



CMA NEWS

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NEWPORT COMPLETES MISSION — STOCKPILE ELIMINATED

Late Friday, Aug. 8, workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) completed their primary mission by safely eliminating 1,269 tons of liquid chemical agent VX, which was stored for nearly 40 years at the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) in Newport, Ind.



Workers at NECDF drain VX from the last TC of the Newport stockpile.

The VX was stored in 1,690 steel containers at the depot and once drained was neutralized by mixing it with heated sodium hydroxide and water in a reactor. The resulting caustic wastewater, or hydrolysate, is shipped to Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, for final disposal. The Army receives Chemical Weapons Convention treaty credit

for chemical destruction of the VX when the hydrolysate is transferred from shipping containers at Veolia. The last batch of hydrolysate is scheduled to be shipped to Veolia in September.

“This marks a tremendous milestone for workers at Newport, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), the citizens of Indiana and the rest of the world,” said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. “Newport’s stockpile has been safely eliminated, which brings the United States one step closer to fulfilling its commitment of destroying our nation’s chemical weapons.”

Neutralization operations at NECDF began May 5, 2005. CMA has been successfully partnering with industry to destroy its secondary waste for decades. The decision to ship Newport’s hydrolysate to Veolia was recommended by many oversight agencies, such as the National Research Council.

“Teamwork and dedication are at the core of each person on site,” NECD Commander Lt. Col. William Hibner said. “I am proud and honored to be a part of the work force that completed this portion of our mission safely and successfully.”

The site will now enter a closure phase to dismantle buildings and equipment and dispose of various wastes related to the NECDF project. These operations are expected to be completed in 18 to 24 months.

“We will move forward, focusing on the future, knowing that Newport has made chemical weapons history,” said Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker. “And, we will remember that this milestone was reached with the employees’ hard work and determination for the safety of their families, local communities and the environment.”

In addition to Newport, CMA has completed stockpile disposal operations at two locations – Johnston Atoll in the South Pacific in 2000 and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Edgewood Area in Maryland in 2006 – and will continue destroying weapons safely in Anniston, Ala., Pine Bluff, Ark., Tooele, Utah, and Umatilla, Ore.

A ceremony commemorating the site’s stockpile elimination will be held on Oct. 25 at South Vermillion High School, located near the NECD in Clinton, Ind.

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Conrad Whyne
CMA Director

The last TC of the NECD stockpile is ready for delivery to NECDF.



We made *History*. We made a *Difference*.