



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba explains details of the plant's Deactivation Furnace System to Tooele County commissioners during their tour of the facility on April 24.

Tour Provides Clearer Understanding for Elected Officials

Seeing is believing for two of Tooele County's three commissioners. Commissioners Jerry Hurst and Bruce Clegg recently toured the Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) Area 10, the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF). Their visit, which was a first for both commissioners, provided a clearer picture of site activities.

"I had a good idea what was going on, but I just didn't realize it was so sophisticated," Hurst said. "I had a picture in my mind, yeah, they're going inside these chambers and they're pulling the plugs and doing something with that mustard gas. But I was just amazed at how computerized and automated it was. I was impressed. I thought it was very high-tech and very professional in the way things were being done. Everywhere I went, I was just impressed with the personnel and operations."

Even Clegg, who is perhaps most familiar with the site's operations serving on the U.S. Army's Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Committee and the Citizens' Advisory Commission, found the visit to be worthwhile.

"... I hear about it, but things that you have in your mind aren't actually how they do things. It was good to actually see the ton containers (in EG&G's sampling

facilities in DCD's Area 10) and see how they handled them without exposing them to the air."

Tooele County's third commissioner, Colleen Johnson, visited the site after being elected in January 2005. Both Hurst and Clegg agree that the firsthand experience was educational and reassuring.

"When we actually see the operations and everything, I thought it was very safe and very well run, and I feel I can tell people with surety, that this is a safe operation and they're doing a great job," Hurst said.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (as of May 11, 2008)	
Total number of mustard agent-filled ton containers	2,271
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles	39,858
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile	36.47%



DCD Commander Col. Pellissier was the guest speaker at the Tooele County Chamber of Commerce luncheon on May 14; providing an update on the chemical weapons disposal operations taking place at DCD.

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8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
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(Additional hours available upon request)

Verifying agent operations

Under the Chemical Weapons Convention, the United States agreed to destroy its stockpile of chemical weapons, of which 44.5 percent were originally stored at Deseret Chemical Depot.

Since July 1997, a team of international inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has been present during disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) to verify the destruction of the weapons. As part of the team's oversight responsibility, agent sampling activities are performed to satisfy OPCW requirements.

Agent samples are taken from munitions monthly to confirm that the agent type is that which has been declared by the United States. The on-site inspectors typically choose munitions that were previously tagged in storage by the OPCW, or they randomly select and tag munitions as they are unpacked and prepared for the disposal process.

Facility workers in protective gear carefully remove samples as OPCW inspectors monitor the collection process from the Control Room. The process is observed through closed-circuit television (CCTV) and communication is transmitted by headsets worn by the workers.

The sample is placed into a collection vial and an OPCW seal is applied to prevent tampering. This seal remains in place until the sample is transported to the on-site laboratory. An inspector must be present as the seal is removed and the sample is analyzed to confirm the agent type.



As part of the OPCW requirements, TOCDF workers safely collect mustard agent from a 155mm projectile. The sample is delivered to the on-site laboratory to confirm the agent type."

"The fact that we have been so successful in pulling these samples is remarkable when you consider the circumstances: we have personnel wearing our highest level of protective equipment, wearing three sets of gloves, handling these tiny agent pipettes and vials all while ensuring that we don't lose sight of the vial on our CCTV system," TOCDF Treaty Compliance Coordinator John Wallace explains. "Then, the entrants have to tighten the small lid onto the vial and apply to OPCW seal; it's really a testament to the entrants that they can perform this evolution so well."

Throughout disposal operations, TOCDF workers have removed agent samples from approximately 600 munitions.



During a recent townhall meeting, DCD Commander, Col. Frederick D. Pellissier, presented Doug Henry and Brent Dubois, ammunition surveillance quality assurance specialists, with certificates of achievement, lapel pins and recognition coins from the U.S. Army Materiel Command and Chemical Materials Agency for their service in the Middle East.

Upcoming Events

- **June 10, 6:00 p.m.** - TOCDF Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Class 3 Permit Modification Hearing. The hearing will be held at the Tooele County Administrative Building, North Auditorium, 47 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **June 11, 9:00 a.m.** - Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 101 at the Department of Environmental Quality building, 162 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.

*The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed **May 26** in observance of **Memorial Day**.*

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