



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL
MATERIALS AGENCY

FACT SHEET

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Newport Chemical Depot

Newport Chemical Depot Closure Mission

The Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) work force has successfully completed the mission to safely eliminate the chemical agent stockpile. This milestone signifies that the Newport work force has rid our nation of a potential risk posed by continued VX storage. At the present time, future Army missions are not planned for the depot or agent destruction facility. When the stockpile elimination mission was accomplished, the professional team of men and women assumed a new mission - installation closure.

During the facility closure process, the agent destruction facility and equipment are decontaminated and dismantled. The closure process, like the agent elimination campaign, generates secondary waste such as spent decontamination solution, personal protective equipment and maintenance tools and supplies. These are typically treated in the same manner as they were during the agent campaign using existing equipment and processing techniques. After decontamination, final disposal options for closure wastes are similar to those for process and secondary wastes generated during the agent destruction campaign.

As closure progresses, the facility is tested to ensure compliance with environmental standards that were established in the environmental permit. This process begins well in advance of closure when the Army applied for the appropriate permits to build and test the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF). Disposal sites, like Newport, are governed by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The act required the facility to prepare a closure plan as part of the initial application for the operating permit.

While closure plans submitted at the time of permit application provide an estimated timetable, they do not define every detail in the



complex closure process. In anticipation of facility closure, the Newport team prepared a detailed closure plan and submitted the document for approval to state RCRA regulators by submitting a permit modification request. Following a public comment period, the modification to proceed with facility closure at the Newport site was approved by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Closure actions are overseen by IDEM.

Closure is closely regulated by numerous federal and state laws, as well as DoD and Army regulations. The Newport team has a dedicated staff that oversees the thorough environmental analysis of depot properties to determine any necessary remediation. Upon closure of the depot, this team anticipates that approximately 90 percent of the properties would be available for future use with no restrictions. IDEM will work closely with Newport environmental personnel to identify actions related to closure. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency oversees environmental studies and remediation in association with closure, to ensure long-term environmental protection. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)



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Newport Chemical Depot Closure Mission (continued)

Environmental Cleanup Program is focused on expediting cleanup to make the property available for reuse and transfer, while protecting human health and the environment.

Depending on the needs of the U.S. Army, when some or all of the land meets regulatory standards for decontamination and cleanup, the site may be restored to its natural condition, transferred to another federal government agency or transferred to local government or the private sector for reuse through the BRAC process. For additional information read the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) fact sheet titled, *Newport Chemical Depot Base Realignment and Closure Local Redevelopment Authority*.

Decontamination and dismantling of the physical facility is not the only significant activity during closure. Closure requires a sizeable work force, though smaller than during stockpile elimination operations, and work force numbers decline as closure moves forward. The impact of job loss on local economies is a major community concern. As they depart, many of these dedicated workers share their valuable experience by working at other chemical weapons disposal sites. Others return to related professions where they worked prior to their involvement in the chemical weapons disposal program.

The CMA is committed to open communication with the public as it applies expertise and resources to completing the closure mission. The Newport Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) is an advisory body designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information between the NECD and the local community regarding depot property restoration activities. The RAB is intended to bring together community members who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, enabling two-way flow of information between the affected community and the installation. RAB members are asked to comment on technical documents and plans relating to the ongoing environmental studies and restoration activities at NECD. The RAB meetings are open to the public.

For the local community, closure brings the end of an era. Since the installation opened in the 1940s, many local residents have worked at the depot assisting the Army in successfully accomplishing missions of national importance. Closure of NECD marks a significant milestone in our nation's history. The safe and efficient closure of the depot is a major milestone for the CMA, bringing it one step closer to achieving its overall mission.