

TOCDF helps get UMCDF back on track

A helping hand from Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has Umatilla back to destroying mustard ton containers.

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) stopped processing in late October because of boilover troubles. Some of the mustard ton containers were boiling over in the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF), leading to eight incidents when the plant exceeded its air quality emissions limit. Umatilla halted operations to solve the boilover issue, which was speculated to be triggered by heavy ton containers with excessive sediment and rinsate. The sediment, also known as heel, is the result of degradation of the mustard agent after many years of storage. The rinsate is produced during the Heel Transfer System (HTS), which utilizes a high-pressure, hot-water spray to break up and dissolve a portion of the heel. It appeared that if too much sediment and rinsate remain in the ton container when it goes through the MPF, the contents can boil out of the holes punched to empty the ton container, releasing carbon monoxide and possibly exceeding air quality emission limits.

Umatilla studied TOCDF's records from processing more than 3,000 mustard agent-filled ton containers. The database included details for each destroyed ton container including its contents, weight, if the contents boiled over and whether the boilover caused a MACT (Maximum Achievable Control Technology) alarm. TOCDF's records helped UMCDF determine that their optimum weight for a ton container's contents was 435 pounds. TOCDF agreed to test the validity of UMCDF's established weight in December by preparing and processing nine of its ton containers limited to 435 pounds. The ton containers were prepared using the HTS, which was designed and built by TOCDF to efficiently deal with excessive heels, so that the contents consisted of approximately 300 pounds of heel and 135 pounds of rinsate before being sent through the MPF.

"The test results were fantastic," said Jacob Peart, TOCDF MPF systems engineer, who developed the test plan. "Out of the nine ton containers, none of them boiled over."

Furthermore, during the shutdown period of its Pollution Abatement System (PAS) Filtration System (PFS), the TOCDF installed a total hydrocarbon monitor on its common stack to see if the new carbon filtration system would capture any unburned organics in the event of a boilover. Monitoring results indicated that even during a boilover, the carbon filtration system prevents unburned organics from being released into the (See BACK ON TRACK on next page)



Munition handlers Adam Doherty (left) and Nate Stayrook guide an Enhanced Onsite Container (EONC) containing mustard (HD) ton containers; the first shipment in several months. Because the plant was unable to process ton containers until only recently, no EONCs have been received since Oct. 27, 2009. URS photo

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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)



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Draft Notification of Intent to Comply (NIC) with the Hazardous Waste Combustion Maximum Achievable Control Technology (HWC MACT) Regulations

A public information meeting on the draft NIC will be held:

Thursday, March 4, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

54 South Main Street • Tooele, Utah, 84074

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the incineration facility described in the draft NIC and how compliance with the new source emission standards of the HWC MACT will be met. The facility will be constructed in Deseret Chemical Depot's storage area and will operate concurrently with the existing Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF). TOCDF has four incinerators that are currently regulated and in compliance with the HWC MACT.

A copy of the draft NIC is available for review by the general public during regular business hours at:

- **Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office**, 54 South Main Street, Tooele, Utah 84074
- **EG&G Defense Materials, Inc.** (wholly-owned subsidiary of URS), 11600 Stark Road, Stockton, Utah 84071
- **Tooele City Public Library**, 128 W. Vine, Tooele, Utah 84074
- **Utah Division of Air Quality**, 150 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

The TOCDF Point-of-Contact is **Sheila Vance** of URS at 435-833-7577 or **Trace Salmon** of the TOCDF Field Office at 435-833-7428.

Individuals needing special accommodations during this meeting should notify the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, phone number 435-882-3773 or 800-471-1617, 72 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting so access can be arranged.

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atmosphere. This information also proved to be invaluable to UMCDF, which has a similar carbon filtration system.

"TOCDF has been extremely helpful in passing the knowledge gained with TC processing to UMCDF," said Kaylin Burnett, a deputy site project manager at the Army's UMCDF Field Office. "Testing performed for UMCDF at TOCDF has provided necessary information to help the Oregon DEQ evaluate the approaches and ultimately allow shakedown."

UMCDF restarted processing mustard ton containers January 24 after the Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality approved a draft permit for the trial burn that set the weight limit at 435 pounds. UMCDF is in the shakedown phase and will continue mustard agent incineration while the state reviews the trial burn plan and takes public comment.

"Sharing technologies and lessons learned such as this embodies our key values of safety and dedication," said TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba. "Getting rid of the nation's chemical weapons—we're all in this together—and we continue to raise the bar when it comes to doing the job and doing it in the best manner possible."

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (as of Feb. 21)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	4,682
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Total number of mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	16,037
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	73.16%



Over the next few months, TOCDF workers will replace the inlet and outlet expansion joints of the carbon filtration units. Even though the parts are fairly new, they were starting to crack. It was determined the cracks were caused by the stresses from manufacture and a chlorine environment. The original stainless steel expansion joints are being replaced with ones made from Hastelloy, which is made from highly corrosion-resistant metal alloys.

Restoration Advisory Board

An opportunity to get involved

Discussions regarding environmental cleanup and future use of the land continue as Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) draws closer to completing its mission of safely storing and destroying Utah's stockpile of chemical weapons.

First formed in 1998, the DCD Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) serves as a forum for representatives from DCD, federal and state environmental agencies, local government and community residents to come together to address remediation efforts at the depot.

"The Restoration Advisory Board is an opportunity that allows the community to have a voice in the long term and overall environmental cleanup of the depot. It also is a great resource for information regarding current environmental restoration operations," said Wade Mathews, Tooele County Emergency Management public information officer and DCD RAB community co-chair. "For those reasons, I'd like to see more people get involved by attending the meetings," Mathews added.

Meeting attendees discuss various information such as environmental studies of DCD land and groundwater, the results of completed studies and plans for various cleanup projects. Most recently, the board exchanged information about the remediation status of a number of DCD Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), areas that have been used for the treatment, storage or disposal of chemical and conventional munitions. While no further action is required for a number of SWMUs, planning for others has just begun and is discussed regularly at board meetings.

"The Army's commitment to environmental stewardship is one that we all take very seriously," said Troy Johnson, DCD's environmental program manager and RAB co-chair.

The RAB meets quarterly and community members are encouraged to participate. The next meeting will be held on March 9 at 1:00 p.m. at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 South Main, Tooele.

Upcoming Events

- **March 4, 6:00 p.m.** – Public meeting for the DCD draft Notice of Intent to Comply with Hazardous Waste Combustion Maximum Achievable Control Technology Regulations (see ad on front page). The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **March 9, 1:00 p.m.** – DCD Restoration and Advisory Board meeting to discuss environmental clean-up activities associated with the depot. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **March 11, 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, 168 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.
- **March 18, 6:30 p.m.** – Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission meeting. The meeting will be held at the Tooele County Emergency Management Building, 15 East 100 South, Tooele.

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