

# NEWPORT PROJECT Tour Book



**WE MADE HISTORY, WE MADE A DIFFERENCE.**



## General Facts

The Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) is a government-owned, contractor-operated property that has contained a number of plants used to manufacture military munitions. At present, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency controls operations of the facility.

Currently, NECD consists of nearly 7,000 acres. There are 68 miles of roadway throughout the site - 36 miles of it paved. NECD leases approximately 3,864 acres to local farmers for row crop, hay and grazing purposes. NECD's managed forest lands consist of approximately 1,900 acres. Numerous small game and non-game species also thrive at NECD because of the abundance of diverse habitats, including forest, prairie, wetlands and agricultural fields.

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| The map shows various areas associated with Newport's history. Each area shown corresponds with the page number where it is discussed in the text of the book. |           |





## Wabash River Ordnance Works

The Army developed the Wabash River Ordnance Works in 1941 on property that was primarily residential and agricultural. At that time, the depot was 22,000 acres and extended from the Wabash River to the Illinois state line.

More than 50 homes and farm sites, two churches and a school were displaced when development began. Six private cemeteries remain within the boundaries of the depot, the largest being Memorial Chapel Cemetery.



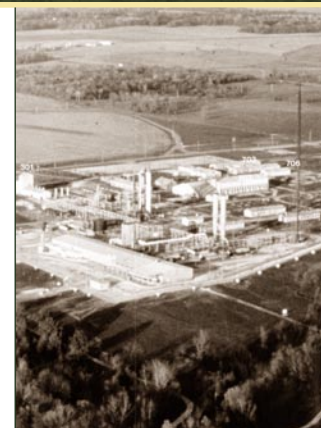
## RDX Plant

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, development of a Royal Demolitions Explosive (RDX) plant proceeded more quickly allowing operations to begin in 1942. After the war, the plant fell into disrepair until reactivation in 1952 to support the Korean War.



## Heavy Water Plant Reservoir

From 1943 – 1944, additional production facilities were constructed for heavy water manufacturing. The plant was placed in standby status in 1946 and reactivated in 1952 until operations ended in 1957. As many as 10,000 workers were involved in construction of the plant. A seven million gallon covered reservoir remains on the depot and serves as a reminder of the large amount of water that was needed to produce small amounts of heavy water.

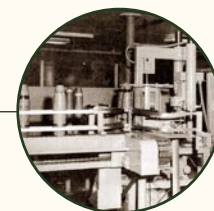
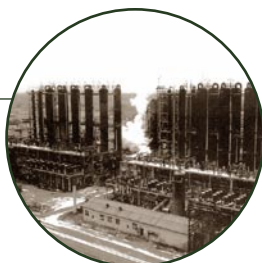


## VX Production Plant

A chemical plant was constructed from 1958-1961 to produce chemical agent VX using some of the foundation from the recently demolished heavy water plant. All the VX (4,400 tons) for the U.S. defense stockpiles was made at Newport. Approximately 2,000 workers were employed at the depot during the production of VX. In 1968, President Nixon ceased chemical weapons production,

and a moratorium on chemical weapon shipments followed in 1969. Newport workers safely stored the remaining VX stockpile on site until successful stockpile elimination Aug. 8, 2008.

From 1998-2006, the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project safely destroyed the former VX production facility.

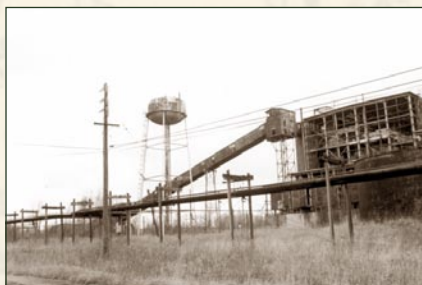






## Magazines

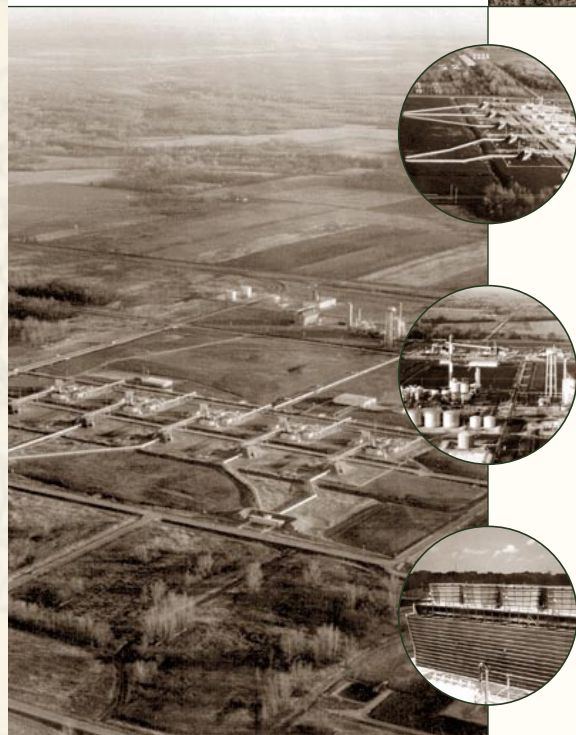
The Richmond magazines, a series of 52 storage units, were constructed for the storage of explosives. The structures were staggered in their layout and earth-covered on three sides as safety features.



## Bookends and Coal-Fired Power Plant

In June 1942, authorization was granted for construction of a smokeless powder plant. Construction began in July and was halted in November due to project cancellation. The plant was relocated to another state. Large massive concrete structures, referred to as “bookends” are all that remain.

A coal-fired power plant operated on the depot to produce electricity during production years.



## TNT Plant

Construction began in 1970 on a TNT plant when the Vietnam Conflict required new supplies of explosives. Only two of the five production lines were operational before the plant shutdown in 1975.



## Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility

On April 8, 2000, Parsons Infrastructure and Technology broke ground for the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

On May 5, 2005, workers began agent disposal operations on the Newport stockpile. VX-filled ton containers were housed in igloos from 2002 until the last one was taken to the NECDF July 28, 2008. The successful completion of stockpile elimination was recognized Aug. 8, 2008.

Many depot employees are from local communities and have had generations of family members and friends work on various projects during Newport's history. With thousands of hours of training and on-hands experience, they became experts in the fields of administrative and industrial operations, including craft, utility, security and chemical occupations. The Newport work force will leave behind a legacy of safety and environmental compliance. They made history. They made a difference.



## Land Reuse and the Base Realignment and Closure Process

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission recommended NECD for installation closure. In accordance with BRAC guidance, the Department of Defense must complete installation closure by Sept. 15, 2011.

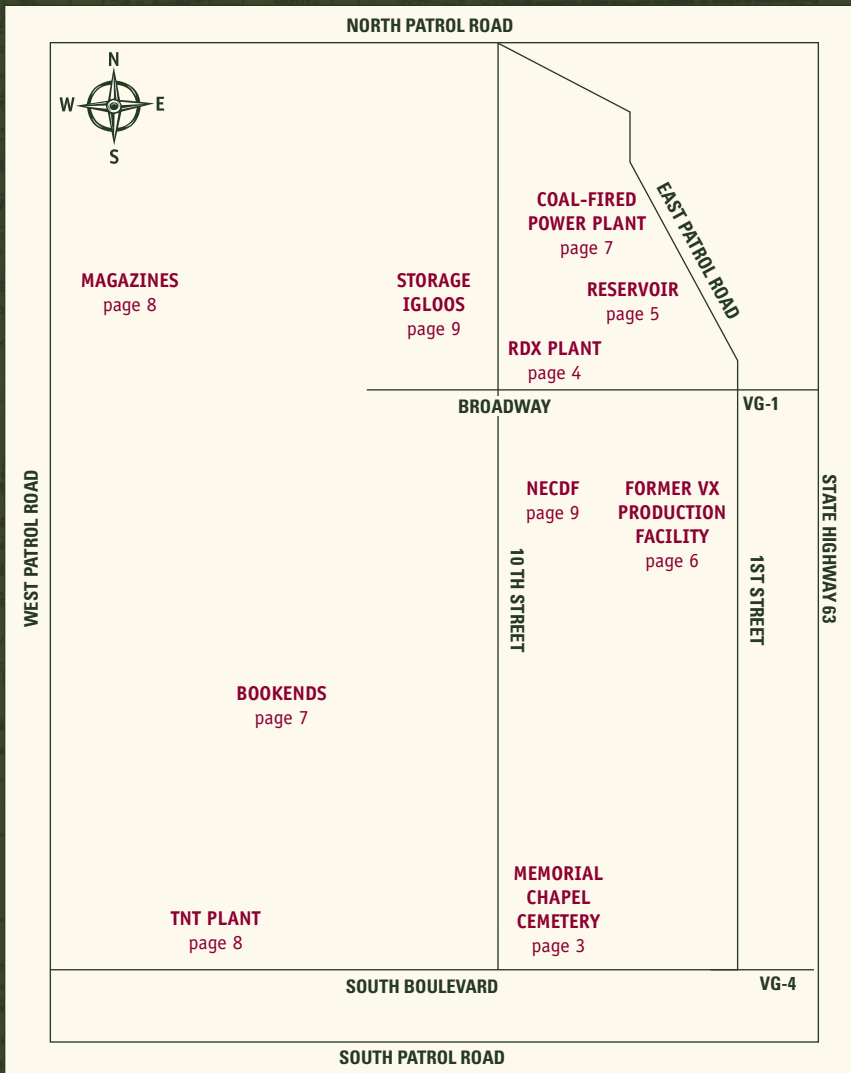
The Vermillion County Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) board members serve in an advisory capacity regarding depot property reuse issues. For more information about the LRA contact:

**Executive Director of the Vermillion County Economic Development Council**

Phone: (765) 832-3870



# NECD Map



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL  
MATERIALS AGENCY

*For more information about the Newport project contact:*

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