



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

# FACT SHEET

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## Newport Chemical Depot

### Chemical Agent Destruction and Caustic Wastewater Treatment

On May 5, 2005, the Army began neutralizing the chemical agent VX stockpile housed at the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD). On Aug. 8, 2008, the Newport work force safely completed this mission, eliminating the risk posed to the community by continued chemical agent storage.

The Newport work force neutralized the chemical agent by adding bulk liquid agent VX to a steel reaction tank containing hot (approximately 194 degrees Fahrenheit) sodium hydroxide and water. The mixture was agitated for an extended period of time to break down the chemical composition of the VX, eliminating its lethal toxicity. The resulting byproduct was a caustic wastewater made up of water, sodium hydroxide, organic phosphorous and sulfur-containing salts. The caustic wastewater was analyzed in the on-site laboratory to ensure that no detectable agent remained.

Once the chemical agent reaction was verified, the wastewater was stored in intermodal containers, also referred to as ISO containers, for transport to Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, for further treatment.

The NECD chemical agent disposal operation was conducted in accordance with the United States commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). International Chemical Weapons Treaty inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) were on site at Newport during operations to confirm destruction of the chemical agent VX stockpile. According to the terms of the CWC, the Army received credit for chemical



Workers at NECDF, along with representatives from OPCW, inspect an ISO container filled with hydrolysate prior to leaving the site.

stockpile destruction once the caustic wastewater was offloaded into storage tanks at the Veolia facility for final treatment.

The last of the treaty declared hydrolysate was shipped and unloaded at Veolia on Sept. 5, 2008. The OPCW inspection team was on site at Veolia and witnessed the unloading of this last treaty hydrolysate shipment. This significant milestone marked successful fulfillment of the U.S. CWC obligations at the Newport site.



For more information,  
contact the  
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