

21 September 2009

## **Chem-Bio News**

**1. DHS HIRES FOR NBAF CONSTRUCTION:** *"The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility took another important stride as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security selected McCarthy/Mortenson, Joint Venture to serve as construction manager for the operation at Kansas State University."*

**2. AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES TOUGHER BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS:** *"The bill mandates that government offices report stolen or misplaced biological materials such as anthrax, smallpox and plague to law enforcement and government officials."*

**3. THEFT THWARTED OF RADIOACTIVE SCRAP METAL FROM CHORNOBYL:** *"Ukraine's State Security Service (SBU) has thwarted smugglers' efforts to remove some 25 tons of radioactive scrap metal from the Chornobyl disaster zone, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reports."*

## **Chem-Demil News**

**1. DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT - POLLUTION ABATEMENT SYSTEM (PAS) FILTRATION SYSTEM (PFS):** *"The new PAS Filtration System (PFS) consists of three separate filter units—one for each of three furnaces: the metal parts furnace and two liquid incinerators."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **DHS HIRES FOR NBAF CONSTRUCTION**

The Capital-Journal  
September 18, 2009

"The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility took another important stride as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security selected McCarthy/Mortenson, Joint Venture to serve as construction manager for the operation at Kansas State University.

NBAF is designed to protect the food supply and agriculture economy.

DHS said McCarthy/Mortenson will provide expertise during the design process and all labor, material, supervision and equipment during construction under a \$3.2 million contract awarded pursuant to a federal solicitation issued in January.

McCarthy's headquarters is in St. Louis. Mortenson has local offices in Manhattan and is the largest general contractor in that area. McCarthy/Mortenson, was awarded the contract through a competitive process based upon their expertise in constructing biocontainment

laboratories.”

The full article can be found at: [http://cjonline.com/news/state/2009-09-18/dhs\\_hires\\_for\\_nbaif\\_construction](http://cjonline.com/news/state/2009-09-18/dhs_hires_for_nbaif_construction)

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## **AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES TOUGHER BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS**

Global Security Newswire

September 18, 2009

“The bill mandates that government offices report stolen or misplaced biological materials such as anthrax, smallpox and plague to law enforcement and government officials.

In addition, the legislation would permit the use of reasonable force in searching private properties and confiscating material possibly linked to illegal activities”

The full article can be found at: [http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw\\_20090918\\_2400.php](http://gsn.nti.org/gsn/nw_20090918_2400.php)

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## **THEFT THWARTED OF RADIOACTIVE SCRAP METAL FROM CHORNOBYL**

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

September 17, 2009

“Ukraine's State Security Service (SBU) has thwarted smugglers' efforts to remove some 25 tons of radioactive scrap metal from the Chornobyl disaster zone, RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service reports.

Four police officers were arrested in connection with the incident and an investigation is under way.

SBU spokeswoman Maryna Ostapenko said the impounded material's level of radioactivity is 13 times the allowable level.”

The full article can be found at: [http://www.rferl.org/content/Theft\\_Thwarted\\_Of\\_Radioactive\\_Scrap\\_Metal\\_From\\_Chornobyl/1824965.html](http://www.rferl.org/content/Theft_Thwarted_Of_Radioactive_Scrap_Metal_From_Chornobyl/1824965.html)

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***Chem-Demil News***

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## DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT - POLLUTION ABATEMENT SYSTEM (PAS) FILTRATION SYSTEM (PFS)

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet  
September 2009

"Because some of the mustard agent-filled munitions and ton containers are contaminated with elevated amounts of mercury, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) built a new carbon filtration system. The new system ties into the existing Pollution Abatement System (PAS) and, by utilizing sulfur-impregnated carbon, will safely and effectively capture mercury contaminated exhaust gases.

The new PAS Filtration System (PFS) consists of three separate filter units—one for each of three furnaces: the metal parts furnace and two liquid incinerators. The filter units are massive, measuring nearly 60 feet long and weighing more than 35 tons. Each contains a pre-filter, a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter, four carbon filters and a final HEPA filter.

The exhaust gases from the furnaces flow through the PAS, where they are cooled and cleaned. The exhaust gases will then flow through the PFS, where the sulfur-impregnated carbon will capture any remaining mercury. To ensure maximum safety of the community and the environment, mercury monitoring systems are located at intervals within the PFS filter beds. These mercury monitoring systems ensure the carbon filters are working properly and help operators determine when and if the carbon needs to be replaced. There is also a mercury monitoring system in place near the common stack, complementing other emissions monitoring equipment.

The TOCDF started disposal operations in 1996 and was the first full-scale operating chemical weapons destruction facility in the continental United States. The National Research Council had determined that initially including carbon filters to the TOCDF's PAS would not reduce the health risk to the surrounding population. However, when it was discovered some of the mustard stockpile was contaminated with higher-than-expected levels of mercury, the TOCDF built a PFS to capture mercury. Ensuing chemical weapons disposal facilities in Umatilla, Ore., Anniston, Ala., and Pine Bluff, Ark., have had to modify their carbon filtration systems to remove mercury from stack gases.

Contingent upon approval by state regulators, the TOCDF is expected to start processing ton containers with elevated levels of mercury in fall 2009; mercury contaminated munitions are scheduled for destruction in winter 2010."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003681504>

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