



TOCDF subcontractors Buddy Webster and Mike Jordan hold a DPE suit after it was treated by the pressurized heat and steam process during an initial test of the autoclave technology early last month in North Carolina.

Proposed Autoclave System would expand secondary waste treatment capabilities

As a result of chemical agent storage and destruction activities at Deseret Chemical Depot, agent contaminated wastes—also referred to as secondary wastes—are generated. An autoclave system, utilizing heat and steam under pressure, has been proposed to augment current on-site treatment capabilities for secondary waste. Historically, secondary wastes have been managed in accordance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit, including off-site shipment for treatment or disposal. For those wastes where off-site shipment was not allowed by the permit, the secondary wastes were either placed into on-site storage or were thermally treated in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF), facilitating off-site shipment and disposal at a permitted facility.

The autoclave system would be capable of treating many of the same wastes as the MPF, allowing the furnace to fully support the mustard agent destruction operations. It is anticipated that the MPF will continue to be used to treat highly contaminated wastes, as it is available.

Two autoclave units would be installed to support secondary waste operations. To support waste

characterization and segregation activities, three drum ventilation units would be installed in close proximity of the autoclaves.

Once the wastes are loaded into the autoclave chamber, the unit is sealed shut and a vacuum removes the remaining air. The air flows through carbon filters to remove any agent vapors and is monitored to verify that no chemical agent is present. The autoclave units use pressurized steam to heat the wastes to approximately 300°F, or higher, to thermally treat the chemical agent. After the process is complete, the pressure in the autoclave is reduced by venting the gas in the autoclave through a chiller to cool the gases before they are slowly exhausted through the carbon filters where they are monitored for chemical agents.

A draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to the CMA Environmental Assessment (EA) for the "Proposed Installation and Operation of an Autoclave System to Expand Secondary Waste Treatment Capability" is currently available for public comment. A copy of the EA and Draft FONSI may be read or obtained at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 South Main, Tooele. A copy can also be found on the CMA Web site: www.cma.army.mil.

Comments may be submitted to the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office and must be postmarked or faxed no later than June 23, 2008.



TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba presents information about the history of the chemical weapons disposal program and provided an update of the TOCDF operations at the quarterly Southwest Defense Alliance Conference.

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Outreach Office Hours:

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday - Friday

(Additional hours available upon request)



Foundation excavating activities have concluded and underground utility work is nearing completion at the planned site of the new filtration system.

PFS Construction Continues

Construction of the new pollution abatement system (PAS) filtration system (PFS) continues. This filter system will include sulfur-impregnated carbon filters, which will capture any mercury components incinerated through the TOCDF. The first of three mercury filters arrived at the facility on May 20. This filter unit will eventually filter exhaust from the MPF. The two additional units will filter the flue gases from the Liquid Incinerators; the next filter is expected to arrive in mid-July.

Installation of the filter units is expected to begin in August. Following completion of PFS construction and systemization in fall 2009, performance demonstrations will be conducted as required by regulators from the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste. Pending the necessary approvals, processing of munitions with elevated mercury content is scheduled to begin in early 2010.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of June 15, 2008)

Total number of mustard agent-filled ton containers	2,271
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles	52,224
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile	37.42%

TOCDF Reaches 5 Million Consecutive Safe Hours!

TOCDF workers have reached a new safety milestone of 5 million consecutive man-hours without a lost workday injury.

Officials estimated the milestone was reached and surpassed on May 25.

Upcoming Events

- **July 10, 1:00 p.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.
- **July 15, 5:30 p.m.** – DCD Restoration and Advisory Board meeting to discuss environmental clean-up activities associated with the depot. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **July 22** – DCD Change of Command Ceremony. Incoming Commander Col. Gerald L. Gladney; outgoing commander Col. Frederick Pellissier.
- **July 31, 5:00 p.m.** – Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission annual social and meeting. The meeting will be held at the Ophir City Park.

*The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed on **July 4** for the observance of Independence Day.*



TOCDF operations munitions coordinator Jeff Loughton explains the safety features of an On-site Container to Nicole Hunter, public information officer for the Utah Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security (HLS). On June 4, Hunter visited DCD and toured the TOCDF to gain a clearer understanding of the chemical weapons disposal operations.

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