



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
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PRESS RELEASE

Deseret Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WASTEWATER DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS COMPLETED

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, Utah – Workers at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) today successfully completed wastewater, or hydrolysate, processing operations, safely eliminating the stockpile of the hazardous waste liquid and its containers which had been stored at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD).

The wastewater was the product of an in-situ (in place) chemical neutralization testing conducted between 1999 and 2001 at DCD's former research and development facility, the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). It was produced when CAMDS workers neutralized VX nerve agent by mixing it with water.

The DCD wastewater was contained in 12 bulk containers, each containing approximately 1,500 to 1,700 pounds of the liquid, as well as 43 smaller sample bottles containing no more than two-and-a-half pounds each.

"The wastewater was not chemical agent, but was the byproduct of an in-situ neutralization test program that was previously conducted at CAMDS," said Col. Raymond T. Van Pelt, commander, Deseret Chemical Depot. "The testing of this process was designed to destroy the VX by adding a small amount of water to these containers over a short period of time."

"This was a non-normal processing operation for TOCDF that required special training, meticulous planning and execution," said Gary McCloskey, general manager of the TOCDF systems contractor EG&G Defense Materials, Inc, "Our workers used professionalism and precision, ensuring this material was destroyed safely and environmentally protectively."

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“This was another successful TOCDF destruction campaign,” added Ted Ryba, TOCDF Site Project Manager.

TOCDF workers first processed the in-situ hydrolysate sample bottles in mid-August, destroying the bottles and their contents using the plant’s Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and one of two liquid incinerators. Then, over the next five weeks, workers drained the contents of each bulk container, drawing the wastewater into more than 500 five gallon cans for processing through the MPF one-at-a-time. After bulk containers were drained of their liquid contents, they, in turn, were also processed through the MPF.

After being processed through the MPF, decontaminated metal from the bulk containers and five gallon cans was shipped to a licensed hazardous waste landfill located in Utah’s west desert for final disposal.

TOCDF work activities now are being concentrated on preparing the plant for processing of the last major category of chemical munitions being stored at DCD, those containing mustard blister agents. The Mustard Agent Destruction Campaign is scheduled to start in fall of 2006.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is responsible for safely storing and eliminating the United States’ aging chemical weapons and agent stockpiles and for the safe elimination of recovered chemical materiel.

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