

NEWS RELEASE

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Public Invited to Attend Meetings on the Draft Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement

Cornel Holder, Administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC), announced today a series of seven public meetings to gather comments on the environmental and socioeconomic issues as well as the three mercury management alternatives analyzed in the recently released Draft Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement (Draft MM EIS). The public review and comment period extends from April 11 – July 18, 2003.

The Draft MM EIS will help decide the best way to manage the elemental mercury in the National Defense Stockpile over the long term. The three mercury management alternatives analyzed in the Draft MM EIS are: 1) consolidated storage of the mercury stockpile at one site, 2) sale of the stockpile, and 3) no-action, i.e., leave the mercury at the existing storage locations. DNSC's preferred alternative is consolidated storage.

In announcing the meetings, Holder said, “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 before making a final determination.”

The dates and locations of the public meetings are as follows:

- May 20 – New Haven, Indiana: Park Hill Learning Center, 1000 Prospect Avenue
- May 22 – Niles, Ohio: McMenemy’s Multipurpose Complex, 325 Youngstown-Warren Road
- June 10 – Hawthorne, Nevada: Hawthorne Convention Center, 932 E Street
- June 12 – Tooele, Utah: Tooele High School, 240 West 1st South
- June 17 – Hillsborough, New Jersey: Hillsborough High School, 466 Raider Boulevard
- June 24 – Washington, DC: Hall of States, 444 North Capitol Street, NW
- July 1 – Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Garden Plaza Hotel, 215 S. Illinois Avenue

Advance registration for the meetings is requested but not required. The registration desk and exhibit area will open at 6:00 p.m. (1:00 p.m. in Washington, DC). DNSC staff will be available to explain exhibits, provide information materials and answer questions. Elected and appointed officials, organizations, and individuals are invited to offer comments following a brief DNSC presentation at 7:00 p.m. (2:00 p.m. at Washington, DC meeting). Speakers will be allotted five minutes each, and all comments will become part of the meeting record. At 8:30 p.m. the public comment period will conclude and the exhibit area will re-open. The meetings will end at 9:00 p.m.

Written comments on the Draft MM EIS will be accepted at the meeting and comment forms will be provided for this purpose. Electronic versions of the Executive Summary and the Draft EIS can be found on the Internet at www.mercuryeis.com. To register, request to speak at the meeting, submit written comments, or obtain a copy and/or computer disk (CD) of the Executive Summary or the Draft MM EIS (about 450 pages), please contact:

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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. DNSC is responsible for all activities necessary to provide safe, secure, and environmentally sound stewardship for all the commodities in the Defense National Stockpile.