



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla Chemical Depot

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Depot receives approval for closure of I-Block storage facility

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – The Umatilla Chemical Depot has received approval from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) for the closure of the I-block storage facility. The closure went into effect Dec. 7, 2009. The approval confirms that the closure process has met ODEQ's agent free determination requirements.

Mustard (HD) ton containers were stored in the I-Block area from 2001 to 2006, when they were safely transferred to the depot's Chemical Limited Area.

The approval marks a first for the depot and the Chemical Materials Agency in closure of permitted chemical weapons agent storage igloos. Closure of the remaining igloos used to store chemical agent munitions will be conducted using the same planning as the closure activities for I-block. The igloos that store chemical munitions at the depot are regulated according to requirements of the state of Oregon and federal government regulations. UMCD and ODEQ worked closely during the process. Personnel from the UMCD Environmental Division, Chemical Operations Directorate and contractors from Vista Engineering and RMCI contributed to the successful planning, execution and completion of the closure project.

“Teamwork along with a focus on safety and protection of the environment facilitated this major accomplishment for the depot in its progress toward closure. The planning and proven methods used to close I-Block will form the backbone for eventual closure of the Chemical Limited Area,” said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, depot commander.

The I-Block contains 30 hazardous waste chemical agent storage units or igloos. The closure resulted from three years of closure planning under the depot's Hazardous Waste Storage Permit.

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