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NRC TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING IN PENNSYLVANIA ON DECOMMISSIONING OF B&W SHALLOW LAND DISPOSAL AREA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting May 27 in Leechburg, Pennsylvania, to discuss the decommissioning of the Babcock and Wilcox (B&W) shallow land disposal area in Parks Township, Pennsylvania.

The meeting, which will be held in the Leechburg High School Cafeteria on Siberian Avenue, will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:30 p.m. It will consist of a facilitated discussion, followed by an opportunity for comments by interested members of the public.

The B&W shallow land disposal area consists of ten waste disposal trenches on about 1.2 acres, surrounded by a 40-acre fenced buffer area. The disposal area was formerly owned by Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NUMEC), which also operated the nearby Apollo Nuclear Fuel Fabrication Facility. In the l960s and l970s, the Parks Township disposal area was used by NUMEC to dispose of radioactively contaminated wastes (primarily uranium and thorium) and non-radioactive wastes, in accordance with NRC regulations then in effect. In 1967, Atlantic Richfield Company purchased stock in NUMEC and subsequently sold it to B&W in 1971.

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