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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

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NEWS RELEASE

CAROL C. AMICK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MEETING OPEN TO PUBLIC

Local citizens will have a chance at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 26, to speak up and ask about a set of proposed regulations and policies regarding the management of low-level radioactive waste.

Massachusetts Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Board members and staff will conduct a briefing session, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, in the Little Theater of the Ripley School, 120 Meriam Road, in Concord. The Management Board will hold a business meeting in the same room earlier in the day, beginning at 1 p.m. That meeting will also include a public comment period.

State and federal laws require the Management Board to decide whether or not the Commonwealth needs to develop a facility for the storage, treatment, or disposal of low-level radioactive waste generated within its borders. The Management Board's draft Management Plan and regulations, as well as draft regulations of the Massachusetts Departments of Environmental Protection and Public Health pertaining to siting criteria and licensing for such a facility, were issued in January and were the subjects of eight statewide public hearings in February and March, 1993. All three agencies recently extended the deadline for public comments on these documents -- the deadline is now July 15.

After input from the public, the draft documents will be revised and adopted, and the Management Board will vote on the controversial question of siting a facility in Massachusetts.

(MORE)

Although comments and questions on any topic will be welcomed at the meeting, the Management Board is attempting to focus on certain topics that have been the subject of many public comments thus far, such as radiation health effects, waste minimization, and the pros and cons of on-site storage. Citizens who want to focus on other specific topics are encouraged to call the Management Board office at (617)727-6018 before the meeting.

Because it comes from a variety of sources, low-level radioactive waste takes many forms. Nuclear power plants generate sludges and metal waste in the course of normal maintenance. Latex gloves and other trash contaminated with relatively low concentrations of radioactivity come from research labs, hospitals, and other facilities. Currently, such waste generated in Massachusetts is shipped to a South Carolina disposal site, but access to that site is only temporary.

Available at the upcoming briefing session, which is open to everyone, the draft documents may also be obtained by phoning the Management Board's Boston office (See number above). Written comments on the drafts should be sent to the following address:
Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Board, 100 Cambridge Street,
Room 903, Boston, MA 02202.

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Consent Comm. #6

S-228

Communication received from the
Comm. of Mass re: an open public meeting
on Radioactive Waste on Wednesday,
may 26, 1993 at 7:30 p.m.

In City Council,
May 17, 1993

Placed on file