



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

801 Warrenville Road

Lisle IL 60532

No. III-00-62

November 21, 2000

CONTACT: Jan Strasma (630)829-9663/e-mail: rjs2@nrc.gov

Pam Alloway-Mueller (630)829-9662/e-mail: pla@nrc.gov

NRC SURVEY TEAM, MOBILE LABORATORY TO VISIT SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY NOV. 28-30

****Open for Public Visits on Wednesday, November 29****

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission survey team and its mobile laboratory will be at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on November 28, 29 and 30 to verify that radioactive contamination found in one of the university's buildings has been successfully cleaned up.

The mobile laboratory will be open to visitors from 3 to 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, November 29, and team members will be available to answer questions on the NRC's inspection and materials programs.

NRC inspectors will use direct radiation surveys, contamination surveys, wipe samples, air samples and other techniques to determine that the contamination has been successfully removed.

As a result of an NRC visit in February, university officials discovered that a radioactive material - americium-241 - had spilled in the basement of Magill Hall, a science building. The americium-241 had been placed in storage, and current university officials were unaware the university still possessed the material.

The NRC in June dispatched an inspection team to the university to gather information on contamination found in rooms in Magill Hall. The agency on June 22 issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to the university specifying short and long term actions to be taken by the university to address the contamination issue. Decontamination began in mid-August, and the university now believes the building meets NRC criteria for unrestricted use.

NRC inspectors have revisited the site periodically and have been monitoring clean-up activities.

The mobile laboratory will be parked adjacent to Magill Hall which is located at the north end of the university's campus in the science buildings complex.

#####