



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations

August 29, 2006

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Newport Milestones/Facts

Milestone Dates

- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for the U.S. defense stockpile
- 1969: President Nixon issues a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons, including the last two batches of VX produced at Newport
- 1999: Army awards systems contract to Parsons Corporation to design, construct and operate NECDF
- 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5

Using neutralization technology, workers at NECDF have safely destroyed:

Approximately 620,854 pounds of agent (approximately 73,563 gallons)

Activities: Using the ton container line, 362 empty ton containers have been completely decontaminated. Workers at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility will pause operations for approximately three days this week to review lessons learned from storm-related power outages and also to replace three-way valves in the reactor system.

Continuing the Legacy of Safety

The Newport team continues to build upon their legacy of safety – from chemical agent manufacture and shipment in the 1960s, to nearly 40 years of safe storage and finally to the start of agent destruction operations. By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECDF will remove the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States will be safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.

- Our top priority remains the safety of the surrounding communities, site personnel and environment.
- During start up, deliberate actions and thorough review of data will be conducted to verify performance before increasing production rates.
- Processing areas are ventilated and maintained under negative pressure. Air drawn from these areas is controlled, monitored and filtered through carbon units before being released into the environment in order to meet state and federal clean air standards.
- Monitoring air within the depot is a vital part of processing chemical agent. More than 70 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the facility, with approximately 4,000 samples taken daily.



Steel Container Transport



Chemical Agent Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

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Outreach Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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(Evening hours available by appointment)

Newport stockpile consists of:



Liquid chemical agent VX housed in steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW