

Destruction of mustard agent-filled mortars delayed

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) officials have halted processing of HT mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars.

Prior to processing, Utah state regulatory authorities observed sampling and analysis of the HT mortars to verify regulatory compliance. As part of the slow, controlled start up of operations, only one partial tray of mortars was processed through the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) at a time. Workers soon identified higher than anticipated levels of mercury in the MPF exhaust.

While mercury emissions were within permitted limits, the TOCDF is committed to ensuring maximum protection of the environment and has delayed further processing of the mortars until the plant's new mercury filtration system is operational. The Pollution Abatement System Filtration System is under construction and is expected to be ready for testing this fall. The equipment will use sulfur-impregnated charcoal filters, which will capture mercury from furnace exhaust gases, ensuring environmental protection.

TOCDF workers have resumed disposal operations of mustard agent-filled bulk containers.

Autoclave Arrives

Heat and steam process to deal with secondary waste

Secondary waste beware; an autoclave has arrived at the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD). The massive unit—measuring approximately 24 feet long and weighing 21,500 pounds—was manufactured in North Carolina and is being installed in an igloo in DCD's Area 10. The autoclave will use heat and steam to "cook" secondary waste contaminated with chemical agent at 305 degrees Fahrenheit until the waste measures less than 1.0 Vapor Screening Limit (VSL). At less than 1.0 VSL, the waste can be re-packaged and shipped off-site for storage at a commercial landfill permitted to handle the waste.

The site's secondary waste—more than two million pounds—includes waste generated from TOCDF operations, as well as "legacy" waste from DCD and the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). The secondary waste will be sorted and categorized inside a Drum Ventilation System located inside an adjacent igloo. The sorting and categorizing will: 1) help the TOCDF use its metal parts furnace most effectively for processing secondary waste; 2) determine if the waste can be shipped off-site for disposal; or



After moving the new autoclave into its dedicated igloo in Area 10, workers discuss their next installation steps. EG&G plans to eventually use two autoclaves for secondary waste processing.

3) determine if additional autoclave processing is necessary.

Most of the secondary waste is stored in plastic drums; the autoclave can fit 16 drums at once. EG&G Autoclave Project Manager Steve Bailey estimates one load will be processed per day, four days a week.

(See AUTOCLAVE on next page)

Injured eagle rescued at DCD

Although she will never be able to fly again, an injured eagle found at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) will participate in educational programs and events provided by the Great Basin Wildlife Rescue.

DCD security guards were flagged down by a concerned TOCDF employee who had discovered an injured bald eagle on the side of Harrison Road. When EG&G Truck Driver Anthony Sandoval first spotted the eagle, he assumed the bird was simply feeding on her captured prey. However, upon driving back from his delivery, Sandoval noticed the bird was still standing on the side of the road.

"I got out of the truck and saw her wing was broken, and I pulled a security guard over and asked who I should call about this eagle," Sandoval said.

Security officials notified the DCD Environmental Office and sent a patrol to secure the area, keeping the eagle safe until help arrived. The DCD environmental team responded and notified a Utah Division of Wildlife Resources biologist,

(See EAGLE on next page)



Utah Department of Wildlife Resources biologist Tom Becker prepares to transport an injured bald eagle from DCD on Friday, March 6. Photo by DCD Environmental Protection Assistant Russ Wallis.

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

Monday - Friday

(Additional hours available upon request)

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of April 12, 2008)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	3,296
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Total number of mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	336
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	52.65%

Autoclave

Continued from front page

"About three hours to get to temperature, three hours to decontaminate and then about four hours of cool down and drying," said Bailey. "Obviously we're going to learn more during shakedown."

Bailey said the shakedown includes a required demonstration test before Utah state regulators to show the autoclave can effectively decontaminate secondary waste to safe levels for landfill disposal. The initial performance testing for state regulators, which is scheduled for early May, will include processing DPE (demilitarization protective ensemble) suits, wood and life support system hoses in the autoclave. Bailey says if all goes as planned, the autoclave should be fully operational in June.

Upcoming Events

- **April 16, 5:00 p.m.** - TOCDF RCRA Class 3 Permit Modification public hearing. The hearing will be held at the Tooele County Administrative Building, 47 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **April 29, 6:00 p.m.** - TOCDF RCRA Class 2 and Class 3 Permit Modification public meetings. The meetings will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **May 14, 1:30 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.

The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

Eagle

Continued from front page

who carefully picked up the bird and secured the talons, which have the crushing pressure of 1,000 pounds per square inch.

The adult female bald eagle was then transported to a rehabilitation center in Springville, Utah, where she underwent multiple surgeries to repair her left wing. When her body rejected the pin that was used to repair her wing, a veterinarian had to perform a partial wing amputation. The eagle is on antibiotics and pain medication, but is doing extremely well.

Not only had the bird suffered a double compound fracture to her left wing, she also reportedly was starving and blood tests confirmed she had ingested a chemical, dimethylimidazole, which is a common ingredient in paint thinners. There is no indication how or where the bird might have ingested it.

The eagle is eating solid food, gaining weight and appears to be getting stronger. The DCD environmental office will continue to work with the rehabilitation center to keep track of the eagle's progress.

Control of CAMDS switches hands

No fooling! On April 1, operational control of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal Systems (CAMDS) transferred from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to EG&G, the systems contractor operating the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

Built on the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) back in the 1970s, CAMDS was the primary test and development facility for the nation's Chemical Weapons Elimination Program, destroying more than 360,000 pounds of chemical agent. Although CAMDS is no longer operating, U.S. stockpiles continue to rely on the facility's pioneering success and lessons learned.

Closure-related activities at CAMDS began in August 2006 under TVA. During that time approximately 15 non-agent contaminated facilities or pieces of equipment such as fuel storage tanks, water tower and offices were dismantled and disposed of.

Under guidance from the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency and DCD, EG&G plans on resuming physical closure-related work in mid June.

"We want to give ourselves time to get in and get our feet wet instead of jumping right in," explained EG&G General Manager Gary McCloskey during a recent meeting of the Utah Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission.

It's estimated that it will take approximately 18 months to complete the closure work at CAMDS and restore the site to the environmental standards set by the facility's environmental permit.

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