

22 August 2008

Chem-Bio News

- 1. NEW ANTIBIOTIC MAY BLOCK TOXINS FROM BACTERIA:** *"In a new approach to serious stomach bugs like salmonella, U.S. researchers said on Thursday they have developed an antibiotic that works by blocking the bacteria's communication signals, keeping it from releasing toxins that make people sick."*
- 2. AUSTRALIAN FARMS FACE 'AGRO-TERROR' ATTACK THREAT:** *"Australian agriculture's strength of being relatively disease-free also makes the nation more vulnerable to a terrorist attack on the sector, a report warns."*
- 3. NEW VACCINE TO FIGHT MULTIPLE INFLUENZA STRAINS:** *"A universal vaccine effective against several strains of influenza has passed its first phase of testing, according to Dr. Christine Turley of the University of Texas at Galveston."*

Chem-Demil News

- 1. TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (TOCDF):** *"Environmental Assessment to address proposed treatment of GA and Lewisite."*
- 2. ANNISTON CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (ANCDF) REQUESTS MAJOR PERMIT MODIFICATION:** *"The proposed permit modification request will contain chemical mustard agent trial burn plans that are required to be submitted to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

NEW ANTIBIOTIC MAY BLOCK TOXINS FROM BACTERIA

Reuters
August 22, 2008

"In a new approach to serious stomach bugs like salmonella, U.S. researchers said on Thursday they have developed an antibiotic that works by blocking the bacteria's communication signals, keeping it from releasing toxins that make people sick.

"The sensors in bacteria are waiting for the right signal to initiate the expression of virulent genes," Dr. Vanessa Sperandio of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, said in a statement.

Instead of looking for new ways to kill the bacteria, like most antibiotics, Sperandio and colleagues found a compound -- LED209 -- that simply disarms them.

"Using LED209, we blocked those sensing mechanisms and basically tricked the bacteria to not recognize that they were within the host," said Sperandio, whose study appears in the journal Science."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUSN2129509220080821>

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AUSTRALIAN FARMS FACE 'AGRO-TERROR' ATTACK THREAT

By David McLennan
The Canberra Times
August 21, 2008

"Australian agriculture's strength of being relatively disease-free also makes the nation more vulnerable to a terrorist attack on the sector, a report warns.

An Australian Strategic Policy Institute analysis issued this week said little consideration had been given to threats to the agriculture sector, which was an integral part of the Australian economy responsible for 4 per cent of gross domestic product."

"A lack of previous exposure to these organisms, and therefore a widespread lack of immunity, only increases the vulnerability of Australian agricultural commodities to accidental introduction or a deliberate attack," he said.

Although the probability of the sector coming under attack was low, there was a threat, as shown by the discovery of information on chemical and biological agents found during a raid on a terrorist financier associated with Jemaah Islamiah in the Philippines recently. Jemaah Islamiah was responsible for the two Bali bombings."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/australian-farms-face-agroterror-attack-threat/1250048.aspx>

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NEW VACCINE TO FIGHT MULTIPLE INFLUENZA STRAINS

News-Medical.net
August 21, 2008

"A universal vaccine effective against several strains of influenza has passed its first phase of testing, according to Dr. Christine Turley of the University of Texas at Galveston.

Turley, who is director of clinical trials and clinical research at the Sealy Center for Vaccine Development at UTMB and the study's principal investigator, said that VaxInnate's M2e universal vaccine could possibly protect against seasonal and pandemic influenza strains."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=40848>

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Chem-Demil News

TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (TOCDF)

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

August 21, 2008

“Environmental Assessment to address proposed treatment of GA and Lewisite.”

“Incineration is the preferred method of destruction for chemical agents stored at DCD as previously described and evaluated in an Environmental Impact Statement published in 1989. The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed action to augment current operations under way at TOCDF. This augmentation would add a small-scale and the spent decontamination solutions generated during operations.

The proposed high-temperature incinerator will operate simultaneously as the existing TOCDF incinerators. The TOCDF will focus on the continued destruction of DCD’s mustard agent munitions and secondary waste derived from agent processing.

The new incinerator will be required to demonstrate the ability to destroy the chemical agents, as well as the ability for the Pollution Abatement System to remove contaminants of concern such as metals to meet regulatory emission standards.

The issues to be analyzed in the EA include, but are not limited to:

- Mercury effluent management
- Arsenic effluent management
- The extent of additional resource needs, such as fuel and water
- Waste disposition considerations for any secondary or process-generated wastes

In preparation of the EA, the first of two public meetings was held on Aug. 19 at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office. A second meeting will be held on Aug. 21 from 5 – 7 p. m. at the Tooele Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 54 South Main, Tooele, Utah.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003678679>

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ANNISTON CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY (ANCDF) REQUESTS MAJOR PERMIT MODIFICATION

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release
August 20, 2008

"The proposed permit modification request will contain chemical mustard agent trial burn plans that are required to be submitted to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). The agent trial burn plans detail specific testing to be conducted in conjunction with mustard processing at the ANCDF. Similar testing has been successfully completed with a surrogate compound more difficult to burn than the chemical agents processed at the ANCDF, as well as for the chemical nerve agents (GB and VX). The testing is done to assure compliance with permit limits and regulatory requirements. Mustard is the final chemical agent campaign at the ANCDF.

Officials say they want to hear what the public thinks. The public is invited to visit the Anniston Community Outreach Office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to comment or ask questions. Draft copies of the proposed permit modification request will be available at the Anniston Community Outreach Office.

The community is also invited to meet ANCDF representatives on Thursday, August 21, 2008, beginning at 6:00 p.m. for a public involvement session.

Technical representatives of the Army will be available at that time to answer any questions concerning this proposed modification request.

The deadline for comments on this proposed permit modification request is 5:00 p.m., August 22, 2008.

Comments received prior to the deadline will be considered and may result in changes to the proposed permit modification request prior to submittal to the ADEM.

For more information, contact the Anniston Community Outreach Office at 11 East 10th Street, Anniston, Alabama 36201. The telephone number is (256) 238-0120.

The public is asked to contact the Outreach Office in advance if they have special needs or requests."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003678659>

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