

UMCDF ramps up to 75% rate

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has received the OK to increase the destruction of mustard ton containers through the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) from a 50 percent processing rate to 75 percent.

"Our plant has received the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approval for this increase and has made the required steps to safely ramp up the destruction of the remaining chemical mustard agent stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot," said Gary Anderson, the Army's site project manager at the UMCDF. "This increase in processing will help us complete our mission more timely and efficiently. The UMCDF is expected to complete the destruction of the stockpile prior to the international treaty requirements."

The Chemical Weapons Convention, a treaty signed by 178 countries, calls for the destruction of all chemical agents by April 29, 2012.

"We have demonstrated to the DEQ our ability to safely process agent at these levels, and the plant is operating 24 hours a day to incinerate the last of the chemical agent stored at the depot," said Steve Warren, Project General Manager for URS, the company that built and operates the demilitarization plant.

The mustard campaign began in June 2009. Umatilla started the campaign with a stockpile of 2,339 tons of mustard agent stored in large steel containers. Through Wednesday, Sept. 29 UMCDF had destroyed 847 original donor TCs and 745 tons of mustard agent.

"Nationwide, it took eight years to destroy the first 10 percent of agent as we were still mastering the operation," said Col. Robert Billington, Chemical Materials Agency project manager for Chemical Stockpile Elimination. "Since then, we have systematically applied the lessons learned to continually improve our efficiency. Achieving a 75 percent processing rate at UMCDF is a great milestone and is attributable to the close working relationship we have between systems contractors, the U.S. Army and the DEQ."

Processing at the increased rate began this morning.



Thermally decontaminated mustard ton containers like these will be piling up faster now that the UMCDF has received approval to process at 75 percent feed rate.

UMCDF Highlights

- It has been 1,545 days, or more than 7.1 million work hours, since a lost-time accident occurred at the UMCDF (July 7, 2006).

Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing (Sept. 23 - 29, 2010)

Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed this period	10
Total number of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	847
Percentage of originally stockpiled HD-filled ton containers destroyed to date	32.1
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed this period	0
Total "recipient" HD ton containers* destroyed to date	233
Pounds of HD agent destroyed this period	34,764
Pounds of HD agent destroyed to date	1,455,991
Pounds of total agent destroyed to date <i>Includes GB, VX and HD</i>	4,790,755
Total munitions destroyed to date since start of operations (Sept. 7, 2004) <i>including non-stockpile GB and VX ton containers</i>	218,732
Nominal tons of chemical agent destroyed to date	2,123.24
Percentage of total agent tons destroyed	57.12

**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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