

17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# Environmental Toxicology and Ecological Risk Assessment

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36<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# Environmental Chemistry & Water Resource Management

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### **The disposal of radioactive wastes in the metropolitan St. Louis area: The lasting environmental and health legacy of the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works**

Dating back to the beginning of the “Atomic Age,” 2.5 million cubic yards of radioactive wastes have been dispersed throughout the St. Louis and Metro-East area located in the Midwest United States. This waste resulted from atomic weapons work carried out by Mallinckrodt Chemical Works for the U.S. government under secret contract. Between 1942 and 1966, over 300,000 tons of uranium had been processed in the downtown St. Louis and Weldon Spring plants. Supplemental atomic work took place at Granite City Steel and Dow Chemical in the Metro-East. Until the release of DeGarmo’s seminal research on this topic, only bits and pieces regarding the atomic legacy of St. Louis could be found on a few internet sites and historical accounts of the Manhattan Project. Even more important was the absence of comprehensive analyses of the health and environmental legacies left behind as a result of atomic work in the region. Drawing on both the social and physical sciences, this presentation will provide an examination of the health and environmental consequences that continue to plague the area as of the secret contracting effort made by Mallinckrodt Chemical Works.

#### **Biography**

Denise DeGarmo has her expertise in international relations and nuclear security. She received her PhD from the University of Michigan. She is a Professor Emerita from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville where she taught classes in international relations, peace and conflict resolution and nuclear security. She was also the Director of the Peace and International Studies Minor.

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