

State decides incineration, carbon filters are 'best available technology'

At a meeting Thursday in Hermiston, the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) decided that incineration – with the addition of “enhanced” (sulfur-impregnated) carbon filters to the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) – is the best available technology (BAT) for the treatment of mustard ton containers with higher than expected levels of mercury at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF).

In order to determine the BAT for the treatment of mustard containing mercury the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) thoroughly reviewed neutralization and the DAVINCH “contained explosives” technology, in addition to incineration. The DAVINCH system is a Japanese-Belgian technology. Cost, schedule, public comments and other facets of all three technologies were studied before DEQ recommended to EQC that incineration with enhanced filters was the best available technology.

Installing sulfur impregnated carbon filters to the PFS metal parts furnace filtration system can be accomplished for about \$750,000, the DEQ estimated, compared to about \$117 million to install neutralization technology and about \$40 million to install DAVINCH.

Go, HazMat team, go!



Members of a UMCD Hazardous Material (HazMat) Response Team practice stopping simulated chemical leaks during training Wednesday. The exercise was designed primarily to build confidence in the use of Level-A personal protective equipment (PPE), and to promote good communication and teamwork skills.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 775 days, or more than 3 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCD (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (Aug. 14 - 20, 2008)

Total number of VX-filled 8-inch projectiles destroyed this period	
Total VX projectiles destroyed to date	36,065
Percentage of VX projectiles destroyed to date	100
Pounds of VX agent destroyed this period	0
Pounds of total VX agent destroyed to date	610,193
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	206,284
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,316.51
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	35.41

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- Aug. 6, 2008:** Completed VX 8-inch projectile campaign.
- 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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