



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC PUBLIC MEETING NOV. 16 TO DISCUSS DEPLETED URANIUM MUNITIONS AT U.S. ARMY INSTALLATIONS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold a public meeting Nov. 16 with officials from the U.S. Army's Installation Management Command to discuss licensing and regulation of depleted uranium at several Army installations where depleted uranium remains from munitions training in the 1960s.

The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the NRC Commissioner's Hearing Room in the One White Flint North building of NRC's headquarters, 11555 Rockville Pike, in Rockville, Md. Members of the public may listen to the meeting via teleconference, or view the proceedings over a webcast.

In the 1960s, the Army used M101 spotting rounds made with depleted uranium (DU) in training soldiers with the Davy Crocket recoilless gun. Fragments of expended rounds remain on the ground in impact areas of training ranges. Because the Davy Crocket was a classified weapons system, precise records are unavailable of where and how much DU was used. There does appear, however, to be enough DU at each site to require an NRC license to possess and monitor the material to ensure it does not escape to the surrounding environment and pose a health risk to troops or the public.

The DU training rounds were used under an Atomic Energy Commission license that expired in 1978. After discovering the spent rounds at several training locations beginning in 2005, the Army applied for a possession license in November 2008. The sites in question are located in Hawaii, Georgia, Kentucky, Colorado, Texas, Washington and Kansas. The Army has indicated that additional sites in more states may need to be added to the license application as further surveys are completed.

At the Nov. 16 public meeting, NRC officials will discuss the agency's authority to license possession of DU and a licensee's responsibilities for monitoring the DU. Army officials will describe their process for identifying and characterizing sites with DU. Members of the public will have opportunities to ask questions.

The live webcast of the meeting may be accessed at <http://video.nrc.gov/live>; however, anyone not present at the meeting who wishes to ask questions will need to use the teleconference bridge line. For information on accessing the bridge line, contact Brett Klukan in the NRC Office of General Counsel, at 301-415-3629, or brett.klukan@nrc.gov.

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NOTE: Anyone wishing to take photos or use a camera to record any portion of a NRC meeting should contact the Office of Public Affairs beforehand.

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