



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | April 22, 2010

CAMDS closure

URS completes one year of closure efforts

It's been one year since URS (formerly EG&G) assumed control of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS); although no buildings have been razed, recent months have brought notable milestones as progress is made toward facility closure.

In late February, the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste approved a request to merge the existing CAMDS permit requirements into the current Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit. The combined RCRA permit includes the approved CAMDS Closure Plan and a modified Waste Analysis Plan, which details the specific (See CAMDS on page 3)



In preparation for the first Unventilated Monitoring Test at the CAMDS facility, URS workers install a blind flange into the ventilation system duct of the Material Treatment Facility (URS Photo).

Upcoming Events

- **May 13, 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 old Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) building, 168 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City (meeting location may change pending completion of new DEQ building)
- **May 12, 6:00 p.m.** - TOCDF RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meeting. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **May 20, 6:30 p.m.** - Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 101 at the old DEQ building, 168 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City (meeting location may change pending completion of new DEQ building).

The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed on May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

DCD firefighters help Vernon fight fire

Firefighters from Deseret Chemical Depot helped the small town of Vernon fight a ferocious fire. When DCD firefighters Kye Jensen and Russ Feala arrived at the scene on March 11, the fire had already engulfed one trailer and had spread to two other homes. Jensen and Feala, who were in DCD's recently acquired fire truck which carries 1,500 gallons of water and pumps up to 1,250 gallons of water a minute, kept the fire from reaching nearby propane tanks.

"Because the trailer homes were already engulfed, keeping those propane tanks safe was one of the most important jobs out there," said former Vernon Fire Chief Nicky Higgins.

Higgins, who is retired from DCD, had been Vernon's fire chief for three years, and says she greatly appreciates the help of firefighters from both Deseret Chemical and Tooele Army Depots.

"They have always been good to come and help," Higgins said, adding that the depots' firefighters also help respond to other emergencies such as car wrecks and wild land fires.

Higgins said last month's fire destroyed three mobile homes and forced evacuations of the surrounding area, including the elementary school. Higgins said a space heater placed too close to combustible material started the fire.



This photo, taken by Vernon resident Louise Garcia, shows the intensity of the fire that destroyed three homes in Vernon on the morning of March 11. Two DCD firefighters responded to the fire and kept the flames from reaching nearby propane tanks.

Mustard operations move forward

Since beginning mustard operations in August 2006, more than 75 percent of DCD's stockpile of mustard agent-filled munitions have been destroyed at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

While workers have been processing mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars since January, they recently reverted back to processing bulk containers for a short period. This (See MUSTARD OPERATIONS on page 2)

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(Additional hours available upon request)

Fond farewell

A key figure in Utah's chem demil program plans to retire

Deseret's chem demil program—and the state of Utah—is losing a longtime key figure. Dennis Downs, who has worked for Utah's environmental department for nearly 38 years, is retiring April 29. He has served as the director of the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste (DSHW) for 22 years and has acted as the executive secretary of the DSHW Control Board. The DSHW staff works closely with DCD, TOCDF and (See FAREWELL on page 3)

DCD and TOCDF pass inspections

Two recent inspections – the Surety Management Review (SMR) and Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) – went well for Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF).

The U.S. Army Materiel Command Surety Office conducted the two week SMR of the DCD and TOCDF. The review team consisted of subject matter experts who inspect everything related to surety, including mission and demil operations, safety, security, environmental, emergency response and medical support. According to final reports, neither DCD nor TOCDF had any deficiencies written against them, only some recommendations for improvement.

"Overall we came out with glowing remarks with just a small list of things to address," said Col. Gerald Gladney, DCD Commander. Final reports state that both DCD and TOCDF have "solid" surety programs and are fully "mission capable."

The most recent inspection, the EPAS, is very similar to the SMR, but focuses on continuous environmental improvements. The EPAS was performed by a team from the U.S. Army Public Health Command, along with representatives from the Chemical Materials Agency. Preliminary reports indicate that there were a few minor "findings" and some corrective actions needed to be made, none of them were of major concern and most were corrected before the one-week inspection concluded.

"Once again, we have successfully completed these inspections, which I attribute to the teamwork and professionalism shown by the DCD and TOCDF workforce," said Col. Gladney. "Without their expertise and dedication, such accomplishments would not be possible."

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of April 18)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	4,792
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Total number of mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	40,663
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	75.88%

Mustard operations

continued from front page

not only allowed workers to maintain their proficiency in bulk container processing, but it also provided necessary time to perform maintenance on the demil machines in preparation for the final run of mortars.

Mortar operations are expected to be complete this summer and the facility will go back to processing bulk containers. TOCDF mustard operations are expected to wrap up in spring 2011.

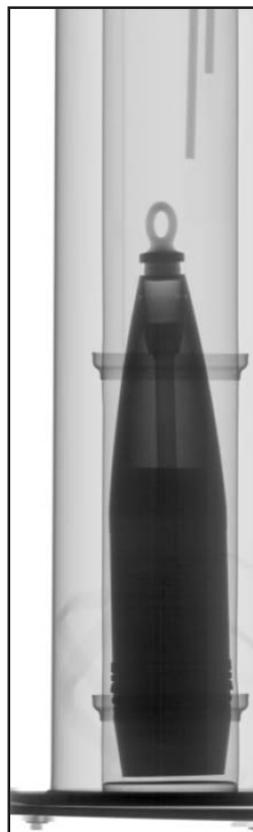
But that's not all. More than 300 mustard agent-filled munitions will be destroyed using an Explosive Destruction Technology called the DAVINCH, a controlled detonation system developed for chemical weapons destruction. These munitions include those that have previously leaked and have been safely stored in overpack containers, and "reject" munitions—those that are badly deteriorated and/or have stuck explosive components.

DCD employees and a special U.S. Army technical team have completed x-raying the over-packed projectiles and mortars. The x-rays give URS sub-contractor Versar, Inc. accurate images showing the location of the munitions and any explosive components, providing a better understanding of the over-packed munitions as they prepare for DAVINCH operations.

Demonstration tests have been performed in Lake Kanda, Japan to show the DAVINCH system's capability of safely destroying the overpacked munitions.

"The demonstration tests allowed us to gain a better understanding of the equipment, destruction process and overall safe operations of the system," said TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba, who recently traveled to Japan with other DCD/TOCDF personnel to witness the tests.

The detonation chamber will be located in DCD's Area 10. Environmental permitting activities are underway and site preparation will begin this summer. Following state approval, DAVINCH operations are expected to begin in January 2011.



An x-ray image of a double overpacked 155-millimeter projectile with location reference bars showing at top. The steel reference bars were temporarily attached to the containers before each x-ray, providing reference points operators will use when they load each item into the DAVINCH.

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Farewell

continued from page 2

CAMDS to ensure compliance with national and state rules and regulations.

Downs has also served as a member of the Utah Demilitarization Chemical Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC). The CAC is a vital link between the community and the Army and provides a forum for exchanging information about chemical weapons disposal operations at DCD. Downs was honored at his last CAC meeting on March 18 by fellow CAC members and DCD, TOCDF and CAMDS personnel.

DCD Commander, Col. Gerald L. Gladney, read a formal letter of appreciation to Downs and presented him with one of his personal commander's coins. "These are for special occasions," said Col. Gladney as he handed the coin to Downs. "This coin shows just how we feel about you and how important you have been to us."

URS Vice President and General Manager Gary McCloskey echoed the commander's sentiments, sharing that Downs has witnessed and been beneficial in the destruction of DCD's stockpile. "Your folks under your leadership have made this possible," said McCloskey. "I know you have done other things with the state, but from our perspective, we'll always remember that you got this program in a positive posture where we can do what is probably the toughest job in the chem demil program."

Downs reminisced to the group about the project's early years, recalling that during permitting and construction, external forces created "quite a bit of frustration." But through it all, he continued, with a smile on his face and tears in his eyes, "It has been a real delightful experience."

Downs said that he believes the program's accomplishments have largely been a result of its good workforce, including the depot's commanders. "The commanders that have been here at DCD since the inception of the demil program have just been outstanding," said Downs. "They have been totally open and available, and I express to you, Col. Gladney—and your predecessor—my great appreciation for that."

Downs was wished a fond farewell and assured that he would see everyone once again as the depot continues planning for celebration of complete stockpile destruction.

CAMDS

continued from front page

requirements for closure-related wastes.

This month, CAMDS workers also completed the Unventilated Monitoring Test (UMT) for the Material Treatment Facility (MTF), which was previously used to treat various agent-contaminated secondary wastes.

"This is a significant milestone for CAMDS closure," noted CAMDS Site Project Manager Jerry Linn. "As soon as the final test reports are approved by CMA, the MTF will be ready for demolition."

Following approval of the final MTF UMT test report, URS officials will be allowed to cease agent monitoring, shut off the controlled ventilation and prepare the building for demolition—remove lights, disconnect utilities and remove doors to allow air circulation.

Although the MTF will soon be ready for demolition, it will be left standing until all CAMDS structures meet the UMT requirements. Final closure activities include the demolition of CAMDS structures, which is expected to begin in summer 2011.



DCD Commander, Col. Gerald L. Gladney, presents one of his commander's coins to Dennis Downs at the March meeting of the Utah Demilitarization Chemical Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC). Downs is retiring after 38 years of service with the state of Utah. As the director of the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste and as a CAC member, Downs has worked closely with DCD in its efforts to dispose of its stockpile of chemical munitions.

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