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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING ON CLEANUP
OF SITE IN CURTIS BAY, MD.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting May 24 in Linthicum, Md., near Baltimore, to discuss the remediation of the former Defense Logistics Agency property in Curtis Bay, Md., which has spotty thorium contamination from past operations there.

The meeting will be from 7:30 p.m. until about 10:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the North County High School, 415 Andover Road, Linthicum.

The Curtis Bay site is located in a southern suburb of Baltimore in an industrialized area of Anne Arundel County, Md. It includes about 87 acres of open land and 10 abandoned warehouses. Thorium contamination exists in limited areas on the floors and in soil beneath or adjacent to the former warehouses, but the site does not pose an immediate threat to the public health and safety.

The site was used beginning in the late 1950's by the General Services Administration (GSA) to store fiber and steel drums under an NRC license as part of the National Defense Stockpile. In 1977 GSA notified the NRC of its intention to sell the empty warehouses as part of a sale of government land and buildings. Nine of the buildings are on land that was sold to Anne Arundel County in the late 1970's and early 1980's. In 1988 National Defense Stockpile responsibility was transferred to the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA).

Currently the land and buildings are the property of Anne Arundel County. DLA has determined that it will be the lead agency for remediating the site. DLA has indicated that it believes that Anne Arundel County has some responsibility for removing the building walls and roof prior to DLA beginning remedial activities.

The May 24 meeting will begin with short presentations by officials from NRC, DLA, the State of Maryland and Anne Arundel County on the status of the site and remedial activities that will be undertaken at the site. Following the presentations, representatives of the agencies will answer questions from members of the public. Depending on the number of members of the public who wish to participate, it may be necessary to limit the time available for individual comments or question. The meeting may be adjourned before 10:00 based on participant interest.

Persons interested in attending the meeting are requested to contact Dominick A. Orlando, Division of Low-Level Waste Management and Decommissioning, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, telephone 301/504-2566, so that the agencies may adequately prepare for the meeting.

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