



NEWS RELEASE



Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 30, 2006
Release #06-04

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Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Building Tests Clean and Demolition Begins

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. Today, the Army began demolition of the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF) Process Neutralization Building (PNB) where containers of mustard agent making up the Aberdeen stockpile were drained and their contents neutralized.

Workers began demolishing the PNB after decontaminating it, and after it passed a test in which the air handling system was turned off for four hours and the inside of the building was monitored for residual agent vapor. Workers then removed the air handling system, which filtered plant air before it was released to the environment. This step cleared the way for large-scale demolition of the building.

"This follows on the heels of demolition of the Ton Container Cleanout building in September," said ABCDF Site Project Manager (Acting) Brian O'Donnell. "Once we complete demolition of the PNB, we will have cleared and demolished all structures used in the neutralization process. We were able to proceed safely ahead of schedule thanks to the innovative approach developed by the ABCDF government team and its systems contractor, Bechtel, in planning for facility closure from the project start," he added.

Demolition work in remaining non-agent buildings is more than 70 percent complete. The site expects to finish demolishing these buildings in the spring of 2007.

Mustard agent is a chemical warfare blistering compound that was manufactured at Aberdeen from World War I until 1950. The stockpile dated from 1941 to March 2005 when the last of the 1,817 containers was drained and the agent it held was neutralized in the PNB using a hot water neutralization process.

The Army began destroying the U.S. chemical agent stockpile in 1990 with the start of destruction operations at the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), located 825 miles southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii. The JACADS destruction mission was safely completed in 2000, and the site remains a wildlife refuge. Other disposal missions began in Utah in 1996; Alabama in 2003; Oregon in 2004; and Indiana and Arkansas in 2005. To date, the Army has destroyed more than 50 percent of the total munitions in the chemical stockpile, accounting for over 40 percent of the total amount of chemical agent previously stored.

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Special Note: Demolition photos are available upon request.

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