

DEQ approves closure of I-block



A crane removes a filter from one of the igloos in I-Block

The Umatilla Chemical Depot has received approval from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to close the I-Block storage facility. The closure went into effect Dec. 7. The approval confirms that the closure process has met DEQ's agent-free determination requirements.

Mustard (HD) ton containers were stored in the I-Block area from 2001 to 2006, when they were transferred to the depot's Chemical Limited Area. Only a handful of igloos on the depot still contain chemical munitions, since all but the mustard containers have been destroyed.

The approval marks a first for the depot and the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) in closure of permitted chemical weapons agent storage igloos. Closure of the remaining igloos used to store chemical agent munitions will be conducted using the same planning as the closure activities for I-block. The igloos that store chemical munitions at the depot are regulated according to requirements of the state of Oregon and federal government regulations.

UMCD and DEQ worked closely during the process. Personnel from the UMCD Environmental Division, Chemical Operations Directorate and contractors from Vista Engineering and RMCI contributed to the successful planning, execution and completion of the closure project.

"Teamwork along with a focus on safety and protection of the environment facilitated this major accomplishment for the depot in its progress toward closure," said Lt. Col. Kris Perkins, depot commander. "The planning and proven methods used to close I-Block will form the backbone for eventual closure of the Chemical Limited Area."

The I-Block contains 30 hazardous waste chemical agent storage units or igloos. The closure resulted from three years of closure planning under the depot's Hazardous Waste Storage Permit.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,279 days, or more than 5.9 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(Dec. 17, 2009 - Jan. 6, 2010)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	0
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	159
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	6.0
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	0
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	54
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	0
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	278,744
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	3,044,926
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	218,136
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,517.23
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	40.81

*Recipient ton containers are byproducts of mustard disposal and were not a part of the original stockpile.

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- June 11, 2009:** Began first HD ton container destruction in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF).
- June 4, 2009:** First HD ton containers transported from depot storage to disposal plant.
- Nov. 5, 2008:** Completed VX munitions campaign.
- Oct. 26, 2007:** Began VX munitions campaign.
- July 8, 2007:** Completed GB munitions campaign.
- Sept. 7, 2004:** Began GB munitions campaign.

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