

Newport Chemical Depot Timeline

1958-61: The VX facility is built. In 1961, VX production begins.

1961-68: Chemical agent VX is manufactured. The facility produces 4,400 tons of VX. The Army ships munitions by rail to Newport and fills them with VX before shipping to U.S. defense stockpiles. Newport was the only U.S. site to manufacture VX. In 1968, President Richard Nixon ceases chemical weapons production.

1969: A moratorium is placed on the transportation of VX shipments—•The final inventory of VX lots are “trapped” on site. Newport safely stores approximately four percent of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile.

1969-2008: The VX stockpile is safely stored during this time.

1992: To address growing public concern over the use of incineration, Congress directs the Army to evaluate alternative disposal approaches that might be “significantly safer” and more cost effective than the baseline system and that could be used to complete disposal operations to meet the Congressionally—•mandated deadline of Dec. 31, 2004. The Army was directed to report their findings by Dec. 31, 1993.

1996: JAN. 27, 1996: The Army hosts a public meeting at South Vermillion High School to discuss each alternative treatment technology under consideration for destruction of the VX stockpile housed at the Newport Chemical Depot.

1997: The CWC Treaty is ratified. The decision is made to use neutralization technology at Newport and Aberdeen, Md.

1997: JUNE 1997: The Newport Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office opens in Newport, Ind.

1999: FEB. 18, 1999: The Army awards contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Cal., to design, build, systemize, operate and close the NECDF in Newport, Ind.

2000: APRIL 8, 2000: Ground is broken to signify the start of construction for the NECDF.

2000: SEPT. 20, 2000: The Army announces proposed cost-saving design change for NECDF. Original NECDF design called for agent destruction using neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO), which produces non-toxic salt water. The original design included an evaporator/crystallizer that separated the water from the salt. The original plan was to discharge the water to the depot’s wastewater treatment facility and send the salts to an off-site disposal facility. The proposed design change removes the evaporator/crystallizer from the treatment process and calls for the off-site transport and treatment of the salt water from the SCWO system.

2002: MAY 21, 2002: The Army holds public information meeting at the Newport Lions Club to announce plans for accelerating destruction of the chemical agent housed at NECD.

1999-2003: Design and construction of Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility takes place.

2003-2005: Pre-Operational Testing at NECDF occurs.

2005: MAY 5, 2005: NECDF safely begins agent neutralization operations.

2007: APRIL 5, 2007: The Army issues a contract with Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, to treat hydrolysate created from the VX neutralization process. The first trucks leave Newport April 16.

2007: APRIL 26, 2007: NECDF workers achieve the 50-percent VX destruction milestone.

2008: JAN. 8, 2008: NECDF workers achieve the 75-percent VX destruction milestone.

2008: JULY 28, 2008: The last TC of the Newport stockpile is moved from storage igloos into the NECDF.

2008: AUG. 8, 2008: The Newport work force achieves 100 percent chemical stockpile elimination.