



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY Deseret Chemical Depot

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OPERATIONS TO DESTROY LEWISITE AGENT BEGIN AT DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, Utah -- U.S. Army contractor workers at Deseret Chemical Depot's Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) today began destruction operations targeting the last bulk agent stockpile—less than one dozen ton containers of Lewisite blister agent, the only such stockpile in the United States.

Workers utilize specially designed glove boxes to safely drain the agent from the ton containers. Because Lewisite is known to contain heavy metals, the agent is first fed to a holding tank where it will be sampled prior to being thermally destroyed in the liquid incinerator.

Lewisite operations will gradually ramp up in preparation for emissions testing, which is required under the project's operating permit. Results from the emissions testing will be provided to Utah state regulatory officials from the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and Department of Air Quality for approval.

ATLIC Lewisite operations are now running parallel with the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's mustard agent projectile operations. Both facilities are expected to complete operations by late January, marking the end of the chemical weapons destruction mission at DCD.

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The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is a dedicated team whose expertise and oversight sets the standards of excellence and leadership in safely storing the nation's aging chemical weapons and developing programs aimed at effectively recovering, treating and ultimately eliminating the nation's chemical warfare materiel. CMA personnel also enhance national security by providing specialized products and capabilities to our nation's Warfighters, and homeland defense and response capabilities. CMA encourages public participation and is committed to worker and public safety, and environmental stewardship. For more information about CMA and its programs, visit www.cma.army.mil.

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