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U.S. To Take Greenland's 'Hot Snow'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and Denmark have decided to scoop up snow contaminated by the shattering of four B52-carried hydrogen bombs off Greenland and return it to this country.

The Defense Department disclosed the plan Friday in response to questions from The Associated Press.

The radioactive snow lies over a flame-blackened area of frozen bay off the Greenland coast where the big Strategic Air Command bomber went down Jan. 22.

"This material will be stored at Thule Air Base, Greenland, in sealed metal containers for subsequent shipment to the United States during the summer shipping season for final disposal," the Pentagon said.

Ships cannot get to Thule until the bay thaws in summer.

"Since the depth of the snow varies, actual tonnage cannot be determined at this time," the

Pentagon said, adding that perhaps none of the seven-foot-thick ice will have to be removed. "Except in the impact area, the contamination is in the snow on top of the ice."

Officials maintain that only low-level, relatively harmless Alpha radiation was released when the 1.1-megaton bombs broke apart in the fiery crash.

Presumably the United States agreed nonetheless to remove any hint of hazard to ease fears of the Danes, who own Greenland.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard O. Hunziker, in charge of the recovery operation code named Project Crested Ice, terms the removal "a matter of good housekeeping."