planned for

work include west of M-46 and Weston Street, and a section north of North Street and northeast of the city's wastewater treatment plant.

"I would hope within the next 10 years, we would be done with all the construction activities," Alcamo said. "It's really how much money they give me."