



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations September 21, 2005

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Newport Milestones/Facts

Milestone Dates

- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for U.S. defense stockpile
- 1969: President Richard Nixon issues a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons, including last two lots of VX produced at Newport
- 1999: Army awards systems contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Calif. to design, construct and operate NECDF
- 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5, 2005



Steel Container Transport

Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 35,812 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 4,251 gallons)

Activities: Four additional steel containers of chemical agent were drained last week and agent neutralization resumed Wednesday, September 14. Neutralization processing procedures to eliminate the flammability characteristics in the hydrolysate continues to be successful.

The valves used to replace the reactor diaphragms in reactor #2 were thoroughly tested and performed exactly as planned. Based on the success of the first diaphragm replacements, the same modifications will be initiated on reactor #1 this week. We will continue to assess and make adjustments as needed as we move toward safe, full-scale destruction operations.



Chemical Agent Transfer System

The Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (CHPPM), completed 5 days of sampling of our stack air monitoring system. The sampling is done in accordance with IDEM regulations.

Continuing the Legacy of Safety

The Newport team continues to build upon their legacy of safety—from chemical agent manufacture and shipment in the 1960s, to nearly 40 years of safe storage, to the start of agent destruction operations. By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECDF will remove the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States will be safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.

- Our top priority remains the safety of the surrounding communities, site personnel and environment.
- During start-up, deliberate actions and thorough review of data will be conducted to verify performance before increasing production rates.
- Processing areas are ventilated and maintained under negative pressure. Air drawn from these areas is controlled, monitored and filtered through carbon units before being released into the environment in order to meet state and federal clean air standards.
- Monitoring air within the depot is a vital part of processing chemical agent. More than 70 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the facility, with approximately 4,000 samples taken daily.



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

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Outreach Office Hours:
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday
(Evening hours available
by appointment)

Newport stockpile
consists of:



Liquid chemical
agent VX housed in
steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW