



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

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## DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | Sept. 15, 2011



*On-site containers (ONCs) line a DCD transfer yard, where they will be stored until a recycling contract is in place. DCD officials expect the contract to be awarded by the end of September. A total of 40 ONCS will be recycled as scrap metal.*

### On-site containers to be recycled

*DCD and URS work together to reduce waste*

After 15 years of safely transporting munitions to the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) for destruction, the facility's on-site containers (ONCs) will soon meet their own fate as they are prepared to be recycled as scrap metal.

"It would be expensive to landfill the ONCs," said Matt Tomac, Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) environmental protection specialist and recycling program manager. "It would cost approximately \$14,400—and that is a low estimate—for each ONC to be buried in the ground."

Although five ONCs will stay on site to transport the remaining 300-plus overpacked mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars and 155mm projectiles to the TOCDF for disposal, 40 ONCs will be recycled.

Because the ONCs are considered as secondary containment, the facility's operating permit requires that they be triple rinsed to ensure they are clean before they leave the TOCDF. Workers first removed the interior munitions tray, which was tented for 24 hours at 70 degrees, then monitored to confirm there was no chemical agent contamination. The ONCs were then prepared for the rinse process.

"A large sheet of plastic was placed on the floor and the ONC was tilted so the water would run out," explained Jeff Laighton, TOCDF's operations munition coordinator. "There wasn't a lot of water needed. It's not like a car wash; we were pretty particular about how we sprayed it down and how much water was used."

For each ONC, the initial rinse was performed with clean catch pans to capture and sample the resulting rinse water for analysis. Laboratory workers analyzed each sample, monitoring for all three agents that have been processed through the TOCDF—GB, VX and mustard. The lab results verified that the initial rinse water's contamination levels were below permitted levels.

Workers then completed a second and third rinse for each

ONC to complete the triple rinse process.

Although each ONC weighs almost two tons with walls nearly a foot thick, they are not solid steel. Rather, they have six layers of steel—the first three are separated by ceramic heat tile and three additional layers are divided by polyurethane foam as insulation. (See RECYCLE on page 3)

### CAMDS closer to demolition

With the last Unventilated Monitoring Test (UMT) successfully completed, demolition of the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) is closer than ever.

In just over one year, nine CAMDS facilities—all where agent contamination was likely (the facilities were either used to handle, store or destroy chemical munitions)—have undergone and successfully passed a UMT. A UMT is an extensive 36-hour test that verifies a building's agent contamination is within accepted safety limits. The UMT is the last major step that needs to be accomplished before a facility can be demolished.

"Unventilated monitoring tests are very thorough," explained Jerry Linn, CAMDS site project manager. "Stringent procedures have to be followed during the test such as monitoring, maintaining a warm temperature, providing adequate air flow and creating an air-tight environment in order for the test to be conducted correctly. More importantly, the upfront work to prepare a facility for testing is extensive. There is a lot of engineering, planning, physical labor and paperwork that also goes into each UMT."

Readying CAMDS for demolition has been ongoing since 2006, but the pace of closure-related work didn't substantially gain speed until after April 2009 when URS, the same company that operates the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF), took control.

"Getting this far has really been a cooperative effort," said Linn, "and CAMDS closure will soon be a reality." (See LAST UMT on page 2)

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#### Outreach Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Monday - Friday**

*(Additional hours available upon request)*



*In preparation for the last CAMDS UMT, workers Boyd Hooley (left) and Troy Watson (right) loosen the bolts on the main air duct to the CAMDS Deactivation Furnace System. A blind flange was installed in the air duct to prevent any outside air from getting into the test area.*

## Last UMT

*(continued from front page)*

CAMDS is currently working with state regulators to finalize the facility's closure plan, while work crews are focused on the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, checking for chemical agent contamination.

"We visually inspect the piping with a borescope before the section of piping is monitored," explained Cliff Shaw, URS CAMDS closure manager. "We don't anticipate any agent contamination and so far none has been detected."

Shaw said the decommissioning of the HVAC system should be finished in mid-September. That's about the same time the proposal for the CAMDS demolition contract will officially go out. The work is expected to be awarded in December, and demolition would start soon after that.

## The following CAMDS facilities required and successfully completed an Unventilated monitoring Test (UMT):

- Deactivation Furnace System (DFS)
- Material Treatment Facility (MTF)
- Chemical Test Facility (CTF)
- Explosive Containment Cubicle (ECC)
- Metal Parts Furnace (MPF)
- Residual Storage Area (RSA)
- Liquid Incinerator (LIC)
- Toxic Maintenance Facility (TMF)
- Multi-Purpose Demilitarization Facility/Bulk Item Facility (MDF/BIF)

## Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 21 5:30 p.m.** - TOCDF RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meeting regarding the amount of Lewisite agent to be processed during the shakedown period for the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **Oct. 5, 5:30 p.m.** - TOCDF RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meeting regarding TOCDF cutter operations. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.

## Maintaining "Star" status

Last month, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) notified URS and its lab and monitoring subcontractor, Battelle, that they may maintain their "Star" status for another year, under OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

The VPP is an OSHA cooperative program that acknowledges employers and workers for their excellent industrial safety practices. The highest honor a workplace can receive through the VPP is Star status.

In response to URS and Battelle's 2010 Health and Safety Self-assessment, submitted back in February, OSHA VPP Region VIII Manager Brad Baptiste said, "In a nut shell, I would be very pleased if every VPP worksite produced such a well done report. It is comprehensive, professionally organized, well written, insightful and critical."

TOCDF Safety Coordinator Kathy Aragon accredits TOCDF's occupational health and safety success to the employees and to the Element Owner Program. "The Element Owner Program is a continuous improvement tool that we use at the TOCDF to help maintain and validate our Star status," Aragon said. URS and Battelle developed this program to help the TOCDF worksite remain in the VPP. Essentially it is a system consisting of 16 teams that are comprised of employees and leadership, who evaluate designated work areas and/or processes to ensure that they meet OSHA regulations and VPP standards.

During the recent VPP Participants' Association Annual Conference, Baptiste specifically commented on TOCDF's Element Owner Program, saying "This approach is by far the best in evaluating the safety and health management process and has been instrumental in creating a meaningful, active, and constructive employee-involved safety program."

Companies participating in the VPP are required to be reevaluated every three years, which will bring an OSHA audit team back to the TOCDF in February 2012 to recertify URS and Battelle for continued VPP Star status. This evaluation will consist of a week-long audit, including a comprehensive facility inspection and a thorough review of any new or changed processes.



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A crane lifts the first ONC from the trailer as it is delivered to the DCD transfer yard. URS photo.

## Workers begin final secondary waste campaign

*More than 700,000 pounds of legacy waste to be treated*

Secondary waste operations in Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) Area 10 have recently switched gears as workers began processing 2,999 drums, or more than 700,000 pounds of "legacy" waste generated from DCD storage area and Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS) operations.

In preparation of the legacy waste operations, a project was initiated in July 2010 to upgrade the Area 10 secondary waste facility.

"The principal part of this project was the mustard monitoring installation. This work represented not only the most important part of the project, but also the bulk of the work," said Steve Baily, URS Project Manager.

With new mustard monitoring buildings and equipment in place, workers can now monitor for all three agents involved in the collection of legacy wastes—GB, VX and mustard. Before beginning the DCD and CAMDS waste operations, workers were focused on waste generated from the GB and VX nerve agent disposal operations at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) and did not require mustard agent monitoring.

In order to sufficiently characterize the containers, workers will need to sort through a greater percentage of the legacy waste. Thus, a Life Support System (clean air supply) and an expanded Spent Decontamination System are also being installed. Both systems are required to support extended entries into the Drum Ventilation System Sorting Room—a ventilated area where workers in OSHA Level A protective gear can safely open the containers to identify and sort the contents.

As workers sort and monitor the waste, they will verify the level of agent contamination, which will determine how the waste will be processed. If monitoring results are below permitted levels, the waste may be shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill. If agent readings are at or above the permitted levels, the waste drum will be thermally treated in the facility's autoclave system before being shipped off site.

More than 1,300,000 pounds of GB and VX secondary waste from TOCDF operations have already been processed through the secondary waste facility in DCD's Area 10. Workers expect to wrap up the legacy waste operations by late 2012—well ahead of schedule.

## Recycle

*(continued from front page)*

There is also stainless steel within these six layers.

"We estimate about \$6,500 in return from recycling each ONC," said Tomac, "and diverting over 700,000 pounds of waste from a landfill."

The ONCs have been transported from the TOCDF property to a gravel-covered lot within DCD's boundaries. They will remain there until a recycling contract is in place, which is expected to happen by the end of this month.

After the disposal operations are complete, the five remaining ONCs will also be recycled.

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TOCDF workers Frank Griffith (left) and Tim Brown (right) ready one of the Explosive Containment Rooms (ECRs) for the upcoming overpacked mustard munitions campaign. The TOCDF's two ECRs are equipped with rotary cutters that will cut the munitions so that the explosive components can be removed and destroyed along with the mustard agent fill. TOCDF plant operations will supplement the planned use of the DAVINCH detonation chamber to destroy the depot's small stockpile of overpacked munitions. Disposal operations at the TOCDF could resume as early as next month.