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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. MAIL IRRADIATION PROJECT ENDS IN LIMA

(LIMA, OH) – Nearly six months after it began, and 148 truckloads of mail later, the process of irradiating U. S. mail at the Titan Scan Technologies plant in Lima has ended. The last truckload of mail was processed over the weekend and headed back to the Washington, D. C. area late Sunday according to Allen County Emergency Management Agency director, Russ Decker.

The project began back on October 26, 2001 when postal officials began shipping potentially anthrax tainted mail from the Brentwood Postal Facility in Washington, D. C. to the Titan Scan plant here. Two Brentwood postal workers were killed after being exposed to the anthrax bacteria.

Initially, 48 truckloads of “suspect” mail from Brentwood were treated here. Beginning in mid-December postal officials announced the process was entering a new phase in which “non-suspect” mail, but mail addressed to high profile targets such as The White House and Congress would be treated here as a preventative measure. 100 such semi-truckloads of mail were processed in Lima as a precautionary measure by the time the project ended on Sunday.

“We are very pleased that the project ran its course without anyone becoming injured or exposed to anything,” Decker said. “The public support for the project has been outstanding and the positive work effort from everyone involved at Titan Scan and the Postal Service should serve as an example of how the private and public sectors can work effectively together under trying circumstances to succeed.” Decker added.

Through the course of the project, more than 42 various local, state and federal agencies participated while more than fifty news organizations produced in excess of 400 stories on Lima and the mail irradiation process.

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