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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Thursday, September 7, 1995)

NRC DEFERS TO EPA ON REGULATORY OVERSIGHT
FOR CLEANUP OF WEST LAKE LANDFILL SITE IN MISSOURI

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has deferred to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the regulatory oversight for cleanup of contamination at the West Lake Landfill site in Bridgeton, Missouri. The property, which contains both hazardous and radioactive waste, is currently being cleaned up by EPA. It is not covered by a current NRC license.

The NRC will remove the West Lake Landfill from its Site Decommissioning Management Plan (SDMP) list of sites that receive special agency management attention. Accordingly, NRC plans no further action concerning the site unless specifically asked to do so by EPA.

Under the national Superfund program, EPA has lead responsibility for cleanup at West Lake. EPA added the site in 1990 to its Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites and ranked it as number 1003.

Based on the reviews to date, NRC has concluded that the program being administered by EPA is adequate to protect the public and the environment from the risks associated with radioactive contamination. NRC therefore believes that its oversight of remediation at the site, in addition to that of EPA, would be burdensome and duplicative.

The West Lake Landfill property, owned by Laidlaw and Rockroad, Inc., is located on the outskirts of St. Louis. Radioactively contaminated soil from the Cotter Corporation's Latty Avenue site was placed in the landfill in 1973. Two areas on the site have a layer of radioactively contaminated soil, mostly covered with 3 to 20 feet of other waste. The contamination originated with residues from extraction of uranium and radium from very rich uranium ores for the former Atomic Energy Commission.

