



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY  
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations October 12, 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



Chemical Agent Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

### Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 41,811 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 4,963 gallons)

Activities: VX destruction operations continue. Installation of the diaphragm valves and function testing are complete for both neutralization reactors. Both reactors have been placed back into operation. Maintenance and upgrades to the decontamination system for empty agent storage containers is complete. The decontamination system is undergoing function testing in preparation for return to service. Procedures have been developed and tested to support the transfer of the remaining flammable hydrolysate from a storage building on site into approximately three intermodal containers. Representatives from the Centers for Disease and Control (CDC) and Prevention will be on site this week to observe the transfer.

## 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.

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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