



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY
Deseret Chemical Depot

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HAZARDOUS WASTE OPERATIONS HALTED AT CAMDS FACILITY

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, Utah -- Depot officials today stopped all hazardous waste operations at the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) facility because of findings identified in a letter from the State of Utah.

Col. Raymond T. Van Pelt, commander, Deseret Chemical Depot made the decision based on a letter from Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste who had conducted a review of operations at CAMDS last week.

"We take the issues addressed by DSHW seriously," said Van Pelt, "and will not consider restarting operations until we have corrected all deficiencies and achieved a disciplined operational mindset and approach at CAMDS. We have initiated this work stoppage on our own because we are absolutely committed to the safety of our workers and the public," he added.

Less than two weeks ago the Depot announced the Army's decision to transition the former research and development facility to a new mission of secondary waste segregation and closure. Secondary wastes are routinely generated as a normal part of storage and disposal of chemical weapons. Some of these wastes are classified as hazardous because they are contaminated with low levels of agent-residue. Typical secondary waste includes items such as personal protective equipment (PPE), insulation, cleaning materials, tools, steel containers and munitions casings.

The facility will continue with operations necessary to meet permit requirements.

Since the 1970s, the CAMDS facility has developed personal protective ensembles, monitoring systems, processing equipment and procedures currently in use by other chemical agent destruction facilities across the United States. CAMDS employs approximately 130 Army civilians and is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

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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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