

**Tooele**  
Winter 2003

**Tooele  
Chemical Stockpile  
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## **Tooele County expands siren system** *Additional sirens expand emergency signal range*

Emergency experts will now reach more people with the potentially life-saving “whoop-whoop” tone of sirens, due to the addition of emergency warning signals in more remote areas. Tooele County Emergency Management (TCEM) is expanding its outdoor warning system by adding 23 new sirens to areas not covered by the current system, including Grantsville, Stansbury, Erda, and Pine Canyon. Siren coverage will also be increased in Tooele City, Rush Valley and in the Cedar Valley in Utah County.

“The coverage of the original siren system, with 37 sirens, only met minimum requirements at the time it was installed in 1994,” said Kari Sagers, director of TCEM. “With population growth and increased recreational use in the county, we felt it was necessary to expand our emergency notification capabilities throughout the Tooele and Rush Valleys.”

The sirens are mounted on top of a 45-foot high pole, and consist of a sound horn, solar panels and radio controls. “All of the work involved in siren site acquisition has been worth it, knowing that the community will be a safer place,” said John Michaelson, the project’s leading technician.

“Although the notification system is funded through the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP), we are pleased that Tooele County benefits by having an all-hazard warning system for the major population areas,” said Sagers.

The cost of upgrading the warning system is approximately \$1.2 million, and repairing and maintaining the siren system can be costly. A penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine is in place to discourage vandalism. Tooele County also offers a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the conviction of anyone causing damage to the equipment.



*Tooele County Emergency Management is expanding its outdoor warning system by adding 23 new sirens to areas not covered by the current system.*

Sirens are tested every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. In the event of an actual emergency, the outdoor warning system is programmed with 16 pre-recorded emergency messages. In the event of activation of the system, an appropriate message is played, followed by the “whoop-whoop” tone, and a repeat of the message. Those who don’t understand the emergency message should tune to an Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio or TV station for further information. Do not call 911 unless it’s a life-threatening emergency.

For more information regarding the siren system or other emergency preparedness questions, call TCEM at 435-843-3260.

*"We are totally committed to the safety of the workforce, public and environment. All of the NRC's recommendations are being studied; many of them are already in place or are being implemented at Tooele. We recognize that a strong safety culture is critical to safe disposal of the chemical agent stockpile. Safety is our number one priority."*

*- Dale A. Ormond,  
TOCDF site project  
manager*

## Independent report concludes incineration is safe

The National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council (NRC) has issued a report stating that incineration of chemical weapons is safe. Quoting from the NRC press release dated December 2002, "Chemical weapons stored in Alabama, Arkansas, and Oregon can be safely incinerated as long as facility managers follow rigorous procedures, encourage a strong culture of safety among personnel, and learn from unanticipated incidents that occurred at the first two facilities designed to destroy chemical munitions..."

Dale Ormond, Project Manager of the Army's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) said, "I hope community members will read the report to keep informed and involved in the chemical weapons disposal process." The report is titled *Evaluation of Chemical Events at Army Chemical Agent Disposal Facilities*. The National Academy of Sciences is an independent, private, nonprofit society of scientists and engineers that advises the federal government on scientific and technical matters. Members of the NRC prepared the report after receiving congressional concern about incidents at the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS), southwest of Hawaii, and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal facility (TOCDF) in Utah.

Committee members reviewed 81 incidents at TOCDF and JACADS to identify possible causes of those events. The report examines process technology, operations, training, maintenance and management. Also reviewed are risk management and safety programs and emergency response activities. In addition, NRC members visited the two facilities, interviewed personnel, and met with elected government officials. Those officials included then Congressman Bob Riley (R-Ala.), now Governor-elect and representatives from Calhoun and Talladega counties. Also meeting with the NRC were other citizens, activists and government officials from Alabama. The group received presentations from the Utah Citizens Advisory Commission on Chemical Demilitarization as well as from a former employee and whistle-blower from TOCDF. Members also visited the Anniston, Alabama Demil facility.

After the NRC report was prepared, two additional chemical events occurred at TOCDF and JACADS. Preface notes in the report indicate the new incidents were, "... similar in nature to events analyzed by the committee and reinforce the validity of the findings and the utility of the recommendations presented in this report."

The report recommends that "destruction of aging chemical munitions should proceed as quickly as possible, consistent with operational activities designed to protect the health and safety of the workforce, the public, and the environment." It also makes 19 recommendations in the areas of chemical events data and definition, monitoring, risk assessment, event investigation and analyses, impacts of chemical events, establishing a safety culture and new facility start-up.

Ormond welcomes the recommendations. "We are totally committed to the safety of the workforce, public and environment," he said. "All of the NRC's recommendations are being studied; many of them are already in place or are being implemented at Tooele." He added, "We recognize that a strong safety culture is critical to safe disposal of the chemical agent stockpile. Safety is our number one priority."

Ormond notes that TOCDF has a rigorous training program, including regular retraining. "Our operators are trained at the Chemical Demilitarization Training Facility in Maryland. Once they complete that training they are qualified." However, Ormond stresses that each qualified operator has to complete a hands-on certification program at Tooele to know the process and then demonstrate proficiency in putting that knowledge into use safely.

In conclusion, Ormond says, "This report from national scientists and technical experts adds weight to the congressional mandate for us to safely dispose of the aging munitions stockpiled here at Tooele." The TOCDF plant has completed safe disposal of all of the GB (Sarin) nerve agent once stored at Desert Chemical Depot. Plant workers are now preparing to destroy VX nerve agent. "We are committed to proceed with that mission safely and effectively," says Ormond. "We are moving ahead to remove the entire stockpile storage risk for ourselves, our families, friends and neighbors."

The NRC report agrees, "...the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles are significant hazards to the communities surrounding them... destruction of the aging chemical weapons should proceed as quickly as possible consistent with operational activities designed to protect the health and safety of the workforce, the public, and the environment."

The complete report is available for viewing on-line at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309086299/html/> or it can be read at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 54 South Main, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

# Disposal mission progressing nationwide

## Aberdeen, Maryland

- On Sept. 6, 2002, the Army celebrated construction completion of its neutralization disposal facility located on Aberdeen Proving Ground. The facility is now undergoing an extensive, six-month testing period to prepare for the March 2003 start of disposal operations.
- Using an accelerated neutralization process, stockpile destruction is slated for completion by September 2003, nearly two years ahead of the original schedule.

## Anniston, Alabama

- The facility is now undergoing an extensive testing period to prepare for agent disposal operations.

## Hermiston, Oregon

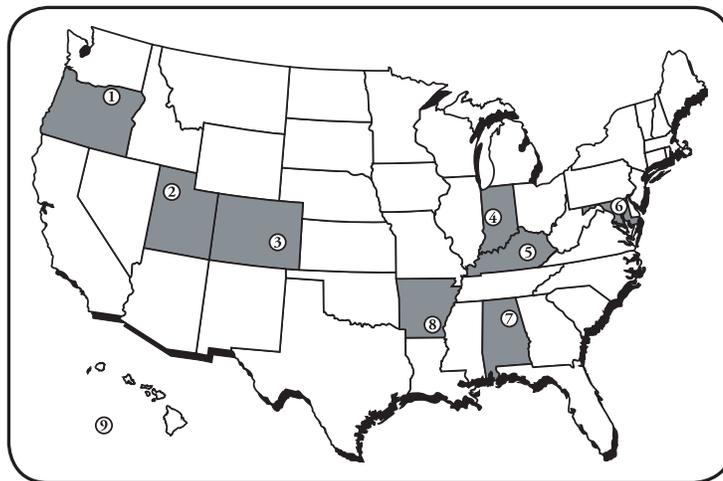
- Gov. John Kitzhaber approved CSEPP readiness, enabling the Army to proceed with demonstrating that the facility can safely incinerate surrogates that are more difficult to process than actual chemical agent.
- Currently the facility is in the surrogate trial burn process, in preparation for agent disposal operations which are scheduled to begin next year.

## Johnston Island, Pacific

- The JACADS team continues to proceed with closure activities including processing secondary waste and removing equipment.
- Final closure is scheduled for January 2004, marking official completion of the Army's disposal mission on Johnston Island.

## Newport, Indiana

- Construction of the neutralization facility is approximately 60 percent complete. The Army plans to begin agent disposal operations in October 2003 and destroy the entire stockpile by April 2004, approximately two years ahead of the original schedule.
- In compliance with environmental regulations indicating that all former chemical agent production facilities must be destroyed, the Army released an environmental assessment evaluating the potential impacts of dismantling Newport Chemical Depot's former chemical agent production facility.



## Stockpile Locations

1. Hermiston, Ore.
2. Tooele, Utah
3. Pueblo, Colo.
4. Newport, Ind.
5. Richmond, Ky.
6. Edgewood, Md.
7. Anniston, Ala.
8. Pine Bluff, Ark.
9. Johnston Atoll, Pacific

## Pine Bluff, Arkansas

- The Army has completed construction of the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, which will employ incineration technology. Agent disposal operations are expected to begin in 2004.
- In August, the Army held public meetings to discuss methods for destroying the non-stockpile chemical materiel stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal. Non-stockpile items include binary chemical weapon components and recovered warfare.

## Pueblo, Colorado

- In July, Under Secretary of Defense Pete Aldridge announced that neutralization followed by biodegradation technology, or "neut/bio," will be used to destroy the Pueblo stockpile.

## Richmond, Kentucky

- Department of Defense officials have designated neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation as the "agency preferred technology" for full-scale pilot testing at the Blue Grass Army Depot near Richmond, Kentucky.

## Tooele, Utah

- The stockpile of GB nerve agent has been eliminated. This represents 44 percent of the chemical agent and 81 percent of the munitions stored at the Desert Chemical Depot.
- The facility is preparing to incinerate VX nerve agent and expects to complete the disposal campaign in 2003.

For additional updates and current events, please visit our Web site at <http://www.pcmd.army.mil>.

## Ormond named TOCDF site project manager



*Dale A. Ormond, TOCDF site project manager*

The Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization has named a Naval Academy graduate and former military officer as the site project manager for the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) at Deseret Chemical Depot. Dale A. Ormond, whose previous experience includes nuclear energy and hazardous waste expertise, has been the acting site project manager at Tooele since March. As the PM, he oversees all operations regarding the safe disposal of chemical materiel stored at TOCDF.

Ormond's previous assignments include work at the Department of the Energy (DOE) Savannah River Site, where he served as the senior project manager and team leader for the Transuranic Waste Program. In this position, he directed all onsite activities associated with the storage, treatment, and disposal of mixed and non-mixed transuranic wastes. A concurrent assignment included service as the senior program manager and team leader for the Mixed Hazardous Waste Program, a position he held since June 1999.

Prior to his Savannah River assignments, Ormond served as a nuclear engineer at the DOE's Office of the Departmental Liaison to the Defense Nuclear Facility's Safety Board, providing technical expertise and program management experience to resolve nuclear safety issues.

Before joining DOE, Ormond was a nuclear engineer for BDM Federal, Inc. at the DOE's Headquarters Hanford Programs Office, providing technical support on a wide variety of activities and initiatives such as project management; safety analysis report evaluation; and waste management program development, implementation and execution.

Active duty assignments include serving as an intelligence analyst at the Office of Naval Intelligence and as a nuclear submarine officer aboard the U.S.S. Sturgeon. The Nebraska native is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.