

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Defense Stockpile Announces Availability of the Final Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement**

Mr. Cornel Holder, administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC), announced today the availability of the Final Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS).

The Final EIS analyzes the alternatives for managing the DNSC mercury stockpile. The three alternatives analyzed in detail were: 1) consolidation storage of the mercury stockpile at one site; 2) no-action, i.e., leaving the mercury at the existing storage locations, and 3) sale of the stockpile. Consolidated storage of mercury at one location is the preferred alternative recommended in the Final EIS. The final alternative chosen will be announced in a Record of Decision that will be released no sooner than 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability (NOA) on March 26, 2004.

The Final EIS responds to the comments received during the public comment period that followed the April 2003 Federal Register NOA for the Draft EIS. During the comment period, DNSC conducted public meetings in New Haven, Indiana; Niles, Ohio;

Hawthorne, Nevada; Tooele, Utah; Hillsborough, New Jersey; Washington, DC; and Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

DNSC is responsible for the management of all commodities in the National Defense Stockpile, one of which is mercury. Most of the commodities in the stockpile have been declared excess to future defense needs and are being sold. However, due to concerns about mercury's impact on the global environment, DNSC stopped selling mercury in 1994. The mercury, approximately 4,436 metric tons, is in safe storage at four locations: New Haven, Indiana; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Somerville, New Jersey; and Warren, Ohio.

Electronic versions of the Executive Summary and the Final EIS can be found on the Internet at [www.mercuryeis.com](http://www.mercuryeis.com). To obtain a paper copy and/or computer disk (CD) of the Executive Summary or the Final EIS, please contact DNSC via:

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

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*The Defense National Stockpile Center is a field activity for the Defense Logistics Agency. The Defense Logistics Agency provides supply support, and technical and logistics services to the military services and to several civilian agencies. Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., DLA is the one source for nearly every consumable item, whether for combat readiness, emergency preparedness or day-to-day operations. The DNSC is responsible for all activities necessary to provide safe, secure, and environmentally sound stewardship for **all 50 commodities** in the Defense National Stockpile.*