



Flying high

New flags symbolize TOCDF's commitment to safety

Three new flags fly outside the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Disposal Facility (TOCDF)—an American flag flanked by VPP star worksite flags. The flags serve as a constant reminder of what employees have achieved and what will be expected of them as they continue to destroy the remaining stockpile of chemical weapons stored at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD).

More than two years ago, TOCDF's systems contractor, EG&G Defense Materials, and its lab and monitoring subcontractor, Battelle Memorial Institute, envisioned the flags flying over the TOCDF and applied for the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The VPP formally recognizes exemplary industrial safety cultures. As part of the extensive VPP application process, an OSHA team of experts completed an audit of TOCDF in February, observing firsthand employees' commitment to safety. The auditing team was so impressed by what it saw that it granted star status—the highest achievable honor—to both companies.

"What you have accomplished here is exceptional and you should be very proud of that," said Brad Baptiste, OSHA's Region VIII VPP manager, during the formal VPP star status recognition celebration held Aug. 6, 2009, at the TOCDF. Baptiste participated in the audit and said every member of his team knew the TOCDF was a VPP star site after visiting the container handling building, where workers continuously embodied a strong safety culture.

DCD Commander Col. Gerald L. Gladney, who also spoke at the celebration, said the VPP star flags were proof that safety is not just a hollow phrase at the depot; it is a way of life. "I am truly proud of you, and you can be proud of yourselves," Gladney said to the crowd of more than 400 workers.

(See STAR STATUS on page 3)

Autoclave system ready for operations

A new autoclave system will soon be in operation, using a heat and high-pressure steam process to deal with secondary waste. Located in Deseret Chemical Depot's (DCD) Area 10, the autoclave will treat agent-contaminated waste at about 300 degrees Fahrenheit so it can be safely shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill.

A recent Readiness Assessment tested EG&G operators' skills in moving and monitoring secondary waste barrels. "The assessment went well. From an operations standpoint, the crews and supervisors performed excellent," says EG&G's Secondary Waste Operations Manager Troy Worthen.

Workers have already begun monitoring and sorting operations, which are conducted in ventilated areas within a storage igloo. The secondary waste barrels are moved into a glove box called the Drum Ventilation System (DVS), where operators work from outside using a specially designed tool to perforate the top of a barrel so the contents can be monitored. The level of agent contamination determines how the waste will be processed.

If the agent contamination is monitored below 1.0 Vapor Screening Limit (VSL), the drum is removed and stored until it can be shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill. If the agent readings are at or above 1.0 VSL, the barrel will be sent to the autoclave for thermal treatment to lower the contamination level below 1.0 VSL, allowing the

(See SECONDARY WASTE on page 2)



From outside the Drum Ventilation System, EG&G's Nick Mele performs a Readiness Assessment demonstration, using a pneumatically powered tool to shoot a special plug into the top of a secondary waste barrel to allow air monitoring inside the barrel. The detected level of agent contamination determines how each barrel will be processed (EG&G Photo).

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Monday - Friday

(Additional hours available upon request)



Located inside an Area 10 storage igloo, the autoclave will treat agent-contaminated waste so it can be safely shipped off site to a permitted hazardous waste landfill.

Secondary waste

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treated waste to be transported to the hazardous waste landfill.

This week, workers began demonstrating the ability of the autoclave in what is referred to as the *shakedown* phase. This phase provides an opportunity for operators and support personnel to become familiar with the autoclave system and to determine the optimum operating parameters and conditions.

The secondary waste includes waste generated from TOCDF operations, as well as "legacy" waste from DCD and the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). It is expected that some of the barrels of the legacy waste were not sufficiently characterized. Thus, another component of secondary waste operations includes a DVS Sorting Room – a ventilated area where workers in OSHA Level A protective gear can safely open the barrels to identify and sort the contents.

Operators will first begin treating the estimated one million pounds of secondary waste from TOCDF operations. They will then move on to the additional one million pounds of legacy waste from DCD and CAMDS. Autoclave operations are expected to be in full swing by late September.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility Processing

(as of Aug. 17, 2009)

Total number of mustard agent-filled bulk containers destroyed	3,927
Total number of mustard agent-filled 155mm projectiles destroyed	54,453
Total number of mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars destroyed	336
Percentage of total mustard agent stockpile destroyed	61.63%



The guest speaker at this month's Tooele County Chamber of Commerce luncheon was DCD's Deputy Commander Don Campbell. Campbell provided the chamber members with an update on the local chemical weapons disposal operations and projected timelines, highlighting that disposal operations are expected to conclude by late 2011—ahead of the treaty deadline.

Closure Activities

Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System

Sections of the CAMDS Deactivation Furnace System kiln have been shipped offsite to a hazardous waste landfill for disposal. Workers continue to prepare for Decontamination and Disassembly (D&D) activities by conducting systems training and readiness assessments. Discussions continue with state regulators to approve the partial closure plans before work on the Material Treatment Facility can begin, which is scheduled for September.



TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba points out a plant landmark during a VIP tour on Aug. 18. Second from right is Brooke Boyer, a professional staff member for the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense. Boyer has held the job for a couple years, but until yesterday hadn't had the opportunity to visit any of the nation's chemical weapons disposal sites. Next to Boyer is Lt. Col. Michelle Green, Office of the Congressional Legislative Liaison, and at far left, Carmen Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons) (EG&G Photo).

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At the presentation of EG&G and Battelle's OSHA VPP Star flags, from left, TOCDF VPP team chairperson Kathy Aragon; team member Steve Bunn, Jr.; EG&G Vice President and General Manager Gary McCloskey; OSHA Region VIII VPP Manager Brad Baptiste; Battelle TOCDF Site Manager, Dr. Reza Karimi; and Veronica Reilly and Jolene Jolley, Battelle members of the TOCDF VPP Team

Star status

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Additional well-wishers included Col. Robert Billington, project manager for the U.S. Army's Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Chemical Stockpile Elimination (CSE) program, who offered his congratulations to EG&G and Battelle's workforce. "Achieving VPP star status is a tremendous achievement," Billington said. "You have prevented accidents and injuries by building a strong culture of excellence and safety and you have demonstrated a consistent commitment to continuous improvement as you safely destroy the stockpile."

TOCDF Site Project Manager Ted Ryba agreed, as he spoke about the transformation of TOCDF's attitude over the years. He said there had been a belief that safety and productivity could not coexist, until a series of events, including an environmental stand down and 60 days of lost production, led to a new movement that placed equal value on both. With the help of worker-led groups such as the Safety Action Team and the Environmental Leadership Committee, this new attitude took root, Ryba said, and as a result, both safety and production have flourished.

"I want to add my congratulations to a tremendous accomplishment of achieving OSHA VPP star status," Ryba said. "Keep up the great work. That's going to be our continued expectation."

Disposal efforts started at the TOCDF on August 22, 1996; more than 82 percent of DCD's stockpile—the single-largest stockpile in the country—has been destroyed.

Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 2, 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.** – Come visit the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office information booth at the Tooele County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo. The event will be held at the Tooele City Park on the corner of 200 W. and Vine Street.
- **Sept. 10, 1:30 p.m.** – Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board monthly meeting. The meeting will be held in Room 101 at the Department of Environmental Quality building, 162 N. 1950 W. in Salt Lake City.
- **Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.** – Utah Citizens' Advisory Commission meeting. The meeting will be held at the Department of Environmental Quality Building, 162 N. 1950 W., Salt Lake City.
- **Nov. 17, 1:00 p.m.** – DCD Restoration and Advisory Board meeting to discuss environmental clean-up activities associated with the depot. The meeting will be held at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 S. Main Street in Tooele.

*The Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will be closed **Sept. 7** for the observance of Labor Day.*

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