

Chem-Bio News

- 1. NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK REMOVAL OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS:** *"Foreign Minister-designate Guido Westerwelle has renewed calls for a withdrawal of US nuclear weapons based in Germany, saying he would hold talks with the Obama administration on the issue."*
- 2. MORATORIUM ON SHIPPING RADIOACTIVE WASTE TO HANFORD BROADENED:** *"The Department of Energy is adding another type of radioactive waste to those that won't be sent to Hanford until the vitrification plant is fully operational."*
- 3. SUSPICIONS SAID MOUNTING ON IRAN PLANT:** *"U.S. and European officials are becoming convinced a newly revealed Iranian facility was meant to produce nuclear weapons, intelligence sources say."*
- 4. [UK] TRIDENT REPLACEMENT PLAN NO LONGER CREDIBLE, SAYS FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY:** *"Abandoning Trident and instead having a number of cruise missiles equipped with nuclear warheads would be cheaper and more flexible, making it easier for the UK to contribute to disarmament measures over the coming decades, Owen said."*
- 5. US SPYING ON PAK NUCLEAR PROGRAMS FOR YEARS: REPORT:** *"A website report has revealed that there is sufficient evidence to prove that the US is secretly keeping a close watch on Pakistan's nuclear programme, and confirmed that American diplomats and officials were spying on Kahuta, one of the major nuclear establishments of the country, for years."*

Chem-Demil News

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- 2. TOCDF [TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY] WORKING OUT KINKS IN NEW FILTRATION SYSTEM:** *"Two sets of leaking valves have thrown a wrench in the startup of the new \$33 million Pollution Abatement System (PAS) Filtration System (PFS)."*

CB Daily Report

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NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO SEEK REMOVAL OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Deutsche Welle
October 25, 2009

"Foreign Minister-designate Guido Westerwelle has renewed calls for a withdrawal of US nuclear weapons based in Germany, saying he would hold talks with the Obama administration on the issue."

"Speaking at a meeting of his business-friendly FDP party in Berlin on Sunday, Westerwelle said the new German government would support the vision of US President Barack Obama for a world free of nuclear weapons.

"We will take President Obama at his word and enter talks with our allies so that the last of the nuclear weapons still stationed in Germany, relics of the Cold War, can finally be removed," Westerwelle said."

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“His comments came a day after his FDP party reached agreement with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives for a new center-right government scheduled to take office on October 28.

The coalition agreement reached by the two sides calls specifically for talks with NATO and the US to remove the weapons.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,4824174,00.html>
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MORATORIUM ON SHIPPING RADIOACTIVE WASTE TO HANFORD BROADENED

By Annette Cary
TriCity Herald
October 28, 2009

“The Department of Energy is adding another type of radioactive waste to those that won't be sent to Hanford until the vitrification plant is fully operational.

Tuesday, DOE prepared a statement saying that even though its agreement with the states of Washington and Oregon did not cover greater-than-class-C low level radioactive waste, "this waste will not be imported to Hanford for the duration of the moratorium that defers the importation of waste to Hanford."

Greater-than-class-C low, or GTCC, waste is more radioactive than the waste Hanford now is burying in its landfill for radioactive waste, the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility.

As part of a proposed settlement with the states over a lawsuit brought against DOE, DOE had agreed to recommend in a draft environmental study not to import certain kinds of waste to Hanford until the vit plant is operating to treat high level radioactive tank waste. That's expected to be about 2022. Federal law requires the environmental study before a final decision on the moratorium is made.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.tricityherald.com/kennewick_pasco_richland/story/769982.html
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SUSPICIONS SAID MOUNTING ON IRAN PLANT

UPI.com
October 24, 2009

“U.S. and European officials are becoming convinced a newly revealed Iranian facility was meant to produce nuclear weapons, intelligence sources say.

Citing two unnamed former senior U.S. officials involved in high-level discussions about Iran, The Washington Post reported Saturday the site at Qom has altered previously accepted theories that Iran had given up efforts to enrich uranium in secret.

The sources said U.S. and European officials are reassessing a 2007 National Intelligence Estimate that concluded any secret uranium processing activities "probably were halted" by Tehran in 2003 and had not been restarted.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2009/10/24/Suspicious-said-mounting-on-Iran-plant/UPI-40421256396306/
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[UK] TRIDENT REPLACEMENT PLAN NO LONGER CREDIBLE, SAYS FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY

By Richard Taylor-Norton
The Guardian [UK]
October 25, 2009

“The decision to replace an unaffordable Trident missile system calls into question Gordon Brown's stated commitment to nuclear disarmament, a former Labour foreign secretary says.

In a sweeping attack on the government's defence policy, Lord Owen describes the estimated £15bn-£20bn cost of replacing Trident in its 2006 white paper as "no longer credible".

Abandoning Trident and instead having a number of cruise missiles equipped with nuclear warheads would be cheaper and more flexible, making it easier for the UK to contribute to disarmament measures over the coming decades, Owen said. The option is favoured in some quarters of the Ministry of Defence and is being considered by the Liberal Democrats.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2009/oct/25/trident-defence-policy-david-owen>

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US SPYING ON PAK NUCLEAR PROGRAMS FOR YEARS: REPORT

Thaindian News
October 25, 2009

“A website report has revealed that there are sufficient evidence to prove that the US is secretly keeping a close watch on Pakistan’s nuclear programme, and confirmed that American diplomats and officials were spying on Kahuta, one of the major nuclear establishments of the country, for years.

A report by the International Analyst Network, said American officials were spying on Pakistan’s nuclear course, and that several elements of the Pakistani Government were assisting them.

The report also raised questions over the role of Interior Minister Rehman Malik and his ministry for allowing the US authorities to perform dubious activities inside the country’s territory.

“A trail of internal ministry documents sharply bring Mr. Malik’s role into focus, especially in a case where his ministry appears to have permitted US defense contractors to conduct suspicious activities on Pakistani soil without informing Pakistani intelligence agencies,” the report said.

Days ago it was reported that the US officials have been keeping an eye on the Kahuta nuclear site since 2003 through its Police College Training College in Sihala, which is situated close to the site.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/south-asia/us-spying-on-pak-nuclear-programs-for-years-report_100265411.html

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Chem-Demil News

DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT - TWO HATS FOR DCD COMMANDER

US Army Chemical Materials Agency

October 26, 2009

“Colonel Gerald L. Gladney is doing double duty, recently being appointed as the Acting Director of Stockpile Operations (DOSO) while still in command of DCD.

The DOSO oversees the storage of chemical agent-filled munitions at all of the U.S. Army stockpiles and has agent accountability responsibilities. It’s a job that Col. Gladney is familiar with—it’s the position he held before coming to DCD.

The recent appointment by the director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), Conrad Whyne, requires Col. Gladney to travel to CMA headquarters in Aberdeen, Maryland more often. But he feels the support he has in both locations makes it all possible.

“I am very fortunate to have good teams at both ends [DCD and CMA headquarters] to be able to run both,” Col. Gladney told members of the Utah Citizens’ Advisory Commission at their September meeting. “And I am grateful that Mr. Whyne has the faith and confidence in me to be able to pull this off.”

Col. Gladney said he plans on taking his role as the DOSO even further, mentoring commanders at the other stockpile sites in anyway needed.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681710>
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TOCDF [TOOELE CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY] WORKING OUT KINKS IN NEW FILTRATION SYSTEM

US Army Chemical Materials Agency
October 26, 2009

“Two sets of leaking valves have thrown a wrench in the startup of the new \$33 million Pollution Abatement System (PAS) Filtration System (PFS). The first was discovered Oct. 14, just a few hours after the first high-mercury ton container began processing. Two valves, located in piping that is connected to the metal parts furnace (MPF) PFS but is no longer in use, allowed exhaust gas to bypass the new carbon filtration system, causing a MACT mercury exceedance of 190g/DSCM. The TOCDF’s threshold is 130 g/DSCM every 12 hours. Processing was suspended immediately until the problem was identified and corrected.

When these faulty valves were sealed off, however, TOCDF officials noticed mercury readings measured downstream of the PFS were higher than those measured, indicating there was still a leak. Though the mercury emissions from the second leak were well within the TOCDF’s established thresholds, complying with all federal, state and local standards, TOCDF officials replaced the suspect valve to ensure all MPF exhaust gases flow through the carbon filtration system, which is designed to capture the mercury from contaminated exhaust gases

The PFS consists of three separate filter units—one for the MPF and one for each liquid incinerator (LIC). The startup of the LIC PFS went smoothly, with no high mercury readings or additional problems.

“The PFS systems were tested extensively prior to shakedown—but that’s why we have shakedown, to discover any minor problem which could not have been discovered without actually processing agent with mercury. The process is being managed as planned, with allowance in the schedule and spares on hand to deal with any problem which may arise,” said Randy Fowles, EG&G PFS project manager.

The PFS startup on Oct. 14 marked the beginning of a shakedown period, which will allow operators to become more familiar with the system and determine optimum operating parameters and conditions while processing actual munitions contaminated with mercury.

Now that everything is running smoothly, the PFS will also undergo a series of planned performance tests—seven tests total—using high mercury mustard ton containers. The first planned test is the MPF Alternative Monitoring Request-Relative Accuracy Test and Audit (AMR-RATA), to demonstrate the TOCDF's capability and accuracy in monitoring MPF exhaust gas for mercury. The AMR-RATA will be followed by the MPF mini-burn, a voluntary test conducted in preparation for the MPF demonstration test before state regulatory officials in mid-November.

Similarly, both liquid incinerators will undergo an AMR-RATA, followed by a mini-burn before the LIC demonstration test Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Stars for safety excellence, for state regulators in late November—early December. State officials have agreed that performance data from the single LIC/PFS tested will be applied to the other LIC/PFS system.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681710>
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