



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

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## DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | July 21, 2011

### DCD's efforts paying off

*Environmental efforts adding up to success*

In just a year's time, Deseret Chemical Depot's efforts to help boost the declining population of burrowing owls is working. The proof is in the depot's numbers: last year only one manmade nest was briefly used; so far this year 10 nests have been inhabited, with at least four artificial nest boxes used to nurture eggs.

"It's a good sign," said Boyd White, who oversees DCD's manmade nest program. "The owls are discovering the nests on depot and more and more nests are being used."

The manmade nests are crafted from 55-gallon plastic drums that are cut in half and connected to a long piece of corrugated plastic tubing. The tubing serves as the nest's entrance, and its four-inch diameter lets the owls in while keeping many predators, such as badgers, coyotes, and foxes, out. DCD's terrain is also ideal—dry and open with few trees and short grass.

Last year, DCD placed 22 manmade nests on property; it hopes to have up to 82 by the end of summer. "The idea is that the more nests we have, the more burrowing owls will come here during migration."

The same plan worked for Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Oregon, said White, whose burrowing owl population has grown from four to more than 60 nesting pairs of burrowing owls since its first manmade nest was put into place in 2008.

DCD's manmade nests provide a vital piece to a much larger picture. This spring and summer, White and fellow colleagues have banded as many burrowing owl chicks as possible. The band numbers are placed into a local and national database that will help researchers learn more about the bird's activities when recaptured.

"We don't know a lot about where these birds go," said White. "By installing the artificial nests and banding the owls at DCD, we are preparing to participate in a geo-locator migration study over the next couple of years."

DCD's nesting efforts have been driven by the Sikes Act, which authorizes the Secretary of

Defense to develop cooperative plans for conservation and rehabilitation programs on its properties. White hopes that if funded, DCD will get to participate in a DoD Legacy Project to attach geo-locators to the owls, which will track their migratory movements during the year. But for now he and the rest of DCD can feel good about helping the local burrowing owl population take flight.



*Boyd White, DCD environmental, and student Britney Breese band burrowing owl chicks that have hatched on DCD's property in an effort to track the birds' use of the depot.*

### Successful secondary waste operations

Secondary waste operations are going better than expected, so much that officials expect to wrap up operations in November 2012—nine months ahead of the original schedule.

Since the autoclave began operations in 2009, workers have treated and shipped off site more than 7600 drums of GB and VX nerve agent contaminated secondary waste resulting from TOCDF operations. The majority of all secondary waste stored at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) is treated in the autoclave system using heat and high pressure steam.

The waste is monitored and sorted in a ventilated glove box called the Drum Ventilation System. The level of agent contamination determines how the waste will be processed. If monitoring results are below permitted levels and below the waste control limit, 20 parts per billion for VX and GB, the waste may be shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill. If agent readings are at or above the permitted levels, the waste drum is thermally treated in the autoclave system before being shipped off site.

"We have been able to monitor the waste in the DVS and process it through the autoclave faster than anticipated," said Keith Eyre, URS secondary waste operations manager. "Originally, we only expected to do four runs per week, but we've actually been doing six runs a week."

As the GB secondary waste campaign is wrapping up at the (See SECONDARY WASTE on page 3)

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**Outreach Office Hours:**  
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Monday - Friday**

*(Additional hours available upon request)*



## Preparing for operations

### *ATLIC facility prepares to demonstrate readiness*

Construction is complete, the operating permit has been approved and workers are preparing to demonstrate operational readiness of the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC), located in Deseret Chemical Depot's storage area.

Individual system components have been function tested and are now being integrated together and fine-tuned. Workers will simulate agent operations to test the system and ensure that the processes are working properly—such as feeding liquid from the ton containers to the incinerator and testing monitoring equipment reaction.

As with the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, ATLIC operations will be automated. With operator oversight, various alarms will be simulated to verify that the control system program is working properly. It is also important to test the equipment during a sudden electrical power loss, ensuring that the emergency generators come online to provide power to the critical operating systems.

Training continues for the ATLIC operators and they will each

be certified as they show their ability to react to various contingencies, follow procedures and display an in-depth knowledge of the process and facility operations.

"Most of the operators bring experience from the TOCDF and are already familiar with many of the procedures," said Jim Brewer, URS ATLIC Operations Manager. "They have been able to (See ATLIC OPERATIONS on page 3)

## Upcoming Events

- **Aug. 17, 6:00 p.m.** - CAMDS RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meeting. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **Aug. 4 - 6** - Come visit the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office information booth at the Tooele County Fair at the Deseret Peak Complex, 2930 Highway 112, Tooele.

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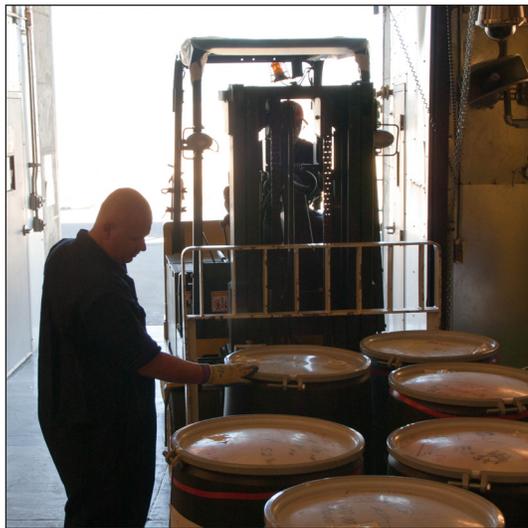
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## DAVINCH progress at a glance...



With the DAVINCH detonation chamber in place and the installation of its support systems nearing completion, function tests of the DAVINCH should start this month. The DAVINCH, or Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum Integrated Chamber, is located within the depot's Area 10 and will be used to destroy DCD's stockpile of more than 300 overpacked munitions. DAVINCH operations are scheduled to begin in November.



*URS Secondary Waste Operator Jeff Cloward inspects drums of secondary waste as they arrive to the Area 10 secondary waste treatment facility.*

## Secondary waste

*(continued from front page)*

autoclave, workers are now preparing to monitor, sort and treat the "legacy" waste from DCD and the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System. However, some of the legacy waste is stored in approximately 220 oversized containers. These containers are too large for the DVS Sorting Room and will instead be delivered to the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) Toxic Maintenance Area (TMA). The TMA will provide room for workers in protective clothing to safely open the containers to identify and sort the contents for processing.

In addition to the successful autoclave operations, nearly 550,000 pounds of waste from the mustard agent campaign and early closure activities has been processed in the TOCDF Metal Parts Furnace. This waste is processed almost as quickly as it is generated, preventing the need to send this waste to storage for later disposal. Now that the TOCDF has completed processing mustard agent-filled munitions, workers are focused on finishing what is left of the mustard waste.

Combining efforts at both the autoclave and TOCDF will allow DCD to rid its inventory of secondary waste earlier than expected.

## TOCDF earns certification

The Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) will be the first chem demil site to earn an independent certification for its Environmental Management System (EMS). The informal announcement was made by independent environmental auditors at the end of their two-week evaluation of TOCDF's EMS and its implementation. The auditors noted they were impressed by TOCDF's strong commitment to its EMS, employee involvement and problem solving.

An EMS is a set of "green" practices aimed at reducing water, fuel and power usage, while minimizing waste and increasing recycling and conservation efforts. The TOCDF's EMS has been ISO 14001 certified by U.S. Army agencies since 2005, but employees wanted an independent certification to demonstrate their commitment and that the EMS is operating under stringent standards.

The independent ISO 14001 will have to be re-evaluated regularly. The formal announcement regarding TOCDF's independent certification is expected next month.

## ATLIC operations

*(continued from page 2)*

use their former experience to gain a strong understanding of the ATLIC operations."

An Integrated Operations Demonstration (IOD) is scheduled to take place in August, marking the last step of the readiness review. To prove the readiness of both the equipment and the operators, ATLIC operations will be fully demonstrated for a number of stakeholders, including the Chemical Materials Agency, Army Materiel Command, Army Materiel System Analysis Activity and other oversight representatives. The IOD is an internal Army requirement to ensure that the contractor is ready to begin operations.

"Preparation activities are going well and I am confident that we will successfully demonstrate our readiness for agent operations," said Brewer.

The ATLIC will be used to destroy the depot's small stockpile of GA nerve and Lewisite blister agents. Agent operations are expected to begin in October.

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## CAMDS closure gaining momentum

Closure work at CAMDS is moving along at such a strong pace, demolition is now expected to begin in October, approximately four months earlier than planned.

Unventilated Monitoring Tests (UMTs) are currently underway and are planned throughout July and August for the remainder of CAMDS' facilities. All buildings must pass a UMT before they can be readied for demolition.

Meanwhile, the number of buildings that have already completed successful UMTs continues to grow and includes: the material treatment and chemical test facilities, the explosive containment cubicle, the metal parts furnace and the residual storage area.

"The collaboration from everyone is phenomenal," said Jerry Linn, CAMDS Site Project Manager. "It's been that unified support from everyone—URS, Battelle, Mellor, the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and CMA—that has made this pace possible."