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## EPA Reaches \$10 Million Agreement to Study Contamination at Concord, MA Waste Site

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For Immediate Release: June 13, 2003; Release # 03-06-11

BOSTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today announced that it has reached an agreement with five parties responsible for contamination of the Nuclear Metals Superfund Site in Concord, MA. EPA entered into a Consent Order with the U.S. Army, the U.S. Department of Energy, Whittaker Corp., MONY Life Insurance Co., and Textron Inc. to conduct extensive studies at the site to determine cleanup options.

Specifically the agreement calls for the federal parties to pay 98 percent of the expected costs of the studies. The private parties will pay two percent of the expected costs, and will also perform the studies, known as the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study and Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analyses. Under the agreement, the expected cost of these studies is \$8 million, which can be increased to a cap of \$10 million.

Related Information

- [Nuclear Metals Fact Sheet](#)
- [Superfund in New England](#)

"Negotiations with the Army and other PRPs have resulted in a settlement that will move this project forward, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of all areas of potential contamination will be conducted," said Robert W. Varney, EPA New England regional administrator. "I'm pleased we were able to reach an agreement that will help us fully understand the environmental problems at this site so that a cleanup plan can be developed."

In the event that the cost of work, including payment of EPA oversight costs, exceeds \$10 million, further negotiations are anticipated.

The studies will include:

- location and characterization of buried drums in two areas at the site;
- evaluation of cleanup alternatives for the holding basin soils;
- investigation of site soils, sediment, surface water, and groundwater; and
- development of cleanup alternatives for all areas that exceed risk-based cleanup levels.

From 1958 to the present, the site was used by various operators as a specialized research and metal manufacturing facility which was licensed to possess low-level radioactive substances. Site operators used depleted uranium (DU), beryllium and other hazardous substances at the site. From 1958 - 1985, DU-contaminated wastes were disposed of in an unlined holding basin. EPA has also identified other areas on the site that were used to dispose of manufacturing wastes, building materials, and laboratory equipment. The current site owner/operator, Starmet (formerly Nuclear Metals, Inc.), manufactured depleted uranium munitions for the U.S. Army at the site from the 1970s until 1999.

The Nuclear Metals Inc. site was added to the National Priority List (NPL) in June 2001, making it a Superfund site. The NPL is EPA's list of the country's most serious hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term cleanup. The Superfund program makes public funds available to clean up listed toxic waste sites when private financing is unavailable

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