



# PRESS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

## Umatilla Chemical Depot

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2008  
4 p.m.

For more information contact:  
**Bruce Henrickson - Public Affairs Office**  
Cell (541) 379-8810

**Hal McCune – Washington Defense Group**  
(541) 564-7304 or Cell (541) 571-1779

### Nerve agent processing resumes at Umatilla

**UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT, Hermiston, Ore.** – The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) resumed destruction of VX nerve agent this morning. This followed a two-and-a-half week processing pause while a liquid incinerator (LIC) was brought back on line. Deliveries of VX nerve agent munitions to the plant also restarted today.

Munitions processing stopped on May 14 when LIC No. 1 shut down after piping inadvertently plugged. Liquids backed up into the hot primary and secondary chambers, releasing steam and smoke in a small area of the plant. There was no danger to the public or environment. The liquids backup event was safely contained within the disposal plant under engineering controls.

The LIC is one of three types of incinerators at the disposal plant. The LIC incinerates chemical agent that has been drained from munitions, plus spent decontamination solution. Processing of 155mm diameter VX artillery projectiles casings in the metal parts furnace (MPF) and projectiles explosive components in the deactivation furnace system (DFS) is also expected to resume later this week.

The disposal plant has two liquid incinerators. Processing resumed this morning on LIC No. 2, which completed a nearly two-month planned maintenance outage last week and finished reheating over the weekend. Repairs and inspections of LIC No. 1 are continuing.

UMCDF has destroyed more than 21,000 of the 155mm VX-filled projectiles in the Umatilla stockpile. The 155mm VX projectile campaign is expected to be completed this summer, followed by 8-inch diameter VX projectiles and then VX land mines. Final destruction of VX land mines will mark the end of the VX agent disposal campaign, which will be followed by a plant changeover to prepare to process mustard (HD) blister agent bulk containers, also known as “ton containers.”

###

[www.cma.army.mil](http://www.cma.army.mil)