



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility begins using Rinsate Collection System**

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – Saturday, April. 16, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility began use of the Rinsate Collection System, an improved process that allows for more efficient use of facility incinerators for the destruction of the Umatilla stockpile of HD mustard agent.

“We are one step closer to fulfilling our Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty obligations well ahead of the April 2012 deadline,” said Gary Anderson, site project manager for the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. “The successful implementation of this unique system is the result of outstanding efforts on the part of our design, installation and operations teams.”

The HD ton containers typically have a solidified residue that remains after draining the liquid agent. This residue is removed by using high pressure hot water. This mixture is called rinsate. This rinsate has been fed to the metal parts furnace in previously used TCs, which reduce the throughput of stockpile ton containers that could be treated in that furnace each day.

“Our workers are eager to begin operation of the rinsate system, which will safely speed up the process of getting rid of the remaining ton containers of mustard at Umatilla,” said Steve Warren, project general manager for URS, the company that built and operates the plant. “The safety of our workers and the public remains our top priority.”

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The Rinsate Collection System is a series of self-cleaning filters, pumps, valves and piping, and storage tanks that allows rinsate to be processed in one of the two available liquid incinerators. This reduces the amount of material treated in the metal parts furnace.

In March, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality granted a modification of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Permit to allow rinsate to be processed through a liquid incinerator. Installation began in October 2010 following a temporary authorization request approved by the Oregon DEQ.

UMCDF is in its 13th and final campaign of destroying chemical agent and has destroyed 1,536 TCs, leaving 1,099 to process. UMCDF anticipates destroying the last mustard agent by November.

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