



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency

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For more information contact:
Greg Mahall
(410) 436-1093

Hurricane Humberto Had Minimal Impact on Army Hydrolysate Efforts Veolia/Army Measures Taken Helped to Weather Storm

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — Precautionary measures put in place in advance of the first hurricane to hit the United States in two years helped ensure public safety and further demonstrates the commitment to safety evident in the U.S. Army's Chemical Weapons Disposal program and its program partners.

Hurricane Humberto hit the Texas coast Thursday, Sept. 13, with heavy rains and 80 mile-an-hour winds. It made landfall near Beaumont, Texas, in the general area near the Veolia Environmental Services facility currently under contract with the Army to destroy aqueous waste. The waste, commonly called Newport hydrolysate, is produced in the neutralization of bulk chemical agent VX stored at the Army's Newport Chemical Depot located in Newport, Ind.

Representatives at Veolia reported to the Army Thursday that the facility survived the hurricane's landing intact with minimal damage. Power at the plant, like other facilities in the area of impact, was not yet available. There was some loose sheet metal damage at the plant but no other substantial damage. Veolia officials made the decision to take the incinerator complex offline when indications were that the hurricane's projected path included the incinerator complex. All waste at the facility is currently secure, including the tank that holds the hydrolysate once it is offloaded from its transportation vehicles.

The last shipment of trucks from Newport to Veolia arrived Wednesday night before the hurricane landed and were secured under cover prior to the hurricane coming on shore. Those trucks and isotainers remain secure and all contents accounted for.

Veolia and Army officials have decided that in order to maintain safety commitments, the remaining shipments scheduled for this week will be postponed. Shipments are expected to resume next week, depending on power restoration to the plant and the area.

As of Sept. 12, 2007, the Newport Chemical Depot and Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility have drained almost 1,100 of the nearly 1,700 original ton containers of bulk VX agent. The Army, Veolia and Tri-State Motors, the sub-contractor to Veolia in charge of transporting the liquid Newport hydrolysate to Texas, have safely shipped 169 intermodal containers to the Veolia facility, totaling 600,858 gallons of liquid waste. Veolia has safely destroyed 579,748 gallons of that waste, resulting in the equivalent of almost 1 million pounds of VX disposal credit for the United States as outlined by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the international governing body in charge of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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NOTE: Some information in the above press release was compiled from Associated Press reports covering Hurricane Humberto.

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