

Public Notice: Request for Comments and Notice of Public Hearing

HD Agent Trial Burn Plan Permit Modification Request UMCDF-09-003-MISC(3) (Hazardous Waste Permit Number ORQ 000 009 431)



State of Oregon
**Department of
Environmental
Quality**
**Umatilla Chemical
Demilitarization Program**
256 E. Hurlburt Ave.
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www.oregon.gov/DEQ

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide written comments on this proposed change to the UMCDF Hazardous Waste Permit (HW Permit). This notice supersedes, and is in replacement of, the public notice issued January 5, 2010 (DEQ Item No. 10-0002). In issuing this new notice, the Department is also restarting the 45-day public comment period and rescheduling the public hearing date as identified below.

DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way the DEQ does this is by requiring permits for certain activities. The DEQ has issued a HW Permit to the UMCDF to regulate the type and amount of wastes that may be stored and treated. All proposed revisions to the HW Permit are submitted by the UMCDF to the Department for review and decision/acceptance via the permit modification process.

Notice issued: January 22, 2010

Written comments due: 5 p.m. March 8, 2010

Hearing date: February 24, 2010

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Good Shepherd Medical Center
Conference Room 2
610 NW 11th Street
Hermiston, OR 97838

Where can I send my comments?

Written and oral comments will be accepted at the hearing listed above. The DEQ will also accept written comments by mail, fax, or e-mail (see below):

Richard C. Duval, Administrator
DEQ Chemical Demilitarization Program
256 E. Hurlburt Avenue
Hermiston, OR 97838
Phone: (541) 567-8297 or
(800) 452-4011 (toll-free in Oregon)
Fax: (541) 567-4741
E-mail: cdp@deq.state.or.us

(Please include "Public Comment" in the subject line. E-mail comments will be acknowledged as soon as possible. The DEQ is not responsible for delays between servers that result in missed comment deadlines.)

How do I get more information and review pertinent documents?

In accordance with applicable regulations, the DEQ has prepared a revised fact sheet with information related to this permit modification request and the reasons for the DEQ's tentative decision to recommend approval. You can review the detailed fact sheet (DEQ Item No 10-0055) and other documents related to Permit Modification Request UMCDF-09-003-MISC(3) via the DEQ Chemical Demilitarization Program web page (<http://www.deq.state.or.us/umatilla/cdpsearch/cdpSearch.asp>), at the Hermiston DEQ office (please call ahead for an appointment), or at one of the following information repositories:

Hermiston Public Library

235 E. Gladys Avenue
Hermiston, OR 97838
(541) 567-2882

Portland State University Library

951 S.W. Hall, Fifth Floor
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 725-4617

You can also call, write, or e-mail the Hermiston DEQ office and request information be sent to you. Interested parties are invited and encouraged to provide comments on this proposed change to the UMCDF HW Permit.

What is proposed?

On February 26, 2009, the UMCDF Permittees submitted Class 3 Permit Modification Request UMCDF-09-003-MISC(3) titled, "HD Agent Trial Burn Plan." The UMCDF is requesting to add the HD agent trial burn plan (ATBP) for the Liquid Incinerators (LICs) and the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and a set of supporting attachments common to both furnaces as Attachment D-18 to the UMCDF Hazardous Waste Permit Application.

An initial public-comment period on this permit modification request was held open from February 20 to April 21, 2009 (60 days). A public information meeting was held on March 24, 2009, in Hermiston, Oregon. The DEQ received several public comments concerning this permit modification request.

After consideration of the public comments and review of the information submitted by the UMCDF related to this permit modification request, the DEQ made a tentative decision on May 27, 2009, to approve the permit modification request with changes and conditions. The public comment period on the draft permit was initially open from May 27, 2009, through July 13, 2009; but it was extended twice and remained open through August 24, 2009. During the shakedown phase, necessary changes to the draft permit were identified and the UMCDF submitted additional information reflecting these changes. Subsequently, the DEQ prepared a revised draft permit incorporating these changes.

After consideration of the public comments and review of the information submitted by the UMCDF related to this permit modification request, the DEQ has made a tentative decision to approve the permit modification request with changes and conditions. The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide comments to the DEQ on the revised draft permit.

Why has the change been proposed?

The original permit modification request requested the addition of the HD agent trial burn plan (ATBP) for the LICs and the MPF and a set of supporting attachments common to both furnaces as Attachment D-18 to the UMCDF Hazardous Waste Permit Application. Due to increased metals content and the formation of undrainable solids (heels) in the HD ton containers, the PMR also included increases in the permitted agent and metals feed rates. Additional data has been collected during the shakedown period that indicated revisions to the draft permit were necessary. Therefore, the UMCDF submitted a supplemental submittal on December 23, 2009, proposing revisions to the plan and the permit to address the lessons learned since the Department's tentative decision on PMR UMCDF-09-003-MISC(3).

Where is the facility located?

The UMCDF is located in Northeastern Oregon on the Umatilla Chemical Depot, about seven miles west of Hermiston, Oregon (175 miles east of Portland, Oregon). The address is 78072 Ordnance Road, Hermiston, OR 97838.

What kind of facility is the UMCDF?

The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) is a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility that utilizes four incinerators to destroy the stockpile of chemical warfare agents that has been stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) since 1962. The UMCDF is owned by the U.S. Army and operated by Washington Demilitarization Company, LLC. A hazardous waste storage and treatment permit for the UMCDF was issued February 12, 1997.

The chemical agent stockpile at the UMCD originally included about 3,717 tons of nerve agents ("GB" and "VX") and blister agent ("mustard" or "HD") in liquid form. The chemical agents are contained in munitions such as rockets, projectiles, and land mines and in bulk containers such as spray tanks, bombs, and "ton containers." All of the chemical warfare agents are highly toxic.

What happens next?

After completion of the public comment period, the DEQ will review and consider oral and written comments received during the comment period. Based on this review, the Department will make a final decision on whether to approve the permit modification as proposed, approve the modification with revisions, or to deny the modification request.

The DEQ anticipates its final decision will be made by March 2010, and will respond to the significant comments received during the comment periods.

Accessibility information

The DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify the DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille, or another format. To make these arrangements, contact Shilo Ray in the DEQ Hermiston office (541) 567-8297, ext. 221, or toll-free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011, fax to (541) 567-4741, TTY (800) 735-2900, or e-mail to deqinfo@deq.state.or.us to request an alternate format.