FACT SHEET

* The U.S. Department of Energy has proposed the construction of a water treatment facility at the Weldon Spring Quarry in St. Charles County, Missouri. The treatment of ponded water is designed to remove radioactive and chemical contaminants which have the potential, in the future, to threaten the drinking water supplied by the nearby St. Charles County Wellfield.

* The water treatment facility will use conventional methods to treat and remove chemical and radioactive contaminants identified in the ponded water which in average concentrations exceed state and federal requirements. These methods include equalization, lime addition, clarification, filtration, activated carbon/alumina adsorption, and ion exchange.

* The major chemical and radioactive contaminants to be treated include arsenic, manganese, 2,4 dinitrotoluene (DNT), and uranium. In addition, secondary contaminants, such as iron, fluorides and sulfates, will also be removed through the treatment process.

* The water treatment facility will be designed to treat up to 80 gallons per minute of the ponded quarry water, although in actual operation, the amount to be treated will be closer to 31 gallons per minute. The water treatment plant will be operated in a manner that will reduce contaminants as far below state and federal requirements as can be reasonably achieved. Testing prior to discharge will ensure that requirements have been met.

* When the treated water has been tested to ensure that state and federal requirements have been met, it will then be discharged to the Missouri River through a pipe at a point downstream of the St. Charles County Wellfield.

* The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA), which describes the objectives and guidelines for the proposed water treatment plant, is available for review at public repositories in St. Charles County. A public information meeting to answer questions about the facility will be held in early 1989, and comments on the EE/CA can be made there or sent in writing to the Department of Energy at the Weldon Spring Site.

* Once all comments on the proposed water treatment plant have been addressed and approval given by federal and state agencies, construction will begin on the facility. It is estimated that water treatment can begin at the Weldon Spring Quarry one year from the date final approval to proceed is received.

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