

Goodbye to VX projos



Munition handler Robert Shaffer places the last VX projectile in the UMCD stockpile on the conveyor that sends it through the destruction process Wednesday.

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) safely completed its 8-inch diameter VX nerve agent artillery projectile disposal campaign Wednesday. The last of 3,752 VX-filled 8-inch artillery projectiles was destroyed at about 8:47 p.m. in the disposal plant's Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).

These 8-inch projectiles or "shells" were the last 8-inch VX-filled artillery projectiles in both Oregon's chemical weapons stockpile and the national stockpile.

"This has been a tremendous effort by the entire team to safely complete destruction of all artillery projectiles in Oregon's stockpile," said Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager at Umatilla. "This milestone truly represents the dedication and expertise of the team in remaining focused and committed to safety."

The 8-inch VX projectiles campaign started with the first movement of munitions on July 15, and it was completed ahead of schedule. The UMCDF will now reconfigure or "change over" from projectiles processing to VX land mines processing. It should take about two months to reconfigure portions of the plant to begin processing land mines, which are a different type of munition. Land mines are also the last VX munition in Oregon's stockpile.

"We're pleased to complete another campaign while maintaining our safety and environmental compliance standards," said Doug Hamrick, project general manager for Washington Defense Group of URS Corporation's EG&G Division. "Safety and compliance will remain a continued focus during the change over to mines."

The VX land mines disposal campaign is planned to be completed by early 2009 if there are no significant delays.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 761 days, or more than 3 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (July 31 - Aug. 6, 2008)

Total number of VX-filled 8-inch projectiles destroyed this period	1,633
Total VX projectiles destroyed to date	36,065
Percentage of VX projectiles destroyed to date	100
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	21,947
Pounds of total VX agent destroyed to date	607,123
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers	206,284
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,316.51
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	35.41

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **Aug. 6, 2008:** Completed VX 8-inch projectile campaign.
- **July 16, 2008:** Processed first VX 8-inch projectile in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- **July 15, 2008:** First VX 8-inch projectiles transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **June 27, 2008:** Completed VX 155mm projectile campaign.
- **March 21, 2008:** Destroyed first VX 155mm projectile in the MPF.
- **March 20, 2008:** First VX 155mm projectiles transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Jan. 23, 2008:** Completed VX rocket campaign.
- **Dec. 24, 2007:** Completed VX spray tank campaign.
- **Nov. 26, 2007:** Processed the non-stockpile VX ton container.
- **Nov. 23, 2007:** Destroyed the first VX spray tanks in the MPF.
- **Nov. 19, 2007:** First VX spray tank transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Nov. 9, 2007:** First VX chemical agent destroyed in the Liquid Incinerator (LIC).
- **Oct. 29, 2007:** Processed the first VX M55 rockets in the Deactivation Furnace System (DFS).
- **Oct. 26, 2007:** First VX M55 rockets transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.

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