



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information contact:
Michael Fletcher, Public Affairs Office
(541) 564-5418/5312
Hal McCune, URS Protocol
(541) 564-7304

UMCDF skyline changes as brine stack comes down

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – The first obvious physical change to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) since the completion of agent processing last week occurred this morning when the Brine Reduction Area (BRA) pollution abatement system (PAS) stack was removed.

“Today, the UMCDF plant skyline changed for the first time since construction was completed in 2001,” said Gary Anderson, UMCDF Site Project Manager. “Closure activities have now begun in earnest.”

Subcontractor Brandenburg Industrial made torch cuts on the 65-foot-high exhaust stack and then used a crane to lift the two sections to the ground. The entire BRA-PAS building is being removed as closure work at the plant gears up. The BRA-PAS demolition work is expected to be completed by next month.

About half of the plant structures will be demolished over the next two to three years to comply with the UMCDF's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit from the state. All areas used to process chemical agent or the exhaust from the furnaces will be torn down.

The BRA was used to process brine generated during the GB and VX nerve agent campaigns. Brine generated during the recently-completed mustard blister agent campaign was shipped off-site for disposal.

UMCDF completed the mustard processing campaign on Oct. 25, culminating more than seven years of operations that destroyed more than 220,000 individual munitions and about 3,720 tons of chemical agent.

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