

News Release



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CONTACT: Mark Mesesan
Project Communications Specialist
Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility
Office: (435) 882-5888
Cell: (435) 830-7068

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U.S. OSHA AWARDS “STAR” SAFETY RECERTIFICATION TO URS AT TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT, STOCKTON, UTAH — The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has re-certified URS - Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) as a “Star” safe worksite, the federal agency’s highest safety recognition offered through its Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

The TOCDF, with its 1,000-plus contractor employee work force, first applied for OSHA VPP status in 2009, and following an initial site inspection by OSHA and private industry safety experts associated with VPP, the chemical weapons disposal plant and its people were awarded Star status. This year, following a required third-year site re-inspection conducted in June, OSHA VPP evaluators issued a report indicating the TOCDF’s safety and health management programs continued to meet the high quality expected of VPP participants.

Additionally, OSHA’s VPP review team recognized the TOCDF for six different “Areas of Excellence” also referred to as best practices: (1), Trend Analysis; (2), Condition Reporting Process; (3), Emergency Response Organization; (4), Occupational Medicine Program; (5), Pre-Job Briefings; and (6), Element Owner Program.

Earlier this year, TOCDF workers successfully completed their project mission, safely eliminating what once was the U.S. Army’s single-largest stockpile of aging, deteriorating chemical weapons under the provisions of an international treaty. URS and its subcontractor partners now are working to safely close the plant and project.

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