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POSTAL SERVICE BEGINS DECONTAMINATION OF TRENTON FACILITY

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, NJ – The Postal Service begins the decontamination of the Trenton Processing and Distribution Center tonight, with the introduction of chlorine dioxide gas into the facility at about 4 p.m. Once the chlorine dioxide gas concentration reaches 750 parts per million throughout the facility, estimated to occur between 6-9 p.m., the decontamination process begins and will last through Saturday morning. The fumigation will take about 12 hours.

“Our primary concern has always been the safety of our employees, the safety of the communities we serve, and the safety of the mail,” said Tom Day, Postal Service Vice President of Engineering. “Reaching this key moment is a result of a partnership among involved federal, state and local agencies. We have worked together and took the time to do this right,” said Day. “Tonight we will apply the technology that was used to successfully decontaminate the Postal Service Curseen-Morris Processing and Distribution Center in Washington, DC.”

“We’ve taken extensive steps to ensure the safety of everyone living nearby,” said Day. “The entire building is sealed to prevent the escape of chlorine dioxide.”

The Trenton facility, located in Hamilton Township, 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. Saturday. 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.

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