



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# WEEKLY UPDATE

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## NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT | August 7, 2007



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 neutralization operations begin May 5
- 2007: 50 percent VX neutralization on April 26

### New This Week at NECDF

Using neutralization technology, workers at the NECDF have safely neutralized approximately 1,613,033 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 191,124 gallons) or 63 percent of the Newport agent stockpile. The U.S. has received credit for destroying 627,912 pounds of the Newport stockpile under the Chemical Weapons Convention Treaty. The Army receives credit for chemical destruction when the hydrolysate is transferred from shipping containers at a commercial waste treatment facility.

Activities: Workers at the NECDF continue to safely neutralize the chemical agent stockpile and process empty steel containers through the Ton Container Line. On Aug. 3, a federal judge denied environmentalists' request to block shipments of hydrolysate from NECD to Texas. The Army will resume shipments of hydrolysate to a Port Arthur, Texas, incineration facility. In keeping with the Army's Operational Security requirements, shipment dates and times will not be given in advance.



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