



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

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Disposal Facility Completes Agent Trial Burns, Reaches Several Milestones

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, HERMISTON, Ore. – Saturday, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility completed state permit-required GB (sarin) Agent Trial Burns in its Deactivation Furnace System and, in the process, accomplished a number of milestones.

The Deactivation Furnace System GB trial burns, which are designed to demonstrate the plant's operational capabilities without exceeding permitted pollutant levels, involved four GB rocket disposal processing runs monitored by an independent sub-contractor. The final run was completed Saturday afternoon. Similar tests on the facility's Liquid Incinerator 1 are now underway.

"While I'm pleased we've completed this important milestone, of greater significance is the tremendous pride our Depot workforce has for the safe manner in which they have emptied seven storage igloos, destroyed more than 23 percent of the GB rockets, destroyed more than 100 tons of GB agent, and are reducing public risk from storing these weapons," said Don Barclay, the Army's Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility site project manager.

Also, now that the Deactivation Furnace System GB trial burns are complete, the facility will resume processing rockets from the same manufacturing lots as three rockets that caught fire during disposal activities in separate incidents in April and May. Rather than potentially disrupting the Deactivation Furnace System trial burns, the facility deferred processing these rockets until the trial burns were complete.

Depot Commander Lt. Col. David "Doc" Holliday, who will conclude his two-year Depot tour at a July 14 change-of-command ceremony, said the Depot has accomplished much.

"As I leave, I'm very pleased with what the employees have accomplished in the storage and disposal of chemical weapons," he said. "I'm also grateful for the community's continuing support. Together we can be proud of what we have achieved."

-30-

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