



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY  
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations September 13, 2005

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## Newport Milestones/Facts

### Milestone Dates

- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for U.S. defense stockpile
- 1969: President Richard Nixon issues a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons, including last two lots of VX produced at Newport
- 1999: Army awards systems contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Calif. to design, construct and operate NECDF
- 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5, 2005



Steel Container Transport



Chemical Agent Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

### Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 28,484 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 3,381 gallons)

Activities: Analytical results of caustic wastewater processed during limited restart of destruction operations show we have been successful in removing flammability from the process wastewater. One set of the new reactor ball valves was installed and function tested for one agent reactor. The hydrolysate sample system was also thoroughly cleaned and retested. We resumed draining of VX containers into holding tanks this morning and plan to resume neutralization operations this week. Agent neutralization will continue in a slow deliberate manner. After successfully processing agent using the new ball valves the replacement of the diaphragms on the second reactor will be initiated. Data analysis continues from the recent neutralization batches in order to optimize the destruction process.

## Continuing the Legacy of Safety

The Newport team continues to build upon their legacy of safety—from chemical agent manufacture and shipment in the 1960s, to nearly 40 years of safe storage, to the start of agent destruction operations. By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECDF will remove the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States will be safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.

- Our top priority remains the safety of the surrounding communities, site personnel and environment.
- During start-up, deliberate actions and thorough review of data will be conducted to verify performance before increasing production rates.
- Processing areas are ventilated and maintained under negative pressure. Air drawn from these areas is controlled, monitored and filtered through carbon units before being released into the environment in order to meet state and federal clean air standards.
- Monitoring air within the depot is a vital part of processing chemical agent. More than 70 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the facility, with approximately 4,000 samples taken daily.

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by appointment)

Newport stockpile  
consists of:



Liquid chemical  
agent VX housed in  
steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW