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WELDON SPRING

Hearing Set On Cleanup Disposal Plans

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Of the St. Charles Post

The government agencies in charge of the Super Fund cleanup at Weldon Spring will hold a public hearing Wednesday, Dec. 16, on their proposal to bury millions of tons of radioactive and chemical waste on a 42-acre site at the old defense plant.

Last month, the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency published four plans for disposing of the waste. The options include two proposals that call for shipping the waste out of state for storage. The government agencies favor storing the waste, which includes contaminated buildings, machinery, sludge and other

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solids, at the site.

Stephen H. McCracken, manager of the cleanup, said the only public hearing on the proposal will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Columns Banquet and Conference Center, 711 Fairlane, in St. Charles.

The deadline for written comments on the proposal is Jan. 20. The DOE and the EPA will review the proposals and determine which disposal method to employ. The EPA has the highest decision-making authority on a Super Fund site, McCracken said.

Beginning at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and continuing until the time of the hearing, the DOE will host an informal exhibition of the technology used in the Weldon Spring cleanup project. The exhibition, called WSSRAP Expo II, will be held at the banquet center and is free and open to the public.

The exhibits in the show were built for a similar exhibition in May. McCracken said the DOE was disappointed with the attendance at that event and decided to resurrect the idea in the hope that more people would come to understand the cleanup technology in use at Weldon Spring.

The event will include displays on air and water monitoring, biological studies, building contamination and dismantling, emergency response, environmental documentation, site geology, site history, the quarry cleanup, waste management and treatment technologies.

For more information on the exhibition or hearing, call the project's community relations office at 441-8086.