



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY  
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations

September 19, 2006

[WWW.CMA.ARMY.MIL](http://WWW.CMA.ARMY.MIL)

## Newport Milestones/Facts

### Milestone Dates

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

Using neutralization technology, workers at NECDF have safely destroyed:

**Approximately 650,996 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 77,134 gallons)**

Activities: Workers resumed neutralization operations after replacing three-way valves in the reactors and conducting function testing of the reactor system. Operations will continue as workers prepare for scheduled maintenance activity to clean one of the agent holding tanks and replace an agent pump later this week.

## 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.



Steel Container Transport



Chemical Agent Transfer System



Neutralization Reactor



Carbon Filtration Units

### Public Affairs:

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Monday - Friday  
(Evening hours available  
by appointment)

Newport stockpile  
consists of:



Liquid chemical  
agent VX housed in  
steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW