



VX 8-inch 'projo' campaign begins

Umatilla Chemical Depot storage workers Tuesday began delivering 8-inch diameter VX-filled artillery projectiles to the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF), marking the official start of a new individual munitions campaign. The first 8-inch VX projectiles, or "projos," were processed Wednesday at UMCDF.

"Depot workers take a lot of pride in safely storing and transporting munitions to the disposal plant," said Lt. Col. Bob Stein, depot commander. "Since starting agent operations in 2004, we've successfully completed several thousand munitions shipments without an accident or incident, and we plan to keep it that way."

Since the start of agent operations at the UMCDF nearly four years ago, about 5,800 enhanced on-site containers (EONCs) loaded with munitions have been safely delivered from the depot storage areas to the disposal plant. The containers are designed to resist impacts, punctures, crushing and fire.

"Each campaign brings us closer to keeping our commitment to eliminate the Oregon chemical weapons stockpile and its risk to surrounding communities," said Mike Strong, the Army's site project manager at Umatilla. "It's great to get started on another campaign."

The 8-inch VX projectiles campaign is the 11th individual munitions disposal campaign for the depot and disposal plant. It is expected to take about a month to destroy the projectiles. A total of 13 individual disposal campaigns will be required to completely eliminate the Oregon stockpile.

The UMCDF destroyed the last of 32,313 155mm diameter VX projectiles on June 27. During the next two-and-a-half weeks, the munitions processing equipment in the plant was reconfigured to handle the larger 8-inch projectiles, which hold about 14 pounds of VX nerve agent compared to about 6 pounds for the 155mm shells. Disposal workers processed 14,246 8-inch projectiles during the GB (sarin) nerve agent campaign.

When the 8-inch VX projectiles are gone, the only VX munitions remaining will be land mines. The "change over" from projectiles to mines is expected to take about two months, and mine processing is scheduled to be completed by early next year, if there are no significant delays.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 740 days, or more than 3.9 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (July 10 - 16, 2008)

Total number of VX-filled 8-inch projectiles destroyed this period	81
Total VX projectiles destroyed to date	32,394
Percentage of VX projectiles destroyed to date	89.8
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	12.1
Pounds of total VX agent destroyed to date	555,190
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	202,613
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,289.31
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	34.68

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **July 16, 2008:** Processed first VX 8-inch projectile in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- **July 15, 2008:** First VX 8-inch projectiles transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **June 27, 2008:** Completed VX 155mm projectile campaign.
- **March 21, 2008:** Destroyed first VX 155mm projectile in the MPF.
- **March 20, 2008:** First VX 155mm projectiles transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Jan. 23, 2008:** Completed VX rocket campaign.
- **Dec. 24, 2007:** Completed VX spray tank campaign.
- **Nov. 26, 2007:** Processed the non-stockpile VX ton container.
- **Nov. 23, 2007:** Destroyed the first VX spray tanks in the MPF.
- **Nov. 19, 2007:** First VX spray tank transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **Nov. 9, 2007:** First VX chemical agent destroyed in the Liquid Incinerator (LIC).
- **Oct. 29, 2007:** Processed the first VX M55 rockets in the Deactivation Furnace System (DFS).
- **Oct. 26, 2007:** First VX M55 rockets transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- **July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.

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