



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Depot Moves Start-Up Date to Next Week

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, HERMISTON, ORE. – Umatilla Chemical (UMCD) and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) officials have changed the start of chemical agent weapons disposal operations. A new projected start date is sometime next week.

During the final readiness verification, several issues surfaced that Depot Commander Lt. Col. Doc Holliday and senior officials want resolved prior to start up.

“As we emphasize with our employees, the project’s philosophy is to stop work at any time when issues surface that need to be resolved,” Army Site Project Manager Don Barclay stated today following additional readiness meetings. “We want all our employees – who question their work – to stop, evaluate and seek resolution before proceeding. That is the way we do business here, and that is why we are now projecting to start sometime next week.”

For example, during the final readiness check and verification, questions arose regarding the plant’s ventilation system. Recent monitoring of the system during the second liquid incinerator’s surrogate (industrial chemicals) trial burn, showed trace amounts of surrogate vapor in the system’s charcoal filter banks. The depot commander and project management want to find out why.

Also, a complete air wash of the munitions demilitarization building must be completed and all surrogate material removed before agent operations. This has taken longer to achieve due to the second liquid incinerator’s recent surrogate trial burn.

Both issues will be resolved before UMCD and UMCDF officials approve start up.

“We will begin agent operations when issues have been resolved and we have verified our environmental compliance,” Holliday stated. “We will move munitions when issues are resolved, and we are comfortable and ready for start up.”

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