



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | Jan. 13, 2011

State approves concrete sampling methods

Go-ahead big step forward for CAMDS—and site-wide—closure

Closure of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) has cleared another major hurdle: approval of concrete sampling methods. State regulators gave the go-ahead last month; CAMDS workers have since completed concrete sampling in the Chemical Test Facility (CTF).

Preliminary results indicate the concrete in the CTF is not contaminated with chemical agent. The results clear the way for the Unventilated Monitoring Test (UMT) of the CTF, which is scheduled to take place early February, pending approval by state regulators. The UMT is the final step that needs to be accomplished before a facility can be demolished.

To develop its concrete sampling methods, Team Deseret looked to Environmental Protection Agency guidelines, as well as concrete sampling methods used at Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), the U.S. Army's first incineration site to safely destroy its stockpile and close its facility. Team Deseret's concrete sampling methods will not only be used for CAMDS closure, but also for the TOCDF and to help determine if DCD's igloos are agent-free before being handed over to the Tooele Army Depot.

"The approval of our concrete sampling methods has a big (See CONCRETE SAMPLING next page)



CAMDS workers Dustin Kinney and Joseph Wells collect broken up concrete in the Chemical Test Facility so that it can be tested for chemical agent contamination. Concrete sampling is required in all CAMDS facilities that could possibly be contaminated by chemical agent. The sampling is a vital step in the decontamination and disassembly work that needs to be done at CAMDS before demolition can begin.

Early opportunity work underway

Workers remove obsolete demil equipment

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) workers have been taking advantage of what they are calling "early opportunity work," involving the removal of process equipment that is no longer needed inside the plant. Now that mustard ton containers are the only planned item left to process through the TOCDF, equipment that was previously used to handle projectiles and mortars is no longer needed.

"Removing as much of the obsolete equipment that we can now, not only allows us to get a jump start on formal closure operations, but it also allows us to begin ridding some of the agent hazards from the plant," said Cory Mecham, URS project manager for decontamination and decommissioning of the munition demilitarization building.

So far, workers have removed the Burster Well Incineration Container (BWIC) equipment from the three Multi-purpose Demilitarization Machines (MDMs) located in the Munitions Processing Bay (MPB). The MDMs were used to drain the agent from the munitions before they were processed in the metal parts furnace (See EARLY OPPORTUNITY WORK next page)

ONE remarkable milestone

11,111,111 million safe man-hours

Not only did Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) workers surpass 11 million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury, they achieved 11,111,111 safe man-hours on 1/11/11. TOCDF's new record is now the highest record among CMA's demil sites. The current string of safe hours began on Oct. 26, 2005.

The goal of 11,111,111 hours was set by URS Vice President and TOCDF General Manager Gary McCloskey. "I wanted to pick a number that had some pizzazz to it, so I picked 11,111,111 hours built around the theme that safety is number one," McCloskey said. "It's a tremendous, tremendous achievement."

TOCDF employees are determined to improve their already outstanding safety record and complete the TOCDF project without another lost workday injury.

Upcoming Events

- **Feb. 10, 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.
- **Feb. 16, 6:00 p.m.** - TOCDF RCRA Class 3 Permit Modification public hearing. The hearing will be held at the Tooele County Administrative Building, 47 S. Main Street in Tooele.

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Early opportunity work

continued from front page

and the BWIC equipment was used to support the 4.2-inch mustard mortar processing.

The projectile/mortar equipment in the two Explosive Containment Rooms (ECRs) has also been successfully removed, including the projectile/mortar disassembly machines. The ECRs are where the explosive components were removed from the munitions and sent to the deactivation furnace.

Currently, TOCDF workers are focusing on removing the projectile/mortar feed conveyors in the explosive containment vestibule. The conveyor system was used to transfer explosively configured munitions from the unpack area into the ECRs. Workers are about halfway finished with the conveyor removal work; once complete, they will then move back into the MPB to begin removing the MDMs.

Because the obsolete equipment has been in the plant where agent contamination has occurred, the TOCDF Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit requires that the decommissioned equipment be treated in the metal parts furnace before it can be removed from the plant. This ensures that the equipment is fully decontaminated of any chemical agent remnants. After the equipment is decontaminated, it is shipped off-site to a hazardous waste landfill.

"We will continue to perform as much early opportunity work as we can before formal closure operations begin, which will commence once we process the last mustard ton container and flush out the chemical agent lines so that there is no recoverable agent in the plant," said Mecham. "We expect to finish mustard ton container processing and reach the no-recoverable-agent status this spring."



Before and after photos of one of the explosive containment rooms where the Projectile/Mortar Disassembly (PMD) machine was located. The before photo shows the PMD machine in the right side of the photo before it was decommissioned and removed; the after photo shows an empty room with the concrete slab, where the PMD machine used to be.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Jan. 9)

Total mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	5,766
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	90.89%

2010 – Year of demil progress

Workers at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility have wrapped up another year of operations, marking 95 percent destruction of Deseret Chemical Depot's original stockpile of chemical agent-filled munitions. Through the course of 2010, more than two million pounds of mustard agent were safely processed through the facility, including 62,938 4.2-inch mortars and 1,048 bulk containers.

There were also a few significant milestones along the way. In May, the TOCDF mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortar campaign concluded, representing the last explosively-configured munition to be processed through TOCDF. Although TOCDF mortar operations are complete, approximately 140 overpacked mortars remain in storage and will be destroyed using the DAVINCH, a controlled detonation system developed for chemical weapons destruction.

In August, workers reached another milestone with destruction of the last of more than 900 bulk containers with elevated levels of mercury; TOCDF officials have since taken a portion of the mercury filtration system off line.

TOCDF mustard agent disposal operations began in August 2006 and are expected to conclude in May.

Concrete sampling

continued from front page

impact on the entire site's closure efforts," said CAMDS Site Project Manager Jerry Linn.

The concrete sampling locations are selected in two ways: random and judgmental, which pinpoints cracks, stains or other irregular marks in the concrete that could indicate chemical agent contamination. Once several areas are selected to be sampled, the epoxy paint is removed and the concrete is broken up using a small jack hammer. The broken concrete is then collected and sent to the lab for analysis.

Only those areas that were exposed to possible liquid chemical agent will undergo concrete sampling. Workers are currently conducting sampling in the Explosive Containment Cubicle.

"With the approval of the concrete sampling methods, things are really going to pick up and soon CAMDS closure is going to be full speed ahead," Linn assured.

Decontamination and disassembly work continues in several CAMDS facilities. The closure plan for CAMDS entails decontaminating and disassembling all CAMDS facilities before demolition can begin. The target date to have all CAMDS facilities ready for demolition is January 2012.

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