



NEWS RELEASE

Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PBCDF CHEMICAL AGENT DECONTAMINATION COMPLETE

PINE BLUFF ARSENAL, Ark. – The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) safely completed the Unventilated Monitoring Tests (UMT) on April 19, 2012, marking the successful completion of a major closure milestone for the facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal.

“This achievement represents the Army’s commitment to ensure that the closure and clean-up of the facility meets state and federal standards,” said Mark Greer, PBCDF Site Project Manager. “This is another step to ensuring the safety of the local community.”

The UMTs followed an extensive process during which chemical agent processing equipment was dismantled and thermally treated in the Metal Parts Furnace and the areas where agent processing occurred were thoroughly decontaminated. The UMTs verify that decontamination has been achieved so that demolition may proceed.

PBCDF began its facility closure phase after the successful completion of the final chemical weapons disposal operations in November 2010. During this time, the disposal facility has been decontaminated and agent processing equipment has been dismantled in accordance with the site’s Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit to prepare for full-scale demolition. Closure is expected to continue approximately 10 months.

“Thanks to the exceptional job by our employees in the completion of the unventilated monitoring testing, that brings us one step closer to the start of our demolition process and preparations to turn the site back over to the Pine Bluff Arsenal. Our employees continue to show their commitment to safely completing this mission,” said Mike Noyes, Project General Manager (A) for Washington Demilitarization Company, LLC., a division of the URS Corporation, which operates the plant for the Army.

Chemical weapons disposal operations began at the Arsenal in March 2005 with the GB nerve-agent filled rockets. The second disposal campaign, VX nerve-agent filled rockets, ended February 2008; and the third disposal campaign, VX nerve-agent filled landmines, ended June 2008. Mustard agent-filled ton containers were the fourth and final disposal campaign. Ton container disposal operations began in December 2008 and were completed in November 2010 beginning the closure status.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Photographs of closure activities are available upon request.

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