

Army official calls UMCDF a ‘success story’

After meeting with state and project leaders, touring the plant and talking to front-line workers, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons said he was proud of the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) team and the job it's doing.

"You've been under a lot of stress in the last six to eight months," Carmen Spencer told URS and Army employees Tuesday afternoon. "You've done exceptionally well" overcoming the challenges you've faced, he added.

It's imperative to "plan for the upset condition" when your job is destroying weapons of mass destruction, Mr. Spencer said. The mustard exposure incident in March tested UMCDF, but the project proved the event was an anomaly by "responding exceptionally well to every condition."

Since that misstep and the ensuing root cause analysis and implementation of corrective actions, UMCDF successfully completed likely the most rigorous trial burn in demilitarization history and is back into steady processing. That has convinced the state and Washington, D.C., that UMCDF is "doing all the right things for the right reasons," Mr. Spencer said.

"I talked to the governor and his chief of staff and they are confident in this project," Mr. Spencer said. "This is a success story."

Mr. Spencer encouraged the workers at the depot and UMCDF to continue to work together as a team and to share information freely. "The contractor and government are one team," he stressed. "And you have a great team out here ... Thank you for everything you do every day."



Carmen Spencer (center), Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons, and Guy Stevenson (far right), Group General Manager for URS of the Global Security Group, watch ton container venting operations in the Unpack Area (UPA) during a visit to UMCDF Tuesday.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,439 days, or more than 6.9 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(July 21 - Aug. 4, 2010)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	115
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	549
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	20.8
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	7
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	212
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	210,522
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	960,486
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	4,214,230
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	218,434
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	1,858.01
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	49.98

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

UMCD/UMCDF Milestones

- **June 27, 2010:** Completed mustard Agent Trial Burn for Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and Liquid Incinerators (LICs).
- **June 11, 2009:** Began first HD ton container destruction in the 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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