



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | Dec. 21, 2010

VX secondary waste operations near completion

Workers in Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) Area 10 have recently completed monitoring and sorting VX nerve agent contaminated wastes. Since secondary waste operations began more than a year ago, nearly 500,000 pounds of VX waste has been safely shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill.

Now focused on GB nerve agent contaminated wastes, workers use a ventilated glove box called the Drum Ventilation System (DVS) to monitor and sort the wastes. The level of agent contamination determines how the waste will be processed.

Secondary wastes with monitoring results below permitted levels and below the waste control limit, 20 parts per billion for VX and GB, may be shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill. If agent readings are at or above permitted levels, the waste drum is thermally treated in an autoclave system, which uses heat and steam at temperatures of about 300 degrees Fahrenheit to lower the contamination level to allow the treated waste to be shipped off site.

Operators monitored and sorted 5,226 drums of secondary wastes. Of the secondary waste monitored above the permitted levels, 2,251 drums have safely been treated in the autoclave with 7,709 drums remaining. Workers expect to complete VX secondary waste autoclave operations early in the new year and will then move onto the GB nerve agent related waste.



DCD inventory of secondary waste includes waste generated from TOCDF operations, as well as "legacy" waste from Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System and DCD storage operations.



Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility personnel load the last Ton Container onto the feed conveyor in Unpack Area. URS Photo

Pine Bluff completes chemical weapons disposal

Fourth demil site to complete operations

The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) safely completed its chemical weapons disposal mission with the destruction of the last mustard agent-filled ton container on Friday, Nov. 12. This marked the end of chemical weapons storage at the Pine Bluff Arsenal (PBCA) after nearly seven decades.

The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility began operations March 28, 2005. Disposal operations entailed 5,879 Enhanced On-Site Container deliveries and destroying 12 percent of the nation's overall stockpile.

"For more than 60 years, the Pine Bluff team stored approximately 3,850 tons of the nation's original chemical agent stockpile. Today, the Pine Bluff stockpile has been safely disposed of," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "From the very beginning, employees at Pine Bluff and throughout the CMA made safety the cornerstone of our chemical weapons stockpile storage and destruction missions."

The PBCA and PBCDF now begin closure operations, which will be conducted in accordance with the Resource and Conservation Act permit as agreed upon with state regulators.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Alaine Grieser

Phone: (435) 833-4295

alaine.grieser@us.army.mil

OUTREACH OFFICE:

Amy Blausier

Phone: (435) 882-3773

ablausier@qwestoffice.net

SYSTEMS CONTRACTOR:

Mark Mesesan

Phone: (435) 882-5888

mmesesan@egginc.com

Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

54 S. Main St.

Tooele, UT 84074

Phone: (435) 882-3773

Toll Free: (800) 471-1617

Outreach Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(Additional hours available upon request)

Upcoming Events

- **Jan. 13, 1:30 p.m.** - Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 1015 at the Department of Environmental Quality building, 195 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.
- **Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m.** - Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission meeting. The meeting will be held at the Tooele County Emergency Management Building, 15 East 100 South, Tooele

The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed on December 23-24 and 30-31 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Dec. 19)

Total mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	5,654
Total mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Total mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	63,274
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	89.28%

Spreading the holiday spirit

Charitable giving can provide a rewarding way to express the holiday spirit. Employees at the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) have come together to help those who are less fortunate by providing food, toys and clothing to help them experience the happiness the holiday season should bring.

A variety of events and fundraisers have been arranged by DCD, Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) and Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System workers, providing a number of ways for employees to donate and help people in need. One such fundraiser by the TOCDF Safety Action Team focused on efforts to fill nearly 100 Christmas stockings that have been sent to U.S. soldiers stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Another event included donating 10 decorated Christmas trees to selected families in Tooele, Salt Lake and Utah counties.

In support of Tooele County's Operation Christmas, 583 toys and several clothing items were delivered to the Tooele Valley Community Cooperative. Food donations were tallied differently as employees wrapped up their fundraising efforts; more than 1,200 pounds in addition to 4,475 individual food items were delivered to the Tooele County Food Bank. "Donations from the [Deseret Chemical] depot are one of our most heavily relied upon contributions," said Lori Sandoval, Tooele County Food Bank Coordinator.

In addition, DCD's annual tradition of collecting toys for the Marine's Toys for Tots Foundation was also a huge success. With several donations and a gift exchange, employees collected five large boxes of toys ranging from Beanie Babies® to Leap Frog's ClickStart™ – My First Computer.

In these difficult economic times, the need for charity donations continues to grow and thanks to the workers at DCD, more families will be able to enjoy the holidays this year.



Austin Allen uses a plasma cutter to cut through part of the Multi-purpose Demilitarization Machine inside the Multi-Purpose Demilitarization Facility (MDF)/Bulk Items Facility (BIF) at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). The steel tabletop, which measures over an inch thick and weighs more than 800 pounds, was then decontaminated and placed in an airlock for monitoring. Once monitoring confirms agent readings to be less than 1.0 VSL, the equipment will be left in the facility to be demolished and shipped to a permitted hazardous waste landfill during CAMDS final demolition.

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Looking Back 2010 was a year of accomplishments and preparations, with a few firsts and lasts thrown into the mix. Here is a look back at some of the most memorable highlights for Team Deseret in 2010:

- **January 12** – The Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) resumes processing 4.2-inch mustard mortars with the help of the facility's new Pollution Abatement System Filtration System.
- **February 9** – URS selects the explosive detonation technology known as the DAVINCH, Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum Integrated Chamber, to destroy its problematic munitions.
- **February 17** – Workers begin x-raying more than 300 overpacked munitions. The x-rays will help determine where to best place the donor charges on each overpack so that the munition and its chemical agent are completely destroyed in the DAVINCH.
- **February** – Deseret Chemical Dept starts installing manmade nests to help the depot's declining burrowing owl population.
- **February** – Construction and site preparations ramp up in DCD's Area 10 with the oncoming arrival of the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) and the DAVINCH.
- **March 23** – Workers finish x-raying the more than 300 overpacked munitions slated for disposal in the DAVINCH.
- **April 20** – CAMDS starts its first Unventilated Monitoring Test on the Material Treatment Facility, launching its closure process.
- **May 6** – The ATLIC, which is slated to destroy DCD's small stockpile of GA nerve and lewisite blister agents, is transported to Lake Point, Utah, to be assembled and tested.
- **May 19** – DCD safely transports the last shipment of 4.2 inch mustard mortars—also the last explosively configured munitions—to the TOCDF for disposal.
- **May 28** – The last of more than 62,000 4.2-inch mustard mortars is destroyed at the TOCDF.
- **July** – Improved Demilitarization Protective Ensemble suits featuring a longer face shield start being regularly used on site. It is the first major modification to the protective suit in 15 years.
- **July 8** – DCD officially opens its new Work Force Transition Center to help employees plan for life after DCD.
- **July 22** – Col. Mark Pomeroy takes command of DCD; he is the last military commander of DCD.
- **July 27** – URS and Battelle employees surpass 10 million safe man hours worked without a lost-day injury. The still-going-strong streak dates back to Oct. 26, 2005, and is the longest consecutive run in the U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency's history.
- **August** – With only ton containers left to process in the TOCDF, workers start early decommissioning work by starting to remove obsolete demilitarization equipment from the facility.
- **August 13** – The last of more than 900 mustard-filled ton containers with elevated levels of mercury is destroyed.
- **September 15** – The 20th annual—and final—Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program exercise drill is conducted.
- **September** – DCD earns the lowest Recordable Injury Rate (RIR) of 1.1 among the U.S. Army's CMA depots. DCD still maintains the lowest RIR among CMA's active depots (those currently transporting munitions for disposal).
- **October 14** – The ATLIC returns to DCD after successful test runs at its temporary Lake Point facility.
- **October** – Chemical Surety Inspectors (CSI) for the Department of the Army Inspector General's office conduct their final review of DCD. The CSI report commends employees for their performance.
- **November** – The DAVINCH arrives in Utah from Kobe, Japan. It is being stored in Salt Lake while site preparations are completed at DCD's Area 10.