



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 6, 2006
TIME: 5:15 p.m.

CONTACT:
Bruce Henrickson, Public Affairs Office
(541) 564-5312 – Cell (54) 379-8810

Destruction of last GB nerve agent rockets at Umatilla delayed

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore. – With only 256 GB (sarin) nerve agent rockets remaining to be destroyed, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) halted processing this weekend to clean debris from a heated discharge conveyor (HDC). The remaining rockets are the last of 91,442 GB (sarin) nerve agent rockets and warheads originally stockpiled at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD).

The conveyor is near the end of the rocket processing line and discharges incinerated rocket components into bins for final disposal. Debris jammed the conveyor line and could not be cleared remotely. The cleanout procedure requires allowing the HDC to cool down from 1100 degrees to room temperature, finding and clearing debris, checking mechanical operation of the conveyor and then re-heating the system. Processing is expected to resume some time this week.

“We typically have to clear the heated discharge conveyor debris after processing five to seven thousand rockets,” said Don Barclay, Army site project manager. “It takes time to carefully check for debris, and we’d like this to be the last time we do this for GB rockets.”

#####

www.cma.army.mil