

Public Participation



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Office of the Director
Chemical
Demilitarization
Program**

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www.deq.state.or.us

Background

In February 1997, the Environmental Quality Commission, the DEQ's governing body, issued environmental permits to the U.S. Army to build and operate the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) to destroy the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD) near Hermiston, Oregon. The disposal facility includes several different types of incinerators.

The Umatilla Chemical Depot stores nerve agents and blister (called "mustard") agents in liquid form. All of the chemical warfare agents are highly toxic. Nerve agents are contained in munitions, such as rockets, projectiles and land mines, and in large containers, such as spray tanks, bombs, and "ton containers." Blister agent is stored only in ton containers.

DEQ maintains an office in Hermiston to directly oversee storage operations and construction, permitting and operations of the disposal facility. The local office provides a communication link between the public and DEQ technical staff. Concerned citizens, interest groups, and elected officials are encouraged to express comments on environmental concerns they may have related to the disposal facility.

What are the roles of the Citizens Advisory Commission and the Environmental Quality Commission?

The Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC) is made up of seven residents from communities around the Umatilla Chemical Depot, as well as two state agency representatives (from Oregon State Police and DEQ). Members are appointed by the Governor to provide a public forum and to give input to the Army about the chemical agent disposal process. The CAC holds public meetings the third Thursday of every month.

The Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) is made up of five citizens appointed by the Governor. The EQC serves as the governing and policy-making body of the DEQ and issued the environmental permits for the disposal facility. They meet approximately every six weeks at locations around the state to decide regulatory environmental issues for the entire state of Oregon.

How can I get involved?

- ? *Visit DEQ's Hermiston office*
Contact Shelly Ingram to receive written information or to ask questions.
- ? *Get on the mailing list*
Contact the DEQ at 541-567-8297 (ext. 25) to be put on the mailing list to receive fact sheets, status updates, "chance to comment" forms, and advance notice of meetings dealing with the disposal facility.
- ? *Visit the Army's Umatilla Chemical Disposal Outreach Office in Hermiston*
Get fact sheets from all agencies and participants in the disposal program, ask questions, look at models of the weapons and the incineration facility, or use a computer to access the internet. The address is 190 East Main Street in Hermiston.
- ? *Attend public meetings and hearings*
Various organizations hold public meetings related to the chemical weapons disposal facility, including the CAC, EQC, the U.S. Army, DEQ, as well as emergency preparedness agencies such as Oregon State Police, county emergency management agencies, and others. It is important to attend these meetings to express your comments in person and get the current information available.

Contact Information

For DEQ information, please contact:

- ? Shelly Ingram
Public Information Representative
256 E Hurlburt Ave Suite 105
Hermiston, OR 97838
(541) 567-8297 ext. 25
or call toll-free in Oregon:
(800) 452-4011

For Army information, contact:

- ? Umatilla Chemical Disposal Outreach Office
190 East Main Street
Hermiston, OR 97838
(541) 564-9339 or (888) 866-5928

For emergency preparedness information, contact:

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) contacts:

- ? CSEPP Benton County
Public Information Officer
651 Truman Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 628-2600

- ? CSEPP Umatilla County
Public Information Officer
4700 NW Pioneer Place
Pendleton, OR 97801
(541) 966-3703

- ? CSEPP Morrow County
Public Information Officer
P.O. Box 751
Irrigon, OR 97844
(541) 481-3424

Where to get more information

Contact Shelly Ingram at the DEQ office in Hermiston, 256 East Hurlburt (Suite 105) or call (541) 567-8297 ext. 25 (toll-free in Oregon 1-800-452-4011).

Alternative formats

Alternative formats of this document can be made available. Contact DEQ, Shelly Ingram at (541) 567-8297 ext. 25. People with hearing impairment may call DEQ's TTY at (503) 229-6993.