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News Release

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Ownership of Pawnee Armory Set to be Transferred As Part of DEQ Program

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced today that ownership of the Pawnee National Guard Armory will be transferred to city officials during a special ceremony at 1:30 p.m., July 22, 2010.

The ceremony will take place at the armory. Armories such as the Pawnee facility were cleaned up as part of DEQ's Site Cleanup Assistance Program (SCAP). Funding for SCAP was enacted by 2006 legislation from an existing gasoline assessment. Through that program, DEQ evaluates and remediates environmental hazards at surplus National Guard armories. The cleanups allow armories to be safely transferred to local governmental entities. More than 50 armories across the state are being addressed as part of SCAP. Additional ceremonies will take place as other armories are cleaned up.

Environmental issues common to many of the facilities is contamination from indoor firing ranges, lead-based paint, and asbestos. DEQ works closely with local community leaders to ensure their needs are met and these potential hazards are properly remediated prior to ownership transfer.

Cleanups are conducted in cooperation with the Oklahoma Military Department and the Department of Central Services. More information on SCAP is available at www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/scapIndex.htm.

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