



THE MEMPHIS DEPOT TENNESSEE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD COVER SHEET

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METRO BRIEFS

National group ends race protests

A national group on Monday wrapped up three days of protests designed to bring attention to what members describe as environmental racism at facilities such as the old Defense Depot Memphis.

The Interim National Black Environmental & Economic Justice Coordinating Committee helped stage a mock funeral procession near Hamilton High School and a vigil for economic justice at the Clifford Davis Federal Building downtown.

The events were part of the "Days of Outrage and Action Against Environmental Racism" promoted by the group.

The depot contains disposal areas where chemical-warfare materiel and other hazardous wastes were buried decades ago. Federal officials say the wastes, which soon will be excavated in a cleanup, do not pose a threat to the public, though some activists cite health problems in the predominantly black neighborhoods nearby.

The protests, timed to coincide with the 32nd anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., also were intended to counter efforts in Congress to thwart investigations into environmental racism, group members said.

— Tom Charlier

FINAL PAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

FINAL PAGE