

PROGRESS UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY

(July 2004 Update)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

- The Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) team has completed design, construction, and systemization, and currently is exercising the facility's operating systems to ensure safe and effective performance and to provide hands-on operator training and certification prior to beginning agent destruction operations. This Demonstration of Safe Operations (DSO) will conclude with an Integrated Plant Run (IPR), where we will operate the plant just like when we neutralize agent.
- During the weeks that the DSO takes place, the NECDF team performs job assignments as if the destruction facility were destroying actual agent. The facility will be processing simulated agent during the DSO; this material has physical characteristics that are similar to nerve agent but does not possess any hazardous properties. A Commissioning Review Board consisting of experienced individuals from both the Parsons and government teams observe the DSO. In addition to the Chemical Materials Agency, representatives from agencies including the Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of the Army Safety Office and the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, will be on site to observe and provide valuable input during this time. The purpose of the DSO is to validate safe plant operations for employees and the local community, and where improvements are necessary, to identify and ensure proper resolution.
- At the conclusion of the DSO process, to ensure that the facility and operators are prepared to begin agent destruction operations, the IPR will be performed. During this time, the facility will be operated with simulated agent for five days. Mock emergency situations such as loss of power to the facility, malfunction of a major piece of equipment and alarms within the facility warning of potential agent contamination will be presented to the workforce. The Commissioning Review Board will evaluate employees on their ability to safely and effectively perform their job tasks while adapting and responding to unexpected situations. Once the IPR is complete and all necessary corrections are verified complete, the chairman of the Commissioning Review Board will provide a recommendation to begin agent neutralization to the NECDF Site project manager based on the level of confidence that the agent destruction facility and the workforce are ready to begin safe agent destruction operations. The DSO process should be completed and a recommendation made later this summer 2004. This will be a significant milestone for the Newport community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The NECDF Outreach Team will staff an information booth at the Vermillion County Fair during the evening of Thursday, July 8 between 5 and 9 p.m.
- For those of you living in Parke County, the NECDF Outreach Team will staff an information booth at the Parke County Fair during the evening of Thursday, July 22 between 5 and 9 p.m.

*If you attend either of these events, we encourage you to stop by our booth to pick up the most recent project information and to ask any questions you might have about the Army's plans to begin destroying the chemical agent stockpile housed at Newport Chemical Depot. **We look forward to seeing you there!***