



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

# MONTHLY UPDATE

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## DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | Nov. 17, 2011

### Handover of DCD approved

*TEAD to assume depot in 2013*

In less than two years, the Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) will once again become Tooele Army Depot (TEAD) South Area, as it was previously known from 1962 to 1996. The official transfer of authority will take place in July 2013 during an official "casing of the colors" ceremony, marking the end of DCD's command.

When DCD was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list in 2005, the plan was to transfer the depot to TEAD when the chemical weapons destruction mission was complete. However, BRAC laws and regulations have a six-year implementation period, which expired in September. It was then that TEAD's higher headquarters, the U.S. Joint Munitions Command (JMC), had to make a decision.

A cost-benefit analysis was prepared by TEAD to re-evaluate their position and determine if the transfer would still be beneficial. Following a visit to DCD, Brig. Gen. Gustavo Perna, JMC commanding general, approved the plan for TEAD to assume DCD.

"This decision provides TEAD with a great opportunity to resolve critical storage issues and improve mission efficiencies. TEAD is currently at 91 percent occupied and the additional storage space will allow us to apply proper and effective storage management practices that will translate into operational gains," said Keith Siniscalchi, TEAD Director of Ammunition Operations.

Besides the ammunition storage space, TEAD also plans to use some of the existing buildings to support their mission. They are also working with various partnerships for potential use of some of the additional administrative buildings at the depot.

Additionally, TEAD will inherit oversight of DCD's environmental remediation efforts, which will not be affected by this change. They will work hand-in-hand with the Army Corps of Engineers, who will directly manage the remediation contracts.

Although Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility operations will be complete in early 2012, closure operations will continue through 2014. Together, officials from both



*During a visit to Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD), Brig. Gen. Gustavo Perna (center), commanding general of the Joint Munitions Command, discusses transition plans with DCD Commander Col. Mark Pomeroy (left) and Tooele Army Depot (TEAD) Commander Col. Chris Mohan (right). TEAD will obtain DCD facilities and property when their chemical weapons storage mission is complete.*

depots are working to develop a plan for TEAD to continue support of the remaining closure activities.

"On July 11, 2013, we will case our colors, essentially ending DCD as a separate command," said DCD Commander Col. Mark Pomeroy. "We will hand over our keys to TEAD and it will again become TEAD South."

### New facility destroys last of DCD's nerve agent

Workers at the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator (ATLIC) safely destroyed Deseret Chemical Depot's stockpile of GA nerve agent, contained in four bulk containers, on Nov. 10. This represents complete disposal of DCD's nerve agent as well as the first chemical disposal operations to take place at the ATLIC, which commenced Oct. 31.

The ATLIC—located in the depot's storage area—is a small-scale liquid incinerator, approximately one-third the size, but similar in design to the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's liquid incinerators.

After depot storage workers delivered the GA bulk containers to the ATLIC facility from nearby storage igloos, facility workers placed the containers inside one of two specially designed glove boxes that are sealed airtight. Using protective gloves secured to the glove box, workers drained the agent from the containers, which was then fed (See Nerve agent destroyed on page 3)

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*Zane Olsen with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources acclimates the water inside a bucket holding 500 least chub before releasing the small minnows into a pond on Deseret Chemical Depot. The small minnow is a threatened species, but state wildlife officials hope to keep it off the endangered species list by establishing refuge populations such as the one at DCD.*

## Out of troubled water

*Native Utah fish finds safe home at DCD*

Five hundred least chub have a new home at Deseret Chemical Depot, and it's likely the new move could keep the native fish off the endangered species list.

The least chub arrived October 26, and were placed in one of the rehabilitated Johnson ponds, located just off Airport Road, northeast of the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. The least chub is a small minnow that measures no more than 2.5 inches long, making it the smallest of six chub species native to Utah's Bonneville Basin. For decades, the least chub's population has suffered a steep decline due to habitat destruction and competition with non-native fish such as trout, mosquito fish and largemouth bass.

"Finding the best suitable refuge for the least chub species is a big challenge," said Mark Grover, a native aquatic biologist with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. "And because it has been petitioned to be listed under the Endangered Species Act, it is a top priority for us."

The translocation of the least chub to the depot took a collaborative effort between DCD, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that started about three years ago when the agencies visited DCD.

"We invited the state agencies to come and tour the depot and help us identify some of our available resources that could be used for conservation," said Boyd White, DCD environmental scientist. "It was then that the idea of rehabilitating the old Johnson ponds and utilizing them as a fish refuge was first discussed."

The rehabilitated ponds turned out to be an ideal

refuge for the least chub—they're not too deep, they offer plentiful vegetation, and there is no threat of other fish or future development ruining the habitat.

"We know we have a refuge out here and it won't be bothered," said Grover. "Most importantly, by proactively conserving this species, it will stay off the endangered list."

An official Memorandum of Understanding between the parties spells out the details, and has allowed DCD to take its conservation efforts to a higher level of excellence, becoming the first Department of Defense installation to harbor a threatened fish species.

"In addition to safely storing and destroying the nation's single-largest stockpile of aging chemical weapons, we continue to do good work such as this that will have a positive and lasting impact," said DCD Commander Col. Mark Pomeroy.

**Click on the photo below to watch the least chub being released into a pond on DCD.**

*Video courtesy of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.*



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## Nerve agent destroyed

*(continued from front page)*

directly to the ATLIC where it was thermally destroyed.

A decon solution—18 percent sodium hydroxide—was then used to decontaminate the inside of the bulk containers. After which, the containers underwent additional water rinses to finish cleaning the interiors. The spent decon and waste water generated from decontaminating and washing the containers were also treated in the ATLIC.

The empty, decontaminated bulk containers have been placed back into storage until they can undergo their final treatment in the TOCDF metal parts furnace and will be ultimately shipped off-site to a permitted hazardous waste facility.

Now that the ATLIC has completed its first campaign, workers are preparing the facility for its final agent destruction campaign, the disposal of a small stockpile of Lewisite blister agent, which is expected to begin early in the new year.

## URS holds corporate job fair

During a recent job fair, various recruiters throughout the URS Corporation were on hand to speak to employees about other company projects, including more than 500 positions that are currently open throughout the company.

"The employees were pleased with the job fair," said Melissa Clark, URS human resource generalist with the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF). "Recruiters were not only looking for people to fill positions in other states, they also have several positions available for the URS data center, which is located near Camp Williams," Clark explained.

Along with current job openings, there are also several more pending positions that may become available in the coming years. This event provided valuable information for employees as they prepare for the TOCDF project to come to an end.



*TOCDF Trial Burns Project Manager Steve Brow talks to a URS recruiter from Denver as they check out job postings for URS Corporate nuclear projects. URS held a job fair on Nov. 8 and 9 at the Tooele Community Learning Center. URS Photo*



*As one of the four GA bulk containers is delivered to the Area 10 Liquid Incinerator for disposal, workers use a forklift to safely place the container onto a rolling cart, which was used to transfer the container into one of the two specially designed glove boxes.*

## Upcoming Events

- **Dec. 6, 6:00 p.m.** - DCD RCRA Class 2 Permit Modification public meeting regarding the DCD Closure Plan. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.
- **Dec. 8, 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.

*The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed on Nov. 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.*



On Nov. 14, the first of less than 200 remaining 155mm mustard projectiles is placed in the cutter equipment to make the first cut around the top of the projectile. This allows workers to remove the lifting lug before a second cut is made so that workers can remove the burster. The burster is processed in the Deactivation Furnace, while the agent-filled projectile is decontaminated in the Metal Parts Furnace.

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