



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# MEDIA RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Storage tank decontamination starting soon

*Team Industrial Services beginning work to heat tanks*

**NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT, Ind.** – The Army's Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project is one step closer to completing destruction of the former VX production facility here after selecting Team Industrial Services to decontaminate the facility's bulk agent storage tanks.

The Texas-based company with offices in Indiana will begin work this week to decontaminate eight tanks, which once stored the nerve agent VX, by using electrical resistance heating.

The Chemical Weapons Convention, a treaty under which the United States is destroying the former production facility, requires the tanks to be cut in half, which first requires decontamination.

Non-stockpile and depot officials held a public availability session in July to provide the local community with background information on the project, and to solicit input on how to decontaminate the tanks. Participants expressed their opinions and spoke with officials about two proposed treatment methods, electrical resistance heating and liquid decontamination. Heating was selected to treat the tanks based on feedback from this session, which emphasized how the process could increase worker safety and minimize waste compared to liquid decontamination.

During the heating process, operators will wrap a tank in electrical resistance heaters, which use no flame, then cover the tank with insulation and slowly heat it over a seven-to-ten hour period to 1,000 degrees F to drive any residual chemical agent off the tank walls. Once each tank is decontaminated, it will be cut and recycled.


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For more information contact the Chemical Materials Agency public affairs office at (800) 488-0648 (410) 436-3445 (410) 436-7491



U.S. ARMY NON-STOCKPILE CHEMICAL MATERIEL PROJECT

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Pre-operations are scheduled to begin in December. Officials expect to complete the work by spring 2006, well before the treaty milestone of April 2007. The community will be notified once this project is complete.

The Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project leads the nation in the development and use of advanced technology to safely eliminate America's non-stockpile chemical materiel in an environmentally sound and cost-effective manner. A division of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, the project researches and develops treatment options and destruction plans that comply with all federal, state and local regulations. Public involvement is welcome in non-stockpile activities. Visit <http://www.cma.army.mil/nscmp.aspx> for additional information.

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