



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Burton St. John or
Diane Todd, 609-581-6062/6093
www.usps.gov

POSTAL SERVICE BEGINS REMOVAL OF CHLORINE DIOXIDE FROM TRENTON FACILITY

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, NJ – The Postal Service successfully met the criteria of the initial phase of the decontamination process at the Trenton Processing and Distribution Center this morning, and is now beginning the removal, or “scrubbing” phase of the chlorine dioxide in the facility.

“The process went like clockwork and we are on schedule to complete the chlorine dioxide removal phase,” said Tom Day, Postal Service Vice President of Engineering. “We will continue to keep measures in place to ensure the safety of the surrounding community,” he said. He added that there were only three minor leaks that posed no health concerns during the initial phase, and that these leaks were immediately contained.

During the scrubbing process, people living or working in the vicinity of the building may smell an odor that is similar to the chlorine used to disinfect swimming pools, he said, but that odor is normal and does not present a safety concern.

The scrubbing phase should take approximately 20 hours to complete. After that, Occupational Safety and Health Administration representatives will inspect the interior of the plant to determine when it is safe for personnel to enter and begin the sampling phase.

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. 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.

Note: The next general update for the media will be at the temporary Joint Information Center (JIC) at 9 a.m. Sunday. The JIC is approximately one-half mile south of the Trenton facility, at 555 Route 130 South, near the temporary site of the Trenton Post Office. In addition, a media tour will be offered of the exterior of the Trenton Plant on Thursday, October 30th at 9 a.m.

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