



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations

July 18, 2006

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Newport Milestones/Facts

Milestone Dates

- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for the U.S. defense stockpile
- 1969: President Richard Nixon issues a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons, including last two batches 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



Steel Container Transport



Chemical Agent Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 508,022 pounds of agent (approximately 60,194 gallons)

Activities: Workers at the Newport Chemical Depot have destroyed a quantity of nerve agent VX that exceeds the contents of one igloo (storage area) where the chemical agent VX is safely stored. The containers of agent were transported to the agent disposal facility where they were drained and the agent safely destroyed. There will be a pause in agent operations this week while the maintenance team replaces an agent pump located in the neutralization bay. Processing is scheduled to continue at the end of the week. Workers have started construction of the third phase of the additional intermodal container storage area. Phase two of the additional storage area is nearly complete.

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 and finally 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.

Public Affairs:

Terry Arthur
NECD/NECDF Public Affairs
(765) 245-4475

Ginger Corado
Parsons Public Affairs and
Outreach Manager
(765) 245-5831

Susan Gilman
Newport Chemical Stockpile
Outreach Office Manager
(765) 492-4445

Newport Chemical
Stockpile
Outreach Office
140 S. Main Street
Newport, Indiana 47966
Ph: (765) 492-4445
Fax: (765) 492-4475
Toll Free: (866) 300-9034

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