



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UMCDF resumes mustard agent disposal campaign

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has resumed mustard agent disposal after a pause to address requirements to avoid “boilovers” of ton containers while in the Metal Parts Furnace. The facility last processed ton containers on Oct. 27, 2009.

The UMCDF resumed processing Sunday and disposed of its first ton container at 4:13 p.m.

The UMCDF started mustard agent processing in June 2009 and has since eliminated 160 ton containers of mustard agent while operating in a shakedown (or testing) phase, in preparation for the upcoming Agent Trial Burn and Comprehensive Performance Test.

On Dec. 23, 2009, the UMCDF submitted to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) a supplemental package to its existing Agent Trial Burn Plan. The submittal included adjusted shakedown and trial burn strategies, including lower processing rates, to address carbon monoxide emission requirements related to boilovers. DEQ has given UMCDF permission to resume shakedown operations while it continues to review the Agent Trial Burn Plan and solicit public comment.

“Resuming mustard disposal operations and completing the destruction of Umatilla’s remaining chemical weapons stockpile is important in meeting our obligation to ensure the long term safety and security of the surrounding communities,” said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, depot commander.

“We are committed to making sure that everything we do, we do safely,” said Mike Strong, the Army’s site project manager at UMCDF.

Disposal of HD mustard containers is the 13th and final individual chemical munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. The mustard disposal campaign is expected to take between one and two years to complete.

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Previously, the Army destroyed six different types of GB or sarin-filled munitions plus six types of VX-filled munitions stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot. The U.S. and other nations are destroying chemical weapons stockpiles in compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention international treaty.

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