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Lisle IL 60532

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Contact: Viktoria Mitlyng (630) 829-9662
Prema Chandrathil (630) 829-9663

E-Mail: OPA3.RegionIII@nrc.gov

NRC PUBLIC MEETING JUNE 23 TO DISCUSS DECOMMISSIONING PLANS FOR UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI BUILDING

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will hold a public meeting June 23 in Columbia, Mo., to discuss a request by the University of Missouri to change the date for when decommissioning plans must be submitted for Pickard Hall.

The meeting will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Memorial Student Union, Jesse Wrench Auditorium Room S107, 518 Hitt St., in Columbia.

During the meeting NRC staff will discuss the regulatory requirements for the safe decommissioning of the building and the agency's process to review the university's request. University staff will discuss their request and plans for ensuring the public's health and safety. Members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions discussed at the meeting.

Pickard Hall was used for research in the early 1900's. This research included the use of naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM). The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directed the NRC, to regulate NORM and the agency subsequently began an initiative to ensure all material license holders understood and complied with the regulations. The NRC identified the university needed a decommissioning document that identified all locations of past uses of licensed radioactive materials. The university conducted a survey and identified areas in Pickard Hall to have NORM that is believed to be from the research work conducted about a century ago.

The NRC believes the building is safe for use by the staff, students and public. The university took action to ensure the health and safety of the workers and public for the continued use of the building. The NRC conducted a reactive inspection and determined that the university's controls did protect the health and safety of the staff, students and public from radioactive materials.

The NRC has not made a decision on the university's request to change the date for when decommissioning plans must be submitted. The NRC is conducting a full technical, safety, security and environmental review of the request. This review will take approximately 12 months.

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