



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

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## DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | Nov. 15, 2007

### TOCDF begins processing 155mm projectiles

On Nov. 1, workers at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) began destroying the first of more than 50,000 mustard agent-filled 155-millimeter projectiles stored at the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD).

Mustard is a blister agent which has been stockpiled by the U.S. Army since the 1940s. Many of the munitions are deteriorating from age, and DCD is one of five Army depots across the nation where chemical weapons are currently being destroyed under the provisions of an international treaty.

TOCDF workers have successfully destroyed nearly one million projectiles of different sizes containing GB and VX nerve agents; however, mustard projectile processing will have some unique features.

During this campaign, TOCDF operators will not drain the projectiles before conveying them into the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) because the agent contents are largely solidified and undrainable. Prior to processing through the MPF, solid and liquid agent samples were extracted from a number of projectiles on the first tray. The samples were analyzed for metals content before Utah regulators gave approval for processing the projectiles through the MPF.

In addition, some of the projectiles are configured with explosive components that inadvertently bonded to the interior components of the projectile following the original assembly process. TOCDF operators will utilize a new remotely-operated Burster Rotating Adapter Device to rotate the "stuck" explosive components, called bursters, to allow removal. Another innovation is a new burster-well punch system which will clear a path for furnace heat into the projectiles' agent cavity, facilitating combustion of liquid and solid agent contents.

All modifications relating to the processing of mustard-filled projectiles have been approved by Utah state regulatory officials.

### Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Nov. 11, 2007)

Total number of mustard agent-filled ton containers	2,271
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles	264
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile	32.76%

### Non-agent fire in DCD storage area

On Oct. 31, workers in the DCD chemical storage area reported a fire located next to a storage structure. The fire was quickly extinguished by depot firemen who responded to the non-chemical agent fire which occurred at approximately 8:31 a.m.

No personnel were injured and the damage was limited to a small structure used to house monitoring equipment. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined and is under investigation at this time.

State and county emergency management officials were immediately notified of the incident. There was no danger to the surrounding community.



After unhooking the first mustard agent-filled 155-millimeter projectile from a lifting device in the Unpack Area, TOCDF Operators Glen Strickland and Dean Nielson prepare to place the munition on the conveyor to be moved into the Explosive Containment Room.

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### Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

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Toll Free: (800) 471-1617

#### Outreach Office Hours:

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



Tooele Army Depot (TEAD) storage area workers prepare low-level explosive items for shipment to Deseret Chemical Depot. These ammunition movements will free TEAD storage structures for the storage of training and war fighting materials.

### Upcoming Events

- Nov. 28, 6:00 p.m. – TOCDF RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meeting. The permit modification is proposing to install three Sulfur Impregnated Carbon Pollution Abatement System (PAS) Filter Systems (PFS), one on each of the two Liquid Incinerators and one on the Metal Parts Furnace. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.

*The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed on Nov. 22 and 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday.*

### Leaking mustard agent detected in storage igloo at DCD

On Nov. 8, a trace amount of mustard agent leaking from a bulk container was discovered today during routine operations in a storage igloo at DCD.

Depot workers in protective clothing decontaminated the agent. The container was relocated to another filtered earth-covered storage igloo until a valve can be changed out.

No vapor escaped into the environment. Tooele County officials were notified and there was no danger to the surrounding communities.

### Conventional ammunition move to DCD

This month, Tooele Army Depot (TEAD) began moving low-level explosive items to former chemical storage structures at DCD for long-term storage. The move comes after an agreement that was signed between DCD Commander, Col. Frederick Pellissier and TEAD Commander Col. Anne Davis. The DCD mission has priority and will not be impacted by any resources required by TEAD.

This agreement is needed to support the Army's requirement for storage. As a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 closures, among other factors, projections show the total available covered storage space occupancy will exceed 85 percent during the period of FY07 through FY11. Beginning in FY10, the demand for covered storage space is anticipated to exceed 100 percent of available covered storage space.

"The use of Area 10 provides TEAD increased ammunition storage capacity so we can better support the Global War on Terrorism and provides a substantial cost savings to AMC," stated Col. Pellissier.

The pre-operational survey was conducted the week of Oct. 15 with minimal findings. Representatives from the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) Surety Team were present to review and document the process to ensure this project is in the best interest of the Army and the safety of our community.

"This move has been a joint effort between the employees of TEAD and DCD. I'm very pleased with the dedication of all those involved in making this move a success. This move will definitely enhance TEAD's storage capabilities while having no negative impact on DCD's chemical demil mission," said Col. Davis.

### Leading the Way to a Safer Future

The Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) is safely destroying the stockpile of chemical weapons stored at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD), while ensuring maximum protection for our workers, our community and our environment.

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