



WEEKLY UPDATE

NEWPORT CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY
NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT



NECDF Chemical Disposal Operations

March 21, 2006

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Steel Container Transport

Newport Milestones/Facts

Milestone Dates

- 1962-1968: Newport manufactures all chemical agent VX for the U.S. defense stockpile
- 1969: President Richard Nixon issues a unilateral decree halting production and transport of chemical weapons, including last two batches of VX produced at Newport
- 1999: Army awards systems contract to Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Calif., to design, construct and operate NECDF
- 2003: Construction complete
- 2005: Agent destruction operations begin May 5



Chemical Agent Transfer System

Using neutralization technology, NECDF has safely destroyed:

Approximately 295,491 pounds of agent (approximately 35,012 gallons)

Activities: VX destruction operations continue. Neutralization operations paused for approximately 72 hours last week. A plug on reactor # 2 containing previously cleared hydrolysate became dislodged, causing a release of the caustic wastewater into a containment area of the process building. After completing clean up and maintenance activities in the reactor bay, neutralization operations resumed in reactor # 1. Neutralization operations are expected to continue in reactor # 2 mid-week. Workers have completed the first phase of construction to the additional intermodal container storage area. Storage in this section is slated to begin next week.



Neutralization Reactor

Continuing the Legacy of Safety

The Newport team continues to build upon their legacy of safety – from chemical agent manufacture and shipment in the 1960s, to nearly 40 years of safe storage and finally to the start of agent destruction operations. By safely eliminating Newport's chemical agent stockpile, the workers at NECDF will remove the risk posed by continued storage of the stockpile. The United States will be safer due to the efforts of the Newport team.



Carbon Filtration Units

- Our top priority remains the safety of the surrounding communities, site personnel and environment.
- During start up, deliberate actions and thorough review of data will be conducted to verify performance before increasing production rates.
- Processing areas are ventilated and maintained under negative pressure. Air drawn from these areas is controlled, monitored and filtered through carbon units before being released into the environment in order to meet state and federal clean air standards.
- Monitoring air within the depot is a vital part of processing chemical agent. More than 70 chemical agent monitors are placed in and around the facility, with approximately 4,000 samples taken daily.

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Newport stockpile
consists of:



Liquid chemical
agent VX housed in
steel containers

CREATING A SAFER TOMORROW