



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT

For Immediate Release:
Date: Nov. 17, 2005
Time: 4:30 p.m.

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Umatilla facility targets lab waste for disposal

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – Laboratory waste in temporary storage will be processed through the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF), marking another chemical weapons disposal milestone – destroying secondary wastes.

A dozen 55-gallon drums with “laboratory gray water” have been moved from state-permitted waste storage igloos to the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) within the facility. The gray water is a soap solution that will be destroyed in the Liquid Incinerator. Lab workers generated the solution primarily from cleaning glassware and other equipment used in day-to-day monitoring activities since November 1999. In all, about 160 drums of this solution will be incinerated.

“Processing this solution is an important step forward in keeping our commitment to destroy secondary wastes generated during weapons disposal,” said Don Barclay, UMCDF Army Site Project Manager.

“Eliminating secondary wastes is as important as destroying chemical agents,” Barclay said. “The Army has committed to this community that it will not leave behind a legacy of waste. Our permit with the state of Oregon also requires we destroy the waste. We are meeting these commitments.”

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality recently approved a permit modification request allowing the UMCDF to both process this stored waste and to handle future such waste within the MDB rather than having to put it in storage. The soap solution will be transferred from a laboratory holding tank directly to the Liquid Incinerator for disposal.

**For more information,
contact the
Chemical Materials
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