



Newport weekly report for week ending: September 23, 2005

SECTION ONE: NEWPORT OUTREACH PROGRAM "LOOK AHEAD"

CMA Public Affairs Goals		Newport Site-Specific Goals	
CMA1	Increase internal audience understanding and coordination of the CMA program, its objectives, key messages and activities, remaining inclusive of all missions.	NE1	Communicate effectively with stakeholders regarding the successful completion of project milestones that lead the NECDF closer to beginning agent operations, emphasizing that the NECDF is ready to begin safely and effectively destroying its chemical agent stockpile.
CMA2	Provide information to external audiences about CMA's commitment to fulfilling its national imperatives and meeting the needs of today's military.	NE2	Increase understanding among internal stakeholders regarding the impacts of the new AEL limits emphasizing that safe operation will continue with the implementation of these new requirements.
CMA3	Support among influential stakeholders through coordinated efforts with Army leadership, CMA management, employees and contractors.	NE3	Identify employee information needs and their preferences for receiving information in order to provide workers with accurate and timely information that contains CMA/NECDF key messages, in hopes that they, in turn, communicate these positive key messages to external stakeholders.
CMA4	Ensure that CMA communicates effectively about evolving issues, opportunities and challenges that may potentially affect the agency and its mission.	NE4	Provide information to stakeholders about the Army's willingness to work with oversight agencies, such as the EPA and CDC to address any areas of concern regarding the proposed plan for wastewater treatment from NECDF; openly communicate next steps to key stakeholder groups in an effort to ease concern and reduce resistance to the Army's proposed treatment option.
CMA5	Maximize public affairs management, administrative and systems support services provided to CMA Public Affairs staff at headquarters and the site level to ensure alignment with the CMA management plan and CMA Public Affairs Strategic Communications Plan.	NE5	Provide information to stakeholders on the advantages of utilizing the proposed decontamination method for treatment of Newport's empty steel containers. Openly communicate information on safety features.
		NE6	Communicate to stakeholders that the safety and security of the stockpile will not be compromised in light of the National Guard departure. Openly communicate that CMA has implemented efforts to augment security.
		NE7	Keep abreast of issues related to development of a closeout strategy for the Newport CSEPP community. Communicate these evolving issues to CMA and the Newport site team to ensure they are aware of issues that may potentially affect the mission.



Next Week’s Activities “At a Glance”

The top issues/opportunities/milestones to be addressed by the Newport Outreach Team over the next reporting period (09/26/05-09/30/05) include:

Issue No.	CMA Goal(s)	Site Goal(s)	Brief Description of Issue/Opportunity/Milestone
1.	CMA2 CMA4	NE1 NE4	On Sept. 27, LTC Kimmell and NECDF site project manager, Jeff Brubaker, are scheduled to give a project update during the Indiana Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Conference. ORO staff will set up an information display during the conference held Sept. 26-28.
2.	CMA4 CMA5	NE1	On Sept. 29-30, an ORO staff member will be in Washington, D.C. attending the Public Relations Society of America Thoth Awards Ceremony on behalf of NECD/NECDF for the team’s efforts conducting an employee survey.
3.	CMA2 CMA4	NE1	During the week of Sept. 26, ORO staff will prepare materials for an informational booth they will work as part of Wal-Mart’s National Safety Month. This booth will be staffed with Vermillion County CSEPP representatives.

SECTION TWO: SUMMARY OF MEDIA COVERAGE

- One article was posted to DCS Headlines Mailer relative to activities at Newport during the week ending September 23, 2005.
- An opinion article from *Tribune-Star (IN)* discussed the opposition to disposal treatment in New Jersey.
- No CMA spokespeople were quoted in this week’s media coverage.
- No CMA key messages were used.
- Since it was an opinion article, the coverage was not balanced. Several statements in the piece were not accurate.

SECTION THREE: STAKEHOLDER INTERACTION

Notable Contacts

- **Roleen Pickard, IRTA member.** On Sept. 19, Pickard sent a thank you note to the ORO for the presentation given at Green Acres to the Indiana Retired Teachers Association.
- **Arthur Asaki, CHPPM.** On Sept. 19, Asaki visited ORO to review the NECD/NECDF environmental documents.
- **Angie Hess, Wal-Mart employee.** On Sept. 20, the ORO staff contacted Hess to schedule the display of a booth on Oct. 4 at Wal-Mart as part of Wal-Mart safety month.

**SECTION FOUR: ACCOMPLISHMENTS (“LOOK BACK”)**

- **NECD/NECDF PAO, CMA PAO and URSColeman site support held a meeting.** On Sept. 20, ORO staff, NECD/NECDF PAO, CMA PAO and URSColeman site support held a meeting to discuss strategy for responding to an editorial placed in the Terre Haute Tribune Star on Sept. 16 regarding the Newport project. Talking points and a letter to the editor are in the works.
- **Weekly NECD Staff Meeting.** On Sept. 20, ORO staff attended the weekly NECD staff meeting to give an update on outreach initiatives.
- **Weekly NECDF Project Update.** On Sept. 21, ORO staff distributed the weekly NECDF project update to 28 media outlets, 9 Indiana CAC members, 13 internal Army agencies, 15 CSEPP representatives and 27 elected officials.
- **Weekly NECDF Project Update.** On Sept. 21, ORO staff distributed weekly NECDF project update to 1048 NECD/NECDF employees.
- **NECD/NECDF PAO Live Meeting.** On Sept. 21, ORO staff and NECD/NECDF PAO participated in a Live Meeting on implementation of the Balanced Scorecard criteria.
- **Outreach Posters.** On Sept. 21, ORO staff initiated redesign of two outreach posters: Characteristics of VX and Agent Destruction Process Overview. The URSColeman visual communications team is in the process of updating these posters.
- **Initial Planning Meeting.** On Sept. 22, ORO staff were invited by LTC Kimmell to participate in an initial planning meeting to discuss a government offsite. Kimmell's goal is to host the offsite on Nov. 15. Kimmell has requested support from ORO staff to facilitate the discussion.
- **Site Showcase Handout.** On Sept. 22, ORO staff initiated development of the site showcase handout for the upcoming CMA PA IPT.
- **NECD/NECDF PAO Response to Query.** On Sept. 23, ORO staff supported NECD/NECDF PAO in developing a Response to Query regarding an email sent to CMA PA by a disgruntled Parsons employee regarding negotiation of performance and retention incentives. The RTQ was reviewed by CMA PA and finalized for use.
- **NECD/NECDF key message cards.** On Sept. 23, the revised NECD/NECDF key message cards were approved and will now undergo a reprint.
- **Response Letter to Tribune-Star Opinion Piece.** On Sept. 23, LTC Kimmell, depot commander and Jeff Brubaker, NECDF site project manager sent the following letter to Max Jones, editor Tribune Star in response to an opinion piece that ran in the Sept. 16 edition.
Mr. Jones: As the senior leaders at the Newport Chemical Depot we would like to respond to information that was published in an Opinion piece that ran on September 16, 2005 in the Tribune-Star. We are scheduled to discuss these clarifications and other aspects of the VX disposal program when we meet with you on October 6, 2005.
Some facts on the Army's VX disposal plan:
The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's (CMA's) plan to treat hydrolysate is safe. Hydrolysate is the caustic wastewater that remains after destroying the nerve agent VX.
VX is a liquid; similar in thickness to 30-weight motor oil. It does not disperse or evaporate easily and is a contact hazard rather than a vapor hazard. The neutralization process at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Indiana destroys the VX on site, as proven by laboratory analysis. The resulting hydrolysate does not contain VX and has none of its characteristics.



Outreach Office Progress Report

The NECDF will ship only hydrolysate that has been laboratory-certified as containing no detectable levels of VX. An April 2005 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report states that the Army's transportation plan for the caustic hydrolysate meets Department of Transportation regulations, and precautions are adequate to protect the public, workers and the environment.

The proposal is to treat the caustic hydrolysate at DuPont's Secure Environmental Treatment facility in New Jersey. DuPont would first eliminate the wastewater's caustic characteristics and remove the small amount of phosphonates that are in the wastewater (these were the concern for the treatment stream's effects on aquatic life) prior to further treatment using a biotreatment process that ends with a discharge released into the Delaware River. The discharge would meet or better the strict requirements of state and federal regulatory agencies.

The CDC is currently studying the efficiency of DuPont's patented treatment process. And we will not proceed with contract award until the CDC agrees that the process is safe for the workforce, the community and the environment including the Delaware River.

The successful off-site treatment and disposal of more than 4 million gallons of wastewater from CMA's Aberdeen, Md., project without incident at a properly permitted commercial treatment, storage and disposal facility clearly demonstrates that off-site treatment is safe for the public and the environment. This is the same safe and cost-effective approach the Army is proposing for the caustic wastewater from the depot.

Shipment of hydrolysate or wastewater is safe, and complies with existing treaty requirements, and federal and state laws and regulations. It makes sense to use an existing treatment, storage and disposal facility, with a proven process and safety record rather than reproducing or creating a new facility and process on site.

SECTION FIVE: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event Title	Brief Description of Event
September 26, 2005	Indiana Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Conference	On Sept. 27, LTC Kimmell and NECDF site project manager, Jeff Brubaker, are scheduled to give a project update. ORO staff received a request to set up an information display during the three-day conference held Sept. 26-28.
October 4, 2005	Wal-Mart Safety Month Booth	On Oct. 4, ORO staff will set up an informational display at the Clinton Wal-Mart as part of their Safety Awareness Month activities. This booth will be in conjunction with a Vermillion County CSEPP display.
November 16, 2005	CSEPP IPT	On Nov. 16, the CSEPP IPT is scheduled to meet at the Turkey Run Inn. NECDF/NECDF project representatives plan to attend to provide a project update.