

18 June 2010

Chem-Bio News

1. AFGHAN GIRLS SICK IN 'GAS ATTACK': *"Up to 45 schoolgirls have been taken to hospital after a suspected gas attack at their high school in Ghazni, a province in eastern Afghanistan."*

2. LEASE SIGNED BY DEVELOPER AND GOVERNMENT FOR NEW HONEYWELL PLANT: *"The federal government signed a lease Monday with the developer of a new Honeywell nuclear weapons parts plant, and private financing is expected to be wrapped up soon."*

3. WORK STOPS AT 27 HANFORD BUILDINGS FOR BERYLLIUM CHECK: *"The 27 buildings are among a couple of hundred under the contractor's control and have not been sampled for beryllium, in some cases because they are new structures."*

4. EFFECTS OF THE USA PATRIOT ACT AND THE 2002 BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS ACT ON SELECT AGENT RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES: *"However, the most striking effect observed was not associated with individual authors or institutions; it was a loss of efficiency, with an approximate 2-to 5-fold increase in the cost of doing select agent research as measured by the number of research papers published per millions of US research dollars awarded."*

Chem-Demil News

1. NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT - ARMY HANDS OVER DEPOT CONTROL IN CEREMONY: *"The U.S. Army held a Deactivation Ceremony as a sign all activities required to close the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) have been successfully completed. Located in Newport, Ind., this is the first full installation closure for the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA)."*

2. MEETING NOTICE - ASSESSMENT OF PROCESS SAFETY FOR THE BLUE GRASS AND PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANTS: *The National Academies will be holding a meeting on July 27, 2010 - July 29, 2010, at the Keck Center, 500 5th Street, NW, Washington D.C. 20001.*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

AFGHAN GIRLS SICK IN 'GAS ATTACK'

Al Jazeera
June 13, 2010

"Up to 45 schoolgirls have been taken to hospital after a suspected gas attack at their high school in Ghazni, a province in eastern Afghanistan.

Police said some of the teenage girls from the Jahan Maleka high school had fallen unconscious after smelling poison gas on Saturday.

"Some of the enemies sprayed poison gas from outside into the high school compound," Ghani Khan, a Ghazni police official, said.

The girls were vomiting and could not stand on their feet when they arrived at the hospital, according to hospital staff, but they were in stable condition after treatment.

"Most of the patients we have received are not in critical condition," Ibrahim Monib, a doctor at the hospital, said."

The full article can be found at: <http://english.aljazeera.net/news/asia/2010/06/2010612205232352832.html>

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LEASE SIGNED BY DEVELOPER AND GOVERNMENT FOR NEW HONEYWELL PLANT

By Kevin Collison

The Kansas City Star

June 14, 2010

"The federal government signed a lease Monday with the developer of a new Honeywell nuclear weapons parts plant, and private financing is expected to be wrapped up soon.

The final agreement between the Heartland Region of the General Service Administration and CenterPoint Zimmer LLC was completed over the weekend."

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"The 1.5-million-square-foot facility, one of the larger construction projects in Kansas City history, is planned for a farm field at Missouri 150 and Botts Road.

The lease caps a four-year effort to keep the weapons plant, which employs 2,500 workers, in Kansas City. The current facility at the Bannister Federal Complex is considered obsolete. It was built as a World War II defense plant and has been used to manufacture nuclear weapons parts since 1949."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kansascity.com/2010/06/14/2017515/lease-signed-by-developer-and.html>

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WORK STOPS AT 27 HANFORD BUILDINGS FOR BERYLLIUM CHECK

By Annette Cary
The TriCity Herald
June 15, 2010

"Washington Closure Hanford has stopped work at 27 buildings at Hanford as it makes sure they have no beryllium contamination.

The 27 buildings are among a couple of hundred under the contractor's control and have not been sampled for beryllium, in some cases because they are new structures.

An independent inspection released by the Department of Energy Office of Health, Safety and Security on June 2 found a new sitewide program to prevent chronic beryllium disease at Hanford had shortcomings.

As it became clear during the inspection this spring that improvements were needed, DOE Hanford officials instructed the site's environmental cleanup contractors to take actions, such as completing sampling for beryllium at any facility where it is required."

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"During the years that Hanford was producing plutonium for the nation's nuclear weapons program, beryllium was machined as part of the process to fabricate fuel for Hanford's reactors. The nuclear reservation also has used and modified tools that were made of beryllium because they are less likely to spark.

Workers may develop chronic beryllium disease, an incurable and often debilitating lung disease, if they breathe in fine particles of the metal and have a genetic susceptibility. Some buildings and equipment at the site are contaminated with the dust, which may be left from work decades earlier."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/06/15/1054794/work-stops-at-27-hanford-buildings.html>

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EFFECTS OF THE USA PATRIOT ACT AND THE 2002 BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS ACT ON SELECT AGENT RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES

Drug Week
June 18, 2010

"A bibliometric analysis of the Bacillus anthracis and Ebola virus archival literature was conducted to determine whether negative consequences of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism' (USA PATRIOT) Act and the 2002 Bioterrorism Preparedness Act on US select agent research could be discerned. Indicators of the health of the field, such as number of papers published

per year, number of researchers authoring papers, and influx rate of new authors, indicated an overall stimulus to the field after 2002."

"As measured by interorganizational coauthorships, both B. anthracis and Ebola virus research networks expanded after 2002 in terms of the number of organizations and the degree of collaboration. Coauthorship between US and non US scientists also grew for Ebola virus but contracted for the subset of B. anthracis research that did not involve possession of viable, virulent bacteria. Some non-US institutions were dropped, and collaborations with others intensified. Contrary to expectations, research did not become centralized around a few gatekeeper institutions. Two negative effects were detected. There was an increased turnover rate of authors in the select agent community that was not observed in the control organism (*Klebsiella pneumoniae*) research community."

"However, the most striking effect observed was not associated with individual authors or institutions; it was a loss of efficiency, with an approximate 2-to 5-fold increase in the cost of doing select agent research as measured by the number of research papers published per millions of US research dollars awarded."

The full article can be found at: (M.B. Dias, et. al., "Effects of the USA PATRIOT Act and the 2002 Bioterrorism Preparedness Act on select agent research in the United States". Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, 2010; 107 (21):9556-61). Link not available.

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Chem-Demil News

NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT - ARMY HANDS OVER DEPOT CONTROL IN CEREMONY

US Army Chemical Materials Agency News Release

June 17, 2010

"The U.S. Army held a Deactivation Ceremony as a sign all activities required to close the Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) have been successfully completed. Located in Newport, Ind., this is the first full installation closure for the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA).

"Today marks a significant achievement for CMA that would not have been possible without the expertise of past and present employees," said CMA Director Conrad Whyne. "I am extremely proud and grateful for the hard work and dedication the Newport team has put forth through all projects on this site."

Workers, past and present, as well as members of the public, watched the casing of NECD's colors, a symbolic ceremony in which the depot flag is rolled up and cased, signifying the official deactivation of the installation.

NECD was established in 1941 as the Wabash River Ordnance Works. Multiple military defense projects occurred on the depot grounds, from the production of RDX, Heavy Water and TNT, as well VX nerve agent production, storage and its ultimate destruction at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.

"Safety has always been the cornerstone of our projects at Newport and will be our lasting legacy.

We built, operated and now closed this depot with safety as the top priority," said NECD Commander Lt. Col. William Hibner.

The Army did not have future missions planned for the grounds, so the NECD was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list in 2005 and will be turned over to a caretaker organization later this summer.

"Our deactivation marks the end of our official history. However, it is also a step forward for the history of CMA, the Army and the country," Hibner added.

The remaining CMA storage facilities are located in Anniston, Ala.; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Umatilla, Ore.; Tooele, Utah; Pueblo, Colo. and Richmond, Ky.

NECD photos and ceremony coverage can be found on the CMA Web site at <http://www.cma.army.mil/newportcompletion.aspx>."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?DocID=003683063>

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MEETING NOTICE - ASSESSMENT OF PROCESS SAFETY FOR THE BLUE GRASS AND PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANTS

The National Academies Press Release

Undated

"Meeting Information

Project Title: Assessment of Process Safety for the Blue Grass and Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plants

PIN: DEPS-BAST-09-07

Major Unit: Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences

Sub Unit: DEPS Board on Army Science & Technology

RSO: Braun, Bruce

Subject/Focus Area: Engineering and Technology; National Security and Defense

Assessment of Process Safety for the Blue Grass and Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plants

July 27, 2010 - July 29, 2010

Keck Center

500 5th Street, NW

Washington D.C. 20001

If you would like to attend the sessions of this meeting that are open to the public or need more information please contact:

Contact Name: Jim Myska

Email: jmyska@nas.edu

Phone: 202-334-2632

Fax: 202-334-2620

Agenda:

Closed Session Summary Posted After the Meeting"

The full article can be found at: <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/meetingview.aspx?MeetingId=4466>

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