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## **POSTAL SERVICE COMPLETES REMOVAL OF CHLORINE DIOXIDE FROM TRENTON FACILITY, PREPARES FOR SAMPLING**

**HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, NJ** – Last night, the Postal Service completed the “scrubbing” -- or removal -- of the chlorine dioxide used to decontaminate the Trenton Processing and Distribution Center. A re-entry team entered the facility this morning to begin evaluating the decontamination impacts on the building systems.

Monday around 7:00 a.m., small teams of personnel in protective gear will enter the facility and begin the removal of thousands of spore strips from the building. They will also be taking thousands of environmental samples throughout the building. The results of the samples will likely not be available until late February 2004.

“Events exceeded everything we expected,” said Tom Day, Postal Service Vice President of Engineering. “The scrubbing of the facility ran ahead of schedule. Measures to insure the safety of the nearby community and the personnel on-site worked. I can’t say enough about how the cooperation among our state, federal and local agency partners helped make this operation run efficiently.”

Day said that protective measures will continue to be in place at the Trenton facility, including the complete sealing of the building, maintaining a secure perimeter around the plant and continuous air monitoring.

The Trenton facility has been closed since October 18, 2001, after it was contaminated by anthrax spores released by letters processed there.

Members of the community who have questions about the process can call a toll-free information line at 1-800-527-0741. The deaf and hard of hearing can access the information line through TTY 1-800-418-5301. Additional information is available at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com). Click on “News and Events,” then “Serving the Community,” then “Security of the Mail,” for the fact sheets and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

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