



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla Chemical Depot

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Disposal operations resume at UMCDF

Umatilla Chemical Depot, Hermiston, Ore. – Disposal of mustard ton containers resumed shortly before midnight Tuesday at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) after an annual maintenance outage of the facility’s Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).

In accordance with the facility’s Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) permit, the facility will operate at 50 percent of the permitted Agent Trial Burn rate while officials from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) analyze data from the test burns. The RCRA permit allows for increased rates once the Agent Trial Burn (ATB) data has been analyzed and an increase is authorized by the DEQ. UMCDF will work closely with DEQ to increase the operations rate as permitted.

The ATB was completed on June 27 and the MPF outage began June 28. Prior to the maintenance outage, 374 mustard ton containers had been destroyed or 14.2 percent of UMCDF’s mustard agent stockpile.

“UMCDF is committed to safely restarting mustard agent destruction operations and to working closely with DEQ to ensure environmental compliance is achieved,” said Gary Anderson, UMCDF Site Project Manager. “The UMCDF personnel have worked extremely hard to set the stage for success. My thanks to each and every individual for their professionalism and dedication to this critical national project.”

The Army is working to dispose of the mustard ton containers safely and compliantly to meet the Chemical Weapons Treaty Convention deadline of April 2012. “We will do all we can to comply with the international treaty, but safety guides the schedule,” said Steve Warren, project general manager for URS, the company that built and operates UMCDF for the Army. “A successful trial burn was a great step towards reaching that goal.”

“UMCD government employees and contractors have worked hard on completing a successful trial burn. I am very pleased with their progress and look forward to continuing operations to safely and compliantly destroy the remaining chemical stockpile,” said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, depot commander.

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This is the 13th and final chemical weapons disposal campaign undertaken by the UMCDF since the start of chemical disposal operations in September 2004. The last of the nerve agent destroyed at the depot occurred on Nov. 5, 2008, with disposal of the last VX munitions. The total number of munitions destroyed to date since the start of operations is 218,223.

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