

MERCURY

MANAGEMENT *news*

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Draft MM EIS Issued for 90-Day Public Review

Consolidated Mercury Storage is DNSC's Preferred Alternative

The Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) has released the Draft Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement (Draft MM EIS) for a 90-day public review and comment period that ends July 18, 2003.

The Draft MM EIS evaluates the potential environmental, human health, and socioeconomic impacts of three mercury management alternatives and analyzes geographical and environmental factors at a representative range of potential storage locations. It identifies consolidated storage as the agency's preferred alternative and explains that there is no preference at present for any of the potential sites analyzed in the EIS.

The mercury management alternatives considered in the Draft MM EIS are: (1) consolidation and storage of the mercury at a current mercury storage site or at another location; (2) sale of the mercury inventory; (3) no action, i.e., maintaining mercury storage at the current sites.

Preference for Consolidated Storage is Based on Multiple Factors

The Draft MM EIS concludes that all three alternatives would have small environmental impacts, and differences among them are insufficient to support a preference for any one. Therefore, based on a combination of environmental, economic and technical factors; policy considerations, and public input, DNSC's current preferred alternative is consolidated mercury storage at one site. The Draft MM EIS



◀ DNSC has safely stored mercury for more than 50 years.

notes that consolidated storage would have negligible to minor impacts on the environment at the potential consolidation sites and minor beneficial impacts at current storage locations after the mercury is removed. Having the mercury stored at one location would simplify operations, thus conserving resources, and would support DNSC's future plans for closing some depots.

However, DNSC Administrator Cornel Holder emphasizes that no final decision has been made: "We've listened to the public, to special interest groups, to industry and environmentalists, and we've worked with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy as well as other government organizations. I think the Draft MM EIS reflects that input and expertise. But the process is not yet complete. I encourage people to participate in the process to let us know what they think; we will be listening to what they have to say at public meetings and reviewing the comments they send us."

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A Consolidation Site Is Not Selected In Draft MM EIS

The potential consolidation sites analyzed in the Draft MM EIS represent a wide range of environmental settings, and that analysis could allow selection of one for mercury storage. However, other sites may also be considered, subject to environmental documentation, public notification, and review.

Next Steps

After consideration of public comments, DNSC will prepare a Final MM EIS that includes its responses to comments. Depending on the number of comments received, that should occur by the end of the year or early 2004. A minimum of 30 days later, a concise public record, referred to as the Record of Decision, will be published presenting DNSC's decision on which alternative to implement and outlining all the factors considered.

To obtain a copy of the Draft MM EIS:

Paper copies and computer disks (CD) of the Draft MM EIS (about 450 pages) and Executive Summary are available by writing to: Attention: Project Manager, Mercury Management EIS; DNSC-E; Defense National Stockpile Center, 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Suite 3229, Fort Belvoir, VA. 22060-6223, or calling toll free at 1-888-306-6682. Electronic versions of the Executive Summary and the Draft MM EIS are found on the internet at www.mercuryeis.com.

For more information:

Requests for information can be made by: leaving a voice message at 1-888-306-6682; faxing a message to 1-888-306-8818; e-mailing a request to information@mercuryeis.com; or accessing the Mercury Management EIS website at www.mercuryeis.com.



Submit Your Comments

“The process is not yet complete. I encourage people to let us know what they think; we will be listening to what they have to say at public meetings and reviewing the comments they send us.”

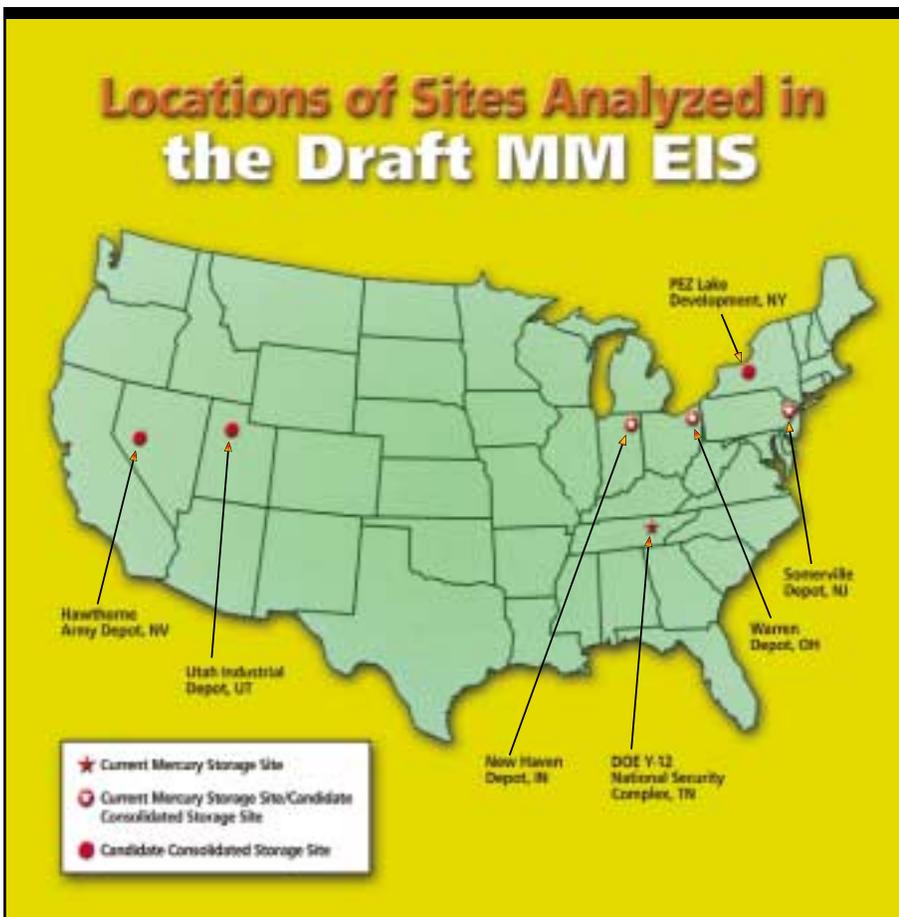
Cornel Holder, DNSC Administrator

DNSC invites federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments, and the general public to comment on the environmental and socioeconomic issues and the management alternatives addressed in the Draft MM EIS. The public comment period began with the publication of the EPA Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on April 11, 2003, and will continue until July 18, 2003.

DNSC will consider all comments received or postmarked by the end of the comment period when preparing the Final Mercury Management EIS. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Written comments on the Draft MM EIS should be sent to the address on p. 4, faxed to 1-888-306-8818, or

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Participate In a Public Meeting

As part of the public review process, DNSC has scheduled public meetings at the following locations:

■ INDIANA

May 20, 2003, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Park Hill Learning Center
1000 Prospect Avenue
New Haven, Indiana

■ OHIO

May 22, 2003, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
McMenamy's Multipurpose Complex
325 Youngstown-Warren Road
Niles, Ohio

■ NEVADA

June 10, 2003, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Hawthorne Convention Center
932 E Street
Hawthorne, Nevada

■ UTAH

June 12, 2003, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Tooele High School
240 West 1st South
Tooele, Utah

■ NEW JERSEY

June 17, 2003, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Hillsborough High School
466 Raider Boulevard
Hillsborough, New Jersey

■ WASHINGTON, DC

June 24, 2003, 1:00 to 4:00 pm
Hall of States
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC

■ TENNESSEE

July 1, 2003, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Garden Plaza Hotel
215 S. Illinois Avenue
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

The registration desk and exhibit area at the meetings will open at 6:00 pm (1:00 pm for the Washington, DC meeting). DNSC staff will be available to explain exhibits, provide information materials, and answer questions. At 7:00 pm (2:00 pm for the Washington, DC meeting), DNSC will provide a short presentation on the EIS process and the Draft MM EIS.

Following the DNSC presentation, elected and appointed officials, organizations, and individuals will be invited to offer comments. Comments will be recorded for the record. Speakers will be allotted five minutes each.

The meetings will be managed by a facilitator who will help keep the focus on obtaining public input on the content of the Draft MM EIS. At 8:30 pm (3:30 pm for the Washington, DC meeting), the public comment portion of the meeting will conclude and the exhibit area will reopen. DNSC staff will be available to explain exhibits, provide information materials, and answer questions. The meeting will end at 9 pm (4 pm for the Washington, DC meeting).

Requests to speak at the meetings may be made by writing to the Mercury Management EIS project manager at the address on p. 4, by calling the toll free phone number (888-306-6682) by 4:00 pm EST the day before the meeting, or in person at the meeting. If you phone in to pre-register, please leave your name, the organization you repre-



sent, and the location of the meeting you plan to attend.

Speakers will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis, as time permits. Speakers do not have to pre-register, but pre-registered speakers will be ensured an opportunity to speak.

Comments will be transcribed by a court reporter and will become a part of the meeting record. Speakers are encouraged to provide written versions of their spoken comments. The facilitator and DNSC staff may ask questions to clarify the speaker's comments.

Written comments will be accepted at the meetings and comment forms will be provided for this purpose. For those who prefer to dictate comments before or after the formal comment portion of the meeting, a court reporter will be available in the exhibit area until the meeting closes.

All meeting facilities are handicapped accessible. A sign language interpreter will be provided at all meetings for the hearing impaired. Persons who have other special requirements should contact the Project Manager in advance so that arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs.

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Submit Your Comments *Continued from page 2*

posted to the Mercury Management EIS website at www.mercuryeis.com. Comments may be dictated by calling toll free at 1-888-306-6682.

Participate *Continued from page 3*

Input from the public meetings along with comments received by other means (i.e., mail, phone, fax, email, and website) will be used by DNSC in preparing the Final Mercury Management EIS. Written and spoken comments will be given equal weight. The Final Mercury Management EIS will be distributed to information repositories, mailed out upon request, and can be viewed at www.mercuryeis.com.

TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION:

*U.S. mail: Attention: Project Manager,
Mercury Management EIS
DNSC-E*

*Defense National Stockpile Center
8725 John F. Kingman Road
Suite 3229*

Ft. Belvoir, VA 22060-6223

toll free: (888) 306-6682

toll free fax: (888) 306-8818

e-mail: information@mercuryeis.com

website: www.mercuryeis.com

VIEW THE DRAFT MM EIS AT INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

The Draft MM EIS is available at the following locations:

- > **Allen County Public Library**
435 Ann Street
New Haven, Indiana
46774
- > **Martin Luther King Jr. Library**
901 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
- > **Somerville Public Library**
35 West End Avenue
Somerville, New Jersey
08876
- > **Bridgewater Branch Library**
N. Bridge Street and
Vogt Drive
Bridgewater, New Jersey
08807
- > **Mineral County Public Library**
P.O. Box 1390
Hawthorne, Nevada
89415
- > **Tooele City Public Library**
128 West Vine Street
Tooele, Utah 84074
- > **Fairfax County Public Library**
12000 Government
Center Parkway,
Suite 324
Fairfax, VA 22035
- > **Oak Ridge Public Library**
1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
- > **Warren-Trumbull County Public Library**
444 Mahoning Ave., NW
Warren, Ohio 44483
- > **Ford Memorial Library**
7169 North Main Street
Ovid, New York 14521
- > **Raritan Valley Community College**
Evelyn S. Field Library,
North Branch, Route 28
and Lamington Road
Somerville,
New Jersey 08876
- > **Waterloo Library and Historical Society**
31 East Williams Street
Waterloo, New York
13165
- > **Hillsborough Public Library**
379 South Branch Road
Hillsborough, New Jersey
08844
- > **Seneca Army Depot**
5786 State Route 96
Building 123
Romulus, NY 14541
- > **West End Branch Library**
1101 24th and
L Street, NW
Washington, DC 2003

*Defense National Stockpile Center
8725 John F. Kingman Road
Suite 3229
Ft Belvoir, VA 22060-6223*