ST. CHARLES COUNTY

Energy Dept. Plans Meeting On Cleanup

By Theresa Tighe
Of the St. Charles Post

The U.S. Energy Department will hold a public meeting at 7 p.m. March 29 at the Ramada Inn Wentzville on the government's plans to clean up radioactive and chemical waste in a quarry near Weldon Spring. The hotel is at 900 Corporate Parkway.

The Energy Department plans to remove about 10,000 truckloads of soil and rubble laced with uranium, thorium, TNT and DNT from a quarry off Missouri Highway 94. The material will be taken to an abandoned uranium plant on Highway 94 for temporary storage.

The waste and the plant are the remains of federal weapons projects done in the area in the 1940s through 1960s.

The plant is next to Francis Howell High School. The quarry is less than one-fourth mile from wells that supply more than 60,000 people in St. Charles County with drinking water. The quarry leaks. The drinking water is safe now, but could be tainted in the future, experts have said.

Steve McCracken, cleanup manager, said four reports that explain the extent of the contamination, the risks associated with waste in the quarry, and the cleanup plans are available for review at several public libraries and in the reading room at the Weldon Spring Cleanup, 7295 Highway 94 South in St. Charles County.

The libraries are: Cobbs Hall Library, Lindenwood College in St. Charles, First Capitol Drive and Kingshighway; Spencer Road Branch Library, 425 Spencer Road in St. Peters; Kathryn M. Linnemann Branch Library, 2323 Elm Street in St. Charles; the Francis Howell High School Library, 7001 Highway 94 North in St. Charles County.

McCracken said the Energy Department will consider the public's comments in making its final plans.