



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Umatilla Chemical Depot

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Umatilla receives DEQ approval for Rinsate Collection System

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – On March 16, 2011, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality approved a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit modification request submitted by the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility to install a Rinsate Collection System.

“The new Rinsate Collection System provides the U.S. Army and our contractors another tool to ensure the United States achieves the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty date of April 2012,” said Gary Anderson, site project manager for the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The first step in the destruction of a HD mustard agent ton container is to drain the liquid HD. This leaves a solid in the TC known as heel (the solid portion created from years of settling during storage).

The UMCDF currently sprays the inside of a drained ton container containing heel with high-pressure hot water to partially mobilize the heel and transfer the resulting mixture of heel and water, referred to as HD rinsate, to one or more recipient TCs. The recipient TCs of HD rinsate are treated in the Metal Parts Furnace, roughly doubling the amount of TCs that must be processed in the MPF.

“Installation and testing of the Rinsate system has been ongoing under a temporary authorization request approved by the Oregon DEQ on Oct. 1, 2010,” said Steve Warren, project manager for the URS system contractor. “The team of

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professionals who designed, fabricated and installed the systems have done an outstanding job of getting the critical system ready to operate.”

The RCS is an additional method of treatment for the HD rinsate by transferring the liquid directly to storage tanks and then processing through one of two Liquid Incinerators. The system is expected to be operational in April.

UMCDF is in its 13th and final campaign of destroying chemical agent. To date, UMCDF has destroyed 1,402 TCs with 1,233 remaining. UMCDF anticipates destroying the last mustard agent by December.

UMCDF