

Tooele
Spring 2003

Contact Us

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Chemical Stockpile
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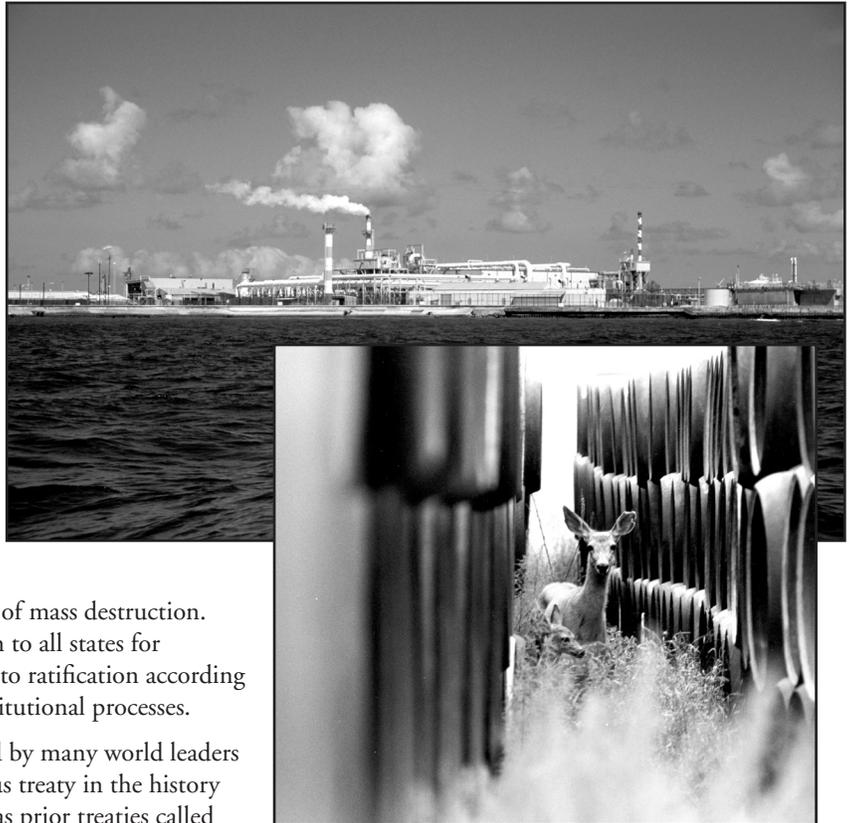
Treaty directs global destruction of chemical weapons

The Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty is a global contract prohibiting the development, production, stockpile, transfer and use of chemical weapons, as well as providing oversight for their destruction. The treaty, which became enforceable under international law on April 29, 1997, is the product of decades of international deliberations and negotiations on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. The Convention is open to all states for signature and is subject to ratification according to their respective constitutional processes.

The CWC is considered by many world leaders to be the most ambitious treaty in the history of arms control. Whereas prior treaties called for limited weapons or weapons use, the CWC requires the outright elimination of chemical weapons. Parties to the Convention must destroy any and all chemical weapons and chemical weapon production facilities. Specifically, the CWC prohibits:

- developing, producing, acquiring, retaining or transferring chemical weapons to anyone;
- using chemical weapons;
- engaging in any military preparations to use chemical weapons;
- assisting, encouraging or inducing in any way, anyone engaging in any activity prohibited under the CWC.

The CWC also requires each ratifying country possessing chemical weapons to destroy them in an environmentally safe manner. Routine



The Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System in the Pacific Ocean and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah have destroyed 25 percent of the nation's original stockpile of chemical weapons in an environmentally safe manner.

monitoring, involving visits and inspections of declared chemical weapons storage, production and destruction facilities, ensures compliance. An additional protocol allows ratifying countries to ask for international inspections in other participating countries in order to clarify any concerns over possible noncompliance.

With or without the CWC, the United States is destroying its chemical weapons and is considered an international leader in chemical weapons destruction. To date, the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System in the Pacific Ocean and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Tooele County, Utah, have destroyed 25 percent of the nation's original stockpile of chemical weapons.

Following completion of the VX disposal campaign at TOCDF, workers will prepare the facility for mustard disposal.

Mustard sampling begins at Deseret Chemical Depot

Although disposal of mustard agent at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) is not scheduled to start until the summer of 2004, sampling work has begun. The sampling is being performed by workers at the Oquirrh Mountain Facility (OMF), formerly known as the Chemical Agent Munition Disposal System (CAMDS), and satisfies state government requirements to determine the specific chemical components of the agent before actual disposal.

Because mustard agent freezes at approximately 55 degrees Fahrenheit, the 90 containers to be sampled have been identified and placed in a special igloo in the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) storage yard. Since sampling is scheduled for the next few cold weather months of winter and early spring, and frozen agent cannot be tested, the igloo was modified to facilitate thawing before transporting to OMF for sampling.

Before beginning, officials completed and provided a signed copy of a sampling work plan to the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste (DSHW). The Utah DSHW has regulatory oversight and must approve all chemical demilitarization activities at DCD prior to operation. The plan also conforms to the TOCDF Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan as well as Edgewood Chemical Biological Center laboratory analytical procedures. The Maryland-based Edgewood Chemical Biological Center will analyze the samples.

Following completion of the VX disposal campaign at TOCDF, workers will prepare the facility for mustard disposal. The steel bulk containers as well as the 155 mm projectiles are the first munitions scheduled for processing. DCD stores almost 6,200 tons of mustard agent.



An Oquirrh Mountain Facility Plant Operator, dressed in personal protective equipment, performs mustard sampling operations on a bulk container.

Tooele County adds electronic message boards

As part of its outdoor warning system, Tooele County Emergency Management (TCEM) has installed nine highway message boards. You may notice them along the highways in Rush Valley.

The highway message boards provide another resource for getting potentially life-saving information to the public in a timely manner. Each message board has a solar panel that charges a battery to provide power to the board.

The highway boards are preprogrammed with messages such as: “Warning, Chemical Incident, Proceed (direction) Quickly”; “Risk Area, No Entry, Tune to AM 1160 for Info”; or “Warning, Hazard Ahead, Turn Around Now.” Similar to the siren system, the message boards can be used for all hazards such as a hazardous materials incident, or an impending storm that might threaten motorists. The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program funded the message boards at a cost of approximately \$300,000.



Tooele County Emergency Management personnel recently installed the message boards to notify motorists of possible emergency situations such as hazardous materials incidents or impending storms.

While technicians bring the message board system online, drivers may see a message that says, “Tooele County Emergency Management, System Test in Progress.” Technicians can activate the message boards three ways: with a radio, a telephone modem or a paging system. Just like the warning sirens, the message boards can be activated in a group or individually.

The highway message boards provide another resource for getting potentially life-saving information to the public in a timely manner.

The message boards have been installed at the following locations:

- South of Grantsville on Mormon Trail Road for southbound traffic
- South of Stockton on SR-36 for southbound traffic
- South of Penny's Service outside of Stockton on SR-36 for southbound traffic
- SR-36 and the SR-73 junction for southbound traffic
- SR-36 at Clover Junction for northbound traffic
- SR-36 at the Faust turnoff for northbound traffic
- At Johnson's Pass and SR-199 for eastbound traffic
- SR-73 at Five Mile Pass for westbound traffic
- On the Ophir Canyon Road for outbound traffic

Tooele ORO welcomes new staff member

The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office has added to the team, welcoming Erda resident Angela Van Dam. Hired as an administrative assistant, her knowledge of office systems support and strong customer service background, in addition to familiarity with the Chemical

Demilitarization Program, translate into increased customer assistance for the Tooele community.

Van Dam previously served two summer internships for the outreach office in 2001 and 2002, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in business information systems from Utah State.



Say hello to the newest member of the outreach team, Angela Van Dam (center).

In addition to administrative support, her responsibilities include addressing community concerns and providing information about the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

The outreach office, located at 54 S. Main St. is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Come by and visit, pick up information about the chemical weapons disposal program and say hello to the newest member of the outreach team.

Get more information on the Web

Visit <http://www.pmcda.army.mil> to learn more about chemical weapons disposal in your community and across the country. The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office has a public access computer station you can use during regular business hours. No appointments are necessary, and the staff is available to help you find what you're looking for.