

Chem-Bio News

1. [AU] NO MUSTARD GAS; IT WAS BENZENE: *"Lithgow Council has been told that a substance leaking from a World War II shell casing at a Lithgow recycling facility was not mustard gas but a mixture of benzene — found in petroleum products — and water."*

2. BERMAN INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO BOOST U.S. SCIENCE DIPLOMACY: *"The Global Science Program for Security, Competitiveness, and Diplomacy Act (H.R. 4801) would establish a program to provide grants to U.S. and foreign scientists, expand existing academic exchanges, strengthen the research infrastructure and curricula of institutes of higher learning in eligible countries, foster cooperative work on nuclear nonproliferation and encourage free or low-cost access to science journals on the Internet."*

Chem-Demil News

1. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - CHEMICAL AGENT MONITORING: *"The Real Time Analytical Platform (RTAP) is a self-contained mobile monitoring and detection system. Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) RTAPs use gas chromatographs called Miniature Continuous Air Monitoring Systems (MINICAMS®) that can detect agent within 6-9 minutes."*

2. PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - AIRBORNE EXPOSURE LIMITS PROTECTIVE OF PUEBLO WORK FORCE: *"Mobile laboratories known as Real Time Analytical Platforms (RTAPs) monitor the interior atmosphere of the Pueblo Chemical Depot's 98 storage structures (igloos) on a weekly basis."*

3. UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY - DEQ EXTENDS ATB PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: *"The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a notice Monday that the public comment period for Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's (UMCDF's) permit modification request on its HD (Mustard) Agent Trial Burn (ATB) Plan has been extended one week. The comment period had been scheduled to end at 5 p.m. March 8, but it has been extended to 5 p.m. Monday, March 15."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

[AU] NO MUSTARD GAS; IT WAS BENZENE

Lithgow Mercury (AU)
March 13, 2010

"Lithgow Council has been told that a substance leaking from a World War II shell casing at a Lithgow recycling facility was not mustard gas but a mixture of benzene — found in petroleum products — and water.

The substance was found to be leaking when the shells, which had originally been part of chemical warfare ordnance stored at Marrangaroo Army Base during the wartime, were taken to the premises of Cooke's Scrap Metals to be cut up.

The concern that the substance could be deadly mustard gas residue led to a full scale emergency operation and the biggest evacuation of a residential area in Lithgow in memory."

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"This program recovered 300 x 250lb shell casings and 4000 x 30lb shell casings.

“It was expected that all casings had been de-militarised at the time they were buried.

“Nevertheless, during the remediation process the casings were inspected and certified by a trained ordnance technician to ensure they contained no residual chemical or explosive agent,” Mr Muir said.

The casings were examined on-site and certified as being free from explosive and free from chemical agents.”

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“All the recovered casings (except 4 x 250lb casings) were cut up on site and transported directly to recycling facilities outside the Lithgow Local Government Area.

Four casings were kept on site for training purposes until the final approval for disposal had been received.

“This process requires documentation to be forwarded to the United Nations for approval.

“Following this approval, the four casings (which had previously been certified as free from explosive and chemical agent) were transported to Cooke’s Metal industries to be cut up and transported to recycling facilities outside the LGA,” Mr Muir said.

It was then that the drama erupted when one of the 250 pound empty casings taken direct to Cooke’s Metal Industries in Inch Street and was observed to be leaking a liquid substance.

The Ordinance Technician on site was then obliged under a pre-approved Emergency Management Plan to alert NSW Emergency Services to the presence of an unidentified substance.

“This liquid was later found to be water and benzene (which is contained in fuel products).

“No residual chemical or explosive material was found,” Mr Muir said.

“Defence has not been able to determine how the benzene came to be in the casing and suggest that it could have been fuel residual from the time the pit was burnt, mixed with water.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.lithgowmercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/no-mustard-gas-it-was-benzene/1775458.aspx>

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BERMAN INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO BOOST U.S. SCIENCE DIPLOMACY

US House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs Press Release

March 10, 2020

“Congressman Howard L. Berman (D-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, today introduced bipartisan legislation to enhance U.S. efforts at science diplomacy.

“China, Iran, and Venezuela are sending their scientists around the world and signing cooperative agreements with new partners,” Berman noted. “They clearly recognize science diplomacy as an important instrument of statecraft. We need to keep America in the business of sharing one of our greatest natural resources – our intellectual and creative capacity through science – to strengthen relationships with allies and forge new bonds with potential partners.”

The Global Science Program for Security, Competitiveness, and Diplomacy Act (H.R. 4801) would establish a program to provide grants to U.S. and foreign scientists, expand existing academic

exchanges, strengthen the research infrastructure and curricula of institutes of higher learning in eligible countries, foster cooperative work on nuclear nonproliferation and encourage free or low-cost access to science journals on the Internet.”

The full article can be found at: http://www.internationalrelations.house.gov/press_display.asp?id=715
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Chem-Demil News

PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - CHEMICAL AGENT MONITORING

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet
Undated

“Real Time Analytical Platform (RTAP) The Real Time Analytical Platform (RTAP) is a self-contained mobile monitoring and detection system. Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) RTAPs use gas chromatographs called Miniature Continuous Air Monitoring Systems (MINICAMS®) that can detect agent within 6-9 minutes.

The RTAP can detect chemical agent vapors at levels lower than those that would cause effects to unprotected persons. These levels are equal to the Department of Health and Human Services requirements to which unmasked workers can be exposed to agent for a forty-hour work week with no harmful effects.

The RTAP is used to support personnel with realtime monitoring requirements for blister agent storage operations. The units are also used to support Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program requirements.

Proper operation of the the RTAP is verified using strict quality control procedures.

MINICAMS

PCD primarily uses the MINICAMS®. These near real-time monitors sample the air every six to nine minutes and are capable of 24 hour operation when monitoring igloos. Near-real-time data collection is the ability to collect data automatically on demand and have the data delivered and analyzed quickly enough to affect monitoring and control decisions. MINICAMS® are very sensitive and can detect extremely low levels of chemical agent vapor by using a process called gas chromatography.

DAAMS

The Depot Area Air Monitoring System (DAAMS) continually samples the air for chemical agent vapor by drawing the air through glass tubes and trapping any chemical agent vapors in a special material. Sampling times vary from as few as 30 minutes to 12 hours. These tubes are collected and analyzed within 72 hours.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682479>
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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - AIRBORNE EXPOSURE LIMITS PROTECTIVE OF PUEBLO WORK FORCE

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet
Undated

“Air monitoring within the Chemical Limited Area is a vital part of safely storing chemical agent munitions. The safety of the work force, the community and the environment is always top priority.

Mobile laboratories known as Real Time Analytical Platforms (RTAPs) monitor the interior atmosphere of the Pueblo Chemical Depot's 98 storage structures (igloos) on a weekly basis. These storage structures are also monitored for agent detection prior to entry for routine maintenance or inspections. The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Monitoring Office, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control, and the National Academy of Science's National Research Council conduct oversight of the monitoring data to ensure worker and community protection."

The accompanying graphic based on mustard's adverse effects levels depicts the amounts and relationships of the different levels.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682477>
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UMATILLA CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY - DEQ EXTENDS ATB PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Weekly Update
March 11, 2010

"The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a notice Monday that the public comment period for Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's (UMCDF's) permit modification request on its HD (Mustard) Agent Trial Burn (ATB) Plan has been extended one week. The comment period had been scheduled to end at 5 p.m. March 8, but it has been extended to 5 p.m. Monday, March 15.

The extension will likely delay by at least a week a DEQ decision on the ATB plan permit modification. The notice stated: "The DEQ anticipates its final decision will be made by April 2010, and will respond to the significant comments received during the comment periods." Based on its review, DEQ will make a final decision on whether to approve the permit modification as proposed, approve the modification with revisions, or to deny the modification request.

UMCDF is requesting to add the mustard ATB plan for the Liquid Incinerators (LICs) and the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) and a set of supporting attachments common to both furnaces as Attachment D-18 to the UMCDF Hazardous Waste Permit Application.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/include/docrendition.asp?DocID=003682511>
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Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

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