

PROGRESS UPDATE

DECEMBER 2005

ABERDEEN CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (ABCDF)

WHERE WE ARE

WORKERS MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS FINISHED CLEANING EMPTIED MUSTARD AGENT CONTAINERS

Workers at the ABCDF's Ton Container Cleanout Facility (TCC) have safely cleaned and decontaminated more than 84 percent* of the containers that once stored mustard agent at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The TCC process is the second phase of operations at ABCDF. The first phase, destroying the stored agent, was completed last March when the final batch of the drained mustard agent stockpile was neutralized. The TCC rinses the containers using highly pressurized hot water and steam to remove residual mustard agent from inside the containers. The containers are also decontaminated and cut in half during the process, then shipped off site for disposal as a non-hazardous waste. ABCDF engineers combined a wide variety of

* as of December 20, 2005

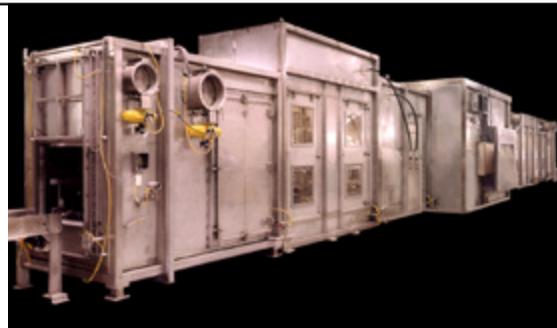


Photo courtesy of Bechtel Aberdeen

The ABCDF's Ton Container Cleanout Facility is designed to decontaminate, clean and cut in half drained mustard agent containers.

commercially proven equipment in a design unique to this task.

CLOSURE UPDATE

As part of initial closure activities, workers recently decontaminated and disassembled the first drain station glovebox at the ABCDF. Technicians once drained mustard agent from steel storage containers using thick

butyl gloves affixed to the glovebox. This box-like workstation allowed them to safely manipulate and drain the containers in a contained environment.

ABCDF Status of TCC Cleanout Operations as of December 20, 2005

Original Inventory of Drained TCs

1,817

TCs Cut and Cleared

1,533

Cut TCs Shipped for Final Disposal

1,480

TCs Awaiting Cleanout

284

RECENT EVENTS

The ABCDF outreach team has been on the road. On Sept. 12, the team participated in John Carroll High School's environmental fair where more than 300 students visited the ABCDF information booth. The team explained to John Carroll juniors how workers at the ABCDF finished neutralizing the stored liquid agent last March, and now are cleaning and decontaminating the agent storage containers in the ABCDF's one-of-a-kind pilot plant, the Ton Container Cleanout Facility.

On Sept. 15, the team traveled to Kent County, Md. to meet with residents of the Heron Point retirement community in Chestertown. A group of 45 seniors learned about the completion of agent neutralization, ongoing agent container cleaning and decontamination, and preparations to close the facility in 2007.

Workers transported the decontaminated pieces of the glovebox to a permitted off-site treatment storage and disposal facility where it was placed into a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved landfill. Workers carefully recorded each step of the disassembly and disposal process so that lessons learned can be applied to the disassembly of future drain stations and systems. The first of two phases of facility closure, closure planning, will continue until Ton Container Cleanout operations end in winter 2006. The second or final stage will involve the actual decontamination and dismantling of the facility using the work packages developed in stage one.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE COMPLETION OF OPERATIONS AT THE ABCDF AND CLOSURE?

While the physical location of our outreach office in Edgewood has closed, the outreach team still is available to provide information to the public, answer questions and coordinate presentations. Outreach team members may be contacted by calling (410) 436-7801 or CMA's toll free number (800) 488-0648. You may also contact the ABCDF Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-5253.



Bechtel Aberdeen public outreach manager, Brian Feeney, explains ABCDF's agent container cleanout activities and closure preparations to seniors at the Heron Point retirement community. Feeney also highlighted the successful neutralization of the liquid mustard agent last March.

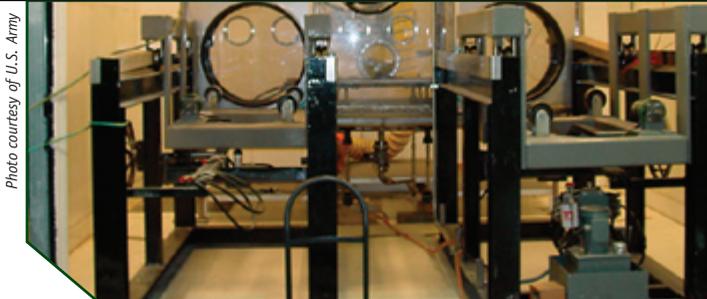


Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

Each of the ABCDF's drain station gloveboxes will be decontaminated, disassembled and disposed of in a permitted off-site disposal facility.

Finally, on Sept. 19, a group of 14 retired Aberdeen Proving Ground Chemical Corps personnel visited ABCDF where they learned about the facility's mission of safely destroying the chemical agent.