



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

# NEWS RELEASE

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

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### **Umatilla chemical munitions disposal facility passes 50 percent destruction numerical milestone**

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) has destroyed just over half of the total number of chemical munitions originally stockpiled at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD). Those munitions contained about 24 percent of the original chemical agent tonnage stored at Umatilla.

The disposal plant surpassed the 50 percent number-of-munitions-destroyed milestone on Sunday, February 11, during the 155mm diameter GB (sarin) projectile campaign. Since starting operations in September of 2004, the plant has destroyed more than 111,000 chemical munitions.

“The community and environment are just that much safer with each munition that we remove from storage and destroy,” said Depot Commander Lt. Col. Donna Rutten. “We look forward to eventual elimination of the last munition in the Umatilla stockpile.”

“Safely reaching this milestone is a significant accomplishment by our workers,” said Don Barclay, Army site project manager. “We will strive to maintain that high degree of safety during the rest of the project.”

When the UMCDF completes the 155mm GB projectiles campaign planned for this summer, all the sarin-filled munitions originally stored at the depot will be destroyed. After that, the facility will prepare for a series of VX nerve agent munitions disposal campaigns, beginning with M55 VX rockets. After destruction of all VX munitions, the depot will dispose of mustard agent stored in bulk containers.

Since Sept. 8, 2004, when it began destroying munitions, the plant has processed 91,442 M55 GB rockets, 2,445 GB bombs, and 14,246 8-inch diameter GB projectiles. It has destroyed several thousand 155mm GB projectiles since that campaign began on January 25.

“While the 50 percent production milestone is significant, safety is the most important measurement of success,” said Project General Manager Doug Hamrick of Washington Group International, the company that built and operates the plant for the Army. He noted that the UMCDF’s injury rate is about one-fourth of the industry standard for companies doing similar work.

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