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**USA TODAY.com**

## Hearings sought on toxic exposure; [FINAL Edition]

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### Abstract (Document Summary)

Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, the ranking Democrat on the panel, and Rep. Nick Lampson, D-Texas, will call on the government today to disclose the history of the sites, re-examine surrounding areas and redress the damage done to workers and communities.

### Full Text (224 words)

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Poisoned workers & poisoned places; Day 2 of a three-day series

Two key senators said Wednesday that they will examine the federal government's role in exposing thousands of workers to dangerous levels of radiation during the 1940s and '50s.

Responding to a USA TODAY report that detailed the government's secret use of private companies to build America's early nuclear arsenal, the top Republican and Democrat on a Senate panel dealing with workers' safety said they will seek hearings.

The report, which continues today and Friday, found that thousands of workers intentionally were left in the dark about their exposure to radiation and hazardous substances. Dozens of communities also were contaminated with toxic and radioactive waste.

"These facts sound an alarm beyond any doubt, and it is appropriate for our subcommittee to take a look at it," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., chairman of a Senate appropriations subcommittee with jurisdiction over labor and health issues. "The whole question of radioactivity is a very big one because it really can spread beyond those communities."

Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, the ranking Democrat on the panel, and Rep. Nick Lampson, D-Texas, will call on the government today to disclose the history of the sites, re-examine surrounding areas and redress the damage done to workers and communities.

"The federal government must lift the veil of secrecy," Harkin said.