

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

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**Date:** May 30, 2013

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item C, Informational item: Umatilla Chemical Demilitarization Program status update  
June 19-20, 2013, EQC meeting

**Purpose of item** This item will inform the commission about closure activities and project status at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and the Umatilla Chemical Depot as of April 30, 2013.

**Depot status** The Umatilla Chemical Depot was closed under a General Order of Closure Aug. 1, 2012. The depot is currently under Base Realignment and Closure authority and the disposal facility is a tenant. The U.S Army Chemical Materials Agency is conducting closure activities for hazardous waste storage units, including cleanup and sampling of igloos and other storage areas.

**Program news** The Umatilla facility destroyed the last agent-filled munitions in its stockpile Oct. 25, 2011. The facility had been conducting decontamination, dismantling and equipment removal activities associated with closure of the facility until Jan. 17, 2013, when the final closure plan was approved for the facility and all closure activities could begin. The facility treated non-liquid secondary wastes through the metal parts furnace until Feb. 8, 2013. All incinerators are now shut down and closure activities have begun on the incinerators.

Secondary waste

The facility has sent all agent-contaminated wastes generated since the shutdown of the metal parts furnace to a commercial RCRA-permitted incinerator, in accordance with the facility's Waste Analysis Plan. The facility will determine the type of wastes that are generated during closure and ship the materials to the appropriate disposal facility. This ensures that the waste can be shipped safely and efficiently to the appropriate disposal facility as required in federal and state law.

#### Facility safety

As of May, the facility reported approximately 11.5 million work hours without a lost-time injury. The last lost-time injuries occurred in 2006.

#### Other notable activities

The engineer who will certify plant closure and the demolition contractor, whose work included the demolition of the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, recently briefed DEQ staff. The demolition contractor is currently scheduled to begin in September. All other facility buildings will remain after closure and are slated for reuse as industrial property.

#### **Permitting updates**

DEQ received and approved one new permit modification during the reporting period. DEQ staff have reviewed a draft update to the Depot closure plan and provided comments. The Depot will finalize the proposed update and submit it as a permit modification in the next month.

#### **Significant events at other facilities**

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency has eliminated 90 percent of the national chemical weapons stockpile to date.

#### **Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility**

This facility completed agent disposal operations Jan. 21, 2012, and is currently processing secondary waste in its Metal Parts Furnace. The facility is preparing for completion of unventilated monitoring tests. The Drum Ventilation System and Autoclave have been shut down and are being decommissioned.

#### **Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System**

This facility has been demolished and it is going through permit close out.

#### **Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility**

This facility operated from Aug. 9, 2003, to Sept. 22, 2011. The facility has shut down all of its furnaces and is preparing for completion of unventilated monitoring tests. The Static Detonation Chamber continues to process conventional munitions.

#### **Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility**

The demolition of this facility has been completed. It has received notification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality accepting the RCRA clean closure of the facility and for termination of the facility's RCRA permit.

**Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility**

This facility is closed, and the property was transferred to the Army's Base Realignment and Closure division July 18, 2010.

**Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant**

This facility is still under construction and scheduled to begin operations in 2018. The plant will use neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation to destroy 523 tons of nerve and mustard agents, with hydrolysate to be processed on-site.

**Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant**

The facility is currently conducting systemization activities and should start operations in 2015. The plant will use neutralization followed by biotreatment to destroy 2,611 HD tons in artillery and mortar projectiles, with hydrolysate to be processed on-site.

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