



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# WEEKLY UPDATE

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## NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT | December 19, 2006



The Newport stockpile consists of liquid chemical agent VX housed in steel containers.

### Continuing the Legacy of Safety

- Our top priority remains the safety of the workers, the surrounding communities and the environment.
- The Newport team is comprised of workers who, because of their combined experience and intensive training, are experts in safely storing, handling and destroying chemical weapons.
- Workers are dedicated to the safe storage of the Newport stockpile until agent destruction operations are completed.
- By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECD are removing the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States is safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.

### NECD Milestones

- 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 the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF)
- 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5

### New This Week at NECDF

Using neutralization technology, workers at NECDF have safely destroyed approximately 882,406 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 105,265 gallons) or 35 percent of the agent stockpile.

**Activities:** Workers at the NECDF will pause agent operations while they conduct cleanup activities in the reactor bay to remove a dry chemical fire suppressant that was inadvertently discharged during annual testing of the fire suppression system. Workers will resume agent operations after all cleanup activity is complete.



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