

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Contractor Notifying Affected Employees Ahead of First Reductions-in-Force in January and March**

**DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, UTAH** — URS officials at the U.S. Army's Utah-based chemical weapons incinerator here, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF), today began a formal process of notifying contractor employees who will be affected by the first scheduled reductions-in-force (RIF) in January and March 2012.

Out of a contractor work force of about 1,200, 72 affected employees are being notified at least 90 days in advance of the January RIF. Another 25 employees are being notified ahead of the March RIF.

Since 1996, TOCDF employees have been working to safely eliminate what once was the Army's single-largest stockpile of aging, deteriorating chemical weapons under the provisions of an international treaty. The Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) stockpile originally was comprised of more than 13,000 tons of nerve and blister agents contained within more than one million individual explosive and non-explosive munitions and bulk containers. All chemical weapons destruction operations on DCD are expected to be completed by February 2012, with phased facility closure operations scheduled to continue through summer 2014.

Among the first employees to be affected by the first RIFs are about 30 workers assigned to the closure of the Army's former chemical weapons disposal research and development plant, the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS), also located on DCD. Closure work is in the final stages there, with facility demolition by a separate contractor firm expected to begin in January.

Other affected workers work in a variety of positions across the TOCDF combined projects, which include the TOCDF plant and Area 10 operations, including the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) project for the disposal of GA nerve agent and Lewisite blister agent; and secondary waste disposal.

Most contractor workers who remain employed until their organizational release dates will be eligible to receive significant incentive payments, plus additional payments for assisting the project in meeting performance objectives.

Workers over the years have been provided with generous education benefits. In just the last three years, more than 50 employees have earned new college degrees, while dozens more have added a variety of new professional certifications.

Eventually, all TOCDF workers will be affected by a RIF. Each will be entitled to receive new job search training, including resume writing, interviewing and networking skills development. Severance will be paid according to eligibility. Employees also are encouraged to apply for other positions available across URS. Additionally, URS has been in contact with other employers here in Utah about the availability of skilled, quality personnel who have made outstanding contributions on a successful major national and international project.

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