

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: June 1, 2012
To: Environmental Quality Commission
From: Joni Hammond, Deputy Director
Subject: Agenda item J, Informational item: Umatilla Chemical Demilitarization Program status update
June 21-22, 2012, EQC meeting

Purpose of item This item will inform the commission about permitting activities and project status at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility as of May 17, 2012.

Program news The Umatilla facility destroyed the last agent-filled munitions in its stockpile Oct. 25, 2011. The facility is now treating agent-contaminated secondary wastes and conducting decontamination, dismantling and equipment removal activities.

The metal parts furnace operated almost nonstop during ton container processing, which limited the availability of the furnace to process agent-contaminated secondary wastes. Therefore, during the mustard campaign, the Army stored agent-contaminated wastes in containers and transported them to J-Block permitted storage. With the completion of the mustard ton container processing, the facility transports the secondary wastes from J-Block to the facility for treatment. It is also treating agent-contaminated secondary wastes generated during decontamination, dismantling and equipment removal activities. As of May 17, 2012, the facility has treated 270,912 pounds of secondary agent-contaminated wastes in the metal parts furnace and is projected to complete processing of the secondary waste backlog in J-Block around August.

DEQ issued a draft closure plan Oct. 25, 2011. Based on preliminary discussions with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10, DEQ extended the comment period to Jan. 19, 2012. The facility submitted a modification to the closure plan for review and editing by DEQ on April 4, 2012. The draft closure plan is currently being revised to address concerns raised by EPA, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and other stakeholders.

Umatilla
Chemical
Agent Disposal
Facility RCRA
permitting
activity

March 13, 2012 through May 17, 2012

Permit Modifications Received		
#	Title/Activity	Received
12-010	Shipment of Agent Contaminated Waste	04/12/12

Permit Modifications Under Review				
#	Title/Activity	Received	Comment Period Close	Target Decision/ Review Date
09-006	Amend Draft Closure Plan	04/04/12	11/24/09 ¹ 05/16/11 ² 01/19/12 ³	09/15/12
12-010	Shipment of Agent Contaminated Waste	04/12/12	06/11/12 ⁴	10/26/12 ⁵
12-005	Treatment of Spent Carbon in MPF	01/31/12	04/02/12	05/24/12
12-001	Agent Contaminated Carbon Trial Burn Plan	01/31/12	03/31/12 ⁴	09/05/12
¹ Initial (permittee) public comment period ² Second public comment period due to significant changes ³ DEQ (draft permit) public comment period ⁴ Based on the permittees' public notice ⁵ Will come to EQC for approval				

Notices			
#	Title/Activity	Received	Decision made
12-0249	DEQ Address Change	4/24/12	4/30/12

Umatilla Chemical Depot RCRA permitting activity

Notices			
#	Title/Activity	Received	Decision made
12-0224	DEQ Address Change	4/16/12	4/30/12

Significant events at other facilities

As of January 2012, 90 percent of the national chemical weapons stockpile has been eliminated.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Since completing agent disposal operations Jan. 21, 2012, closure activities are in full swing, with secondary waste disposal, and decontamination and decommissioning work in the most contaminated areas of the plant taking precedence. This includes the start of closure activities for the depot's Area 10 Liquid Incinerator, which processed nerve and lewisite blister agents.

Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System

Demolition of this system is complete, with only a small amount of site backfill activity remaining.

Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Disposal operations began Aug. 9, 2003, and ended Sep. 22, 2011. The facility is in the midst of closure activities, and the facility's structures will be evaluated for possible reuse.

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Disposal operations began March 28, 2005, ended Nov. 12, 2010. On April 19, after nearly a year and a half of closure activity, the facility safely completed Unventilated Monitoring Tests in the facility. These tests are the final verification that agent hazards have been mitigated and the tested area is ready for final demolition and disposal.

Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

Closure is complete at this facility.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant

This plant is nearly 50 percent constructed. Site-specific machines and equipment is being built and tested. Once complete, with a target start date of September 2018, the plant will use neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation to destroy 524 tons of nerve and mustard agents, with hydrolysates to be processed on-site.

Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant

This facility is on schedule to be constructed by the end of 2012 and begin operations in 2015. The plant will use neutralization followed by biotreatment to destroy artillery and mortar projectiles, with hydrolysates to be processed on-site.