



**Umatilla Chemical Demilitarization Program
Status Update
Environmental Quality Commission
June 22-23, 2006
(Agenda Item F)**

Umatilla Chemical Demilitarization Program

Permit Modification Requests (PMRs) for the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) and the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD)

Since the last update, the Department has not received or approved any UMCD PMRs.

The Department has received the following UMCDF PMR of note since the last update:

- Class 3 PMR UMCDF-06-010-CMP(3) – proposes changes to the requirements in the Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) located in Attachment 5 of the UMCDF HW Permit. The changes are based on an evaluation of data collected as part of the CMP over the past several years, and would result in a reduction of the scope of the sampling effort. The CMP was developed to collect environmental samples (water, soil and biota) from areas surrounding the UMCD to identify any impacts from operation of the incinerator facility. This PMR was submitted on May 16, 2006, and the initial public comment period ends July 17, 2006.

The Department has approved the following UMCDF PMR of note since the last update:

- On May 5, 2006, Class 1 PMR UMCDF-06-016-DFS(1R) – approved revisions to the UMCDF HW Permit that will allow processing of M55 GB rockets containing tetrytol components in accordance with the same requirements for M55 GB rockets containing Composition B components. Previously, tetrytol rockets had been limited to a maximum feed rate of approximately 50% of that allowed for Composition B rockets due to a concern that tetrytol showed a tendency to detonate instead of burn. Approval of this PMR was based on the results of limited testing conducted March 20-25, 2006 by UMCDF using approximately 1300 tetrytol rockets. This limited testing was conducted under requirements and controls established by the Department and showed that tetrytol rockets can be safely processed in the same manner as Composition B rockets.

Summary of Agent Processing at UMCDF

As of June 13, 2006, UMCDF had processed 73,997 GB rockets (81% of the original inventory of GB rockets at UMCD); 2,418 GB MC-1 bombs (100% of the original inventory); and 27 GB

MK-91 bombs (100% of the original inventory). The total amount of GB agent destroyed since the start of agent processing (September 2004) is 1,308,939 lbs., or about 65% of the original GB agent stored at UMCD.

Global Power Loss Incident

At approximately 4 pm on May 19, 2006, the UMCDF experienced a global loss of power due to extreme weather conditions. The weather caused power lines to be blown over and power loss from both McNary Dam and Boardman power sources. The UMCDF emergency backup diesel generator initially started as designed to provide power to the critical facility functions, including the ventilation system for the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB). The generator then overheated and shutdown after approximately 40 minutes. Unfortunately, a switch was turned off which prevented a cooling system from activating. The UMCDF was without primary power for approximately 40 minutes before the generator could be restarted. During that time, the ventilation system (which is the primary engineering control feature to prevent the spread of agent contamination in the MDB) was off-line. Agent monitors within the MDB remained functional (they have backup battery power) throughout the power outage and did detect the spread of agent contamination into areas of the facility where it is not usually found. Review of agent monitoring data did not indicate any release of chemical agent outside the building. Full power was restored to UMCDF at approximately 1:00 a.m. on May 20, 2006, from the McNary power source. Agent processing resumed on May 25, 2006, after restoration of power from both sources and appropriate corrective actions had been completed.

Trial Burns

UMCDF conducted its GB agent trial burn for the Liquid Incinerator #2 (LIC2) on May 30-June 2, 2006. The Department expects to receive preliminary emissions testing results for LIC2 by July 12, 2006. The Department is currently reviewing the preliminary emissions testing results for the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) GB bomb agent trial burn. The Department expects to receive the final MPF GB bomb agent trial burn report by June 15, 2006. GB agent trial burns have now been completed for all four UMCDF incinerator systems.

Off-site Shipments of Brine

UMCDF's Hazardous Waste Permit requires the site to minimize brine generation, treat as much brine on-site as possible, and to provide prior notice to the Department if the need arises for off-site shipment of brine. As of June 12, 2006, UMCDF has shipped 409,208 gallons of brine (about 90-100 tanker trucks) of agent-free pollution abatement system brine to the US Ecology hazardous waste disposal facility in Grandview, Idaho.

Renewal of UMCDF's Hazardous Waste Storage and Treatment Facility Permit

The current UMCDF HW Permit will expire on February 12, 2007. UMCDF is currently working on an application for renewal of that permit, and meets regularly with the Department to update the status of the preparation effort. UMCDF will be conducting a pre-submittal informational public meeting on July 12, 2006, in Hermiston, Oregon. UMCDF will submit the renewal application to the Department prior to the August 12, 2006, deadline (180 days prior to permit expiration). The Department expects that it will be able to determine that the renewal application is complete prior to February 12, 2007, so that the current Hazardous Waste Permit will continue in effect past its expiration date until a decision is reached on a new permit. The

Department will continue to update the Commission on the schedule for review of the renewal application as additional information becomes available.

Significant Events at Other Demilitarization Facilities

Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF), Maryland

ABCDF has begun the process of decontaminating and dismantling the facility as part of the closure process that is expected to conclude in Winter 2007. Secondary wastes that were generated during chemical agent operations are being sent to a commercial off-site hazardous waste treatment/disposal facility near Port Arthur, Texas. Secondary wastes arrive at the Port Arthur facility in sealed drums and are then fed to a large rotary kiln. In April 2006, there was a detection of chemical agent from one of the shipments sent to Texas. The Department has requested a copy of the final investigation report for this incident.

Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF), Alabama

ANCDF continues to undergo "changeover" operations to prepare for the destruction of VX agent munitions. Changeover activities include decontaminating the facility and the installation and calibration of VX agent monitors. On May 8, 2006 ANCDF experienced a failure of the DFS afterburner. During the process of restarting the furnace following a maintenance outage, the bottom portion of the afterburner broke loose and fell, becoming lodged in the structural steel of the pollution abatement system building. At this point, it looks like the entire afterburner will need to be repaired or replaced. The Department is monitoring this situation to ensure a similar event is avoided at UMCDF, and has requested a copy of the final investigation report. ANCDF originally anticipated starting the VX campaign in mid-July. It is still unclear what schedule impacts will result from this incident.

Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF), Indiana

NECDF continues to destroy VX stored in bulk containers at Newport via neutralization. As of June 6, 395,417 pounds of VX (approximately 46,852 gallons) have been neutralized (this represents approximately 16% of the original Newport stockpile). The VX hydrolysate generated as a by-product of the neutralization process continues to be stored in onsite containers until the issue of its final treatment and disposal is resolved.

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF), Arkansas

PBCDF resumed GB agent operations in May after a four month shutdown to replace piping in the pollution abatement systems.

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF), Utah

On June 6, 2006 TOCDF began sampling the mustard ton containers located at Deseret Chemical Depot. A total of approximately 6400 ton containers will be sampled (this is 100% of the inventory at Deseret) and the sampling is expected to take 2.5-3 years. TOCDF is targeting sometime this summer to begin destroying mustard agent.