

Heel Transfer System meets expectations

The new Heel Transfer System (HTS) is now in operation, allowing Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) workers to process "heavy" mustard agent-filled bulk storage containers. The HTS process helps remove the solidified mustard agent residue in the bulk containers.

Nearly all of the approximately 3,000 remaining mustard bulk containers at Deseret Chemical Depot have varying amounts of heavy solid and semi-solid residue referred to as "heels" and are unable to be drained for normal processing and disposal.

An extensive sampling and measurement operation indicated that these heavy heels range in size and weigh anywhere between 630 and 1,100 pounds. Utah environmental permit requirements, however, limit heel weight to no more than 630 pounds for processing through the TOCDF's Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).

The HTS is a unique system; designed and fabricated by a team of TOCDF employees. The system was added as a follow-on to the TOCDF Bulk Drain System, using high-pressure sprays of warm water to liquefy the solid and semi-solid residue. The liquefied heel material is pumped from the "heavy" bulk container into an empty one. By ensuring all bulk container heel weights are below 630 pounds, they can then be processed through the MPF.



The first "heavy" bulk container is positioned at the TOCDF Bulk Drain Station, as the spray wand is lowered inside to begin spraying 3000 psi, 120 degree F water to liquefy the heel.

"The system will require some fine tuning, but the concept is working perfect and the system performance is living up to all our expectations," said HTS Project Manager Tim Hutson.

TOCDF is not the only site with heavy mustard agent-filled bulk containers; the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF - Ore.) will also be implementing this system. "The TOCDF HTS team will fabricate, assemble and ship the equipment to Umatilla," Hutson explained. The team will provide lessons learned and will support installation and systemization at the UMCDF. The first shipment of materials was sent in early October and the team will finish building and shipping the rest of the equipment over the next three months.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Oct. 19, 2008)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	2,534
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	41.32%

Upcoming Events

- **Nov. 13, 1:30 p.m.** – Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 101 at the Department of Environmental Quality building, 162 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.
- **Nov. 18, 5:30 p.m.** – DCD Restoration and Advisory Board meeting to discuss environmental clean-up activities associated with the depot. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m.** – Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission meeting. The meeting will be held at the Tooele City Hall, 90 N. Main Street in Tooele.

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Outreach Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Additional hours available upon request)