

NEWS RELEASE

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Defense National Stockpile Announces Mercury Management Scoping Meetings

Mr. Richard Connelly, Administrator of the Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC), announced today a series of public scoping meetings to gather comments on the scope and content of the Mercury Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Mercury Management EIS will evaluate a range of reasonable alternatives for the long-term management of the Department National Stockpile inventory of excess mercury.

Some of the alternatives being considered include: (1) consolidating the mercury at one location for long-term storage, (2) chemically stabilizing the mercury to reduce or eliminate toxicity and then storing or disposing of it, (3) selling it, or (4) leaving it where it is currently located. Currently, there are no approved methods for disposal of mercury.

The schedule and locations of the 2001 public scoping meetings are as follows:

April 19 – Niles, Ohio: McMenemy's Multipurpose Complex, 325 Youngstown-Warren Road

April 24 – New Haven, Indiana: Park Hill Learning Center, 1000 Prospect Avenue

May 1 – Washington, DC: Marriott Metro Center, 775 12th Street, NW

May 8 – Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Garden Plaza Hotel, 215 S. Illinois Avenue

May 22 – Hillsborough, New Jersey: Hillsborough High School, 466 Raider Boulevard

The registration desk and exhibit area will open at 5:30 p.m. and remain open until 9:00 p.m. for the meetings near the Depots and Y-12 Complex (1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the Washington, DC meeting). The exhibit area will be staffed by Defense National Stockpile Center officials who can answer questions about the Mercury Management EIS. Elected and appointed officials, organizations, and individuals are invited to offer written or verbal comments following a brief DNSC presentation at 7:00 p.m. (3:00 p.m. at the Washington, DC meeting). Speakers will be allotted five minutes each to make verbal comments.

Advance registration for attendance or speaking at public scoping meetings is encouraged. To register for the meetings or to obtain additional information from recent Federal Register notices, the public can access the Mercury Management EIS website (www.mercuryeis.com). A toll free telephone, (888) 306-6682 and a toll free fax, (888) 306-8818 may also be used.

The public can access information on the Mercury Management EIS by visiting one of the following information repositories in their community:

Warren-Trumbull County Public Library at 444 Mahoning Avenue, NW in Warren, Ohio;

Allen County Public Library, 435 Ann Street in New Haven, Indiana;

Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 901 G Street, NW in Washington, DC;

Fairfax County Public Library, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 324, Fairfax, Virginia;

Somerville Public Library, 35 West End Avenue, Somerville, New Jersey;

Hillsborough Public Library, 379 South Branch Road, Hillsborough, New Jersey;

Bridgewater Branch Library, N. Bridge Street and Vogt Drive, Bridgewater, New Jersey;

Raritan Valley Community College, Evelyn S. Field Library, Route 28 and Lamington Road, Somerville, New Jersey; and,

Oak Ridge Public Library, 1401 Oak Ridge Turnpike in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

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The Defense National Stockpile Center is a primary level 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 68 commodities in the Defense National Stockpile.