

Chem-Bio News

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

[UAE] DEDICATED TOXIN CONTROL CENTRE TO OPEN IN AL AIN

By Aftab Kazmi
Gulfnews.com
May 01, 2010

"The UAE will soon have a dedicated centre that will keep an eye on toxin levels in food and feeds.

The Mycotoxin Reference Centre (MRC) will be established with the Biomin and Romer Labs, the Austria-based provider of diagnostic solutions for the agricultural, food, and feed industry. Operating on the regional level in the GCC, the centre is an initiative of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA) at the UAE University.

"We are all set to open in June," said Professor Galeb A. Al Hadrami, Dean of the FFA, noting that the faculty's nutrition metabolism laboratory already has the equipment and skills. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has recently been signed between the Biomin, Romer Labs, and the FFA."

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“The plan to build a centre all started three months ago when the FFA received complaints of abortions and other health problems in UAE camels. Nobody knew what had gone wrong with the camels. “Our team of scientists took samples and studied the problem. They later detected the use of Fescue grass-based feed as the problem,” he said.

The grass was imported from the USA and had ergot, a mycotoxin, in it. Generally known as Fescue poisoning, it causes the risk of spontaneous abortion, stillbirths and absence of milk production among others in animals. “We advised an immediate discontinuation of Fescue grass feeding and the problem was solved,” said Al Hadrami.”

The full article can be found at: <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/general/dedicated-toxin-control-centre-to-open-in-al-ain-1.620530>

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REPORT TO PRESIDENT LINKS CANCER, LEJEUNE CONTAMINATION

By Hope Hodge

The Jacksonville Daily News

May 06, 2010

“A report linking water contamination at Camp Lejeune to cancer in former base residents went to the desk of President Barack Obama this week.

The President’s Cancer Panel released a 240-page analysis Thursday urging the president to tighten regulations on environmental carcinogens and chemicals known to increase cancer risk.”

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“The report, the focus of the panel’s work for the 2008-2009 year, contains a section dedicated to exposure to contaminants and other hazards from military sources. Included are brief descriptions of the Vietnam-era carcinogen Agent Orange, chromium, radioactive contamination, and historical water contamination with the solvents TCE and PCE at Camp Lejeune.”

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“These findings are somewhat stronger than those of a report on Camp Lejeune water released by the National Research Council in June 2009 which found “limited or suggestive evidence of an association” between the chemicals and roughly a dozen diseases including breast, bladder, lung, and kidney cancers, and “inadequate or insufficient evidence” of causal association with scores of others.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.jdnews.com/articles/president-78059-report-lejeune.html>

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HANFORD CONTRACTORS DIRECTED TO RAMP UP BERYLLIUM DISEASE PREVENTION

By Annette Cary

The TriCity Herald

May 07, 2010

“The directive from Hanford Department of Energy managers comes before results of the inspection by the DOE Office of Health, Safety and Security in Washington, D.C., have been completed and released.

As Hanford officials and others heard daily briefings from the inspection team, it became clear that there were areas in which improvements could be made, said Geoff Tyree, DOE Hanford spokesman.

“There are items we want to make sure we are moving on now,” Tyree said.

Beryllium protection became an issue when the Hanford Advisory Board questioned in February whether DOE was doing enough to protect Hanford workers from an incurable lung disease caused by exposure to beryllium. At the time, DOE officials were about to launch a review of the Hanford beryllium protection program because of the concerns of some workers.”

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“Workers with an allergy-like sensitivity to beryllium are at risk of developing potentially debilitating and fatal lung disease if exposed to fine particles of the metal. Beryllium was used at Hanford in the production of fuel for reactors, among other uses, and particles remain in the dust in some buildings.

At least 32 Hanford workers have been diagnosed with the disease.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2010/05/07/1005308/hanford-contractors-directed-to.html>

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Chem-Demil News

UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - ANNUAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE SLATED MAY 19

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program News Release
May 06, 2010

“The Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program(CSEPP) Exercise will be held on Wednesday, May 19. This annual exercise allows local, state and federal emergency response agencies to practice their response to a simulated event at the Umatilla Chemical Depot and to have that response effort federally evaluated.

This year’s exercise will include participation from American Red Cross, Benton County Emergency Services, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Hermiston High School, Incident Command Post (Hermiston), Joint Information Center (Pendleton), Morrow County Emergency Management, Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon Health, Umatilla County Emergency Management, U.S. Army Umatilla Chemical Depot, and Washington Emergency Management Division.

The exercise will begin about 9 a.m. and run throughout the day.

The public in Umatilla, Morrow and southern Benton County will hear CSEPP Tone alert radios and sirens activate with a test message at the start of the drill.

Drivers along I-82 in southern Benton County and I-84 in Umatilla and Morrow counties will see highway reader boards and highway advisory radio systems activated with test messages.

For more information on the exercise, contact Jim Hackett, Umatilla ChemicalDepot at (541) 564-5418 or Cheryl Layman, FEMA at (541) 357-2435.

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MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Media representatives may view portions of the exercise taking place with assistance from the Army and FEMA escorts, starting at the main gate of Umatilla Chemical Depot, off Exit 177, I-84, just west of Hermiston, Ore., starting at 8:15 a.m. Media representatives will receive a briefing on the exercise scenario to take place and see the start of the exercise at the depot Operations Center. RSVP’s are required.

Contact Jim Hackett, Umatilla Chemical Depot, at (541) 564-5418 by Thursday noon, May 13, or Cheryl Layman, FEMA, at (541) 357-2435 to make arrangements to cover the event.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?DocID=003682844>
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UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT - NEW DISPOSAL PLANT PROJECT GENERAL MANAGER NAMED

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Weekly Update

May 06, 2010

“The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) will have a new Project General Manager in a couple weeks. It was announced recently that Steve Warren will take over as PGM beginning May 17. David Reber, who has been acting PGM for the past two months, will continue his assignment to assist UMCDF to safely and compliantly meet the treaty date.

Warren is a veteran of URS Corporation, working for its legacy companies since 1988. He has more than 30 years experience in program/project management, with a strong background in managing environmental projects and high hazard facilities. Since July 2007, he has been Vice President and Deputy General Manager of West Valley Environmental Services in West Valley, NY, an environmental cleanup project led by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in partnership with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

Before this assignment, Warren was the President and General Manager of Washington TRU Solutions in Carlsbad, NM, where he managed the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant on behalf of DOE. He was also the Project Director of the \$900 million DOE Weldon Spring Site Remedial Action Project.

Warren earned his Bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Southern California, and a Master’s in geological science and PhD in geochemistry from Columbia University.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?DocID=003682832>
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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT - PUEBLO DRILLS FOR EMERGENCY, HUNDREDS PARTICIPATE

By Jason Aubry

KKTV.com

May 05, 2010

“The annual Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program disaster drill once again brought first responders and members of the military together to test their ability to cooperate in the event of an emergency.

Multiple simulated events stretched everyone from first responders to public information officers to their limits Wednesday. Starting with the emergency landing of a helicopter loaded with herbicide near a District 70 school and leading to an accident at the Pueblo Chemical Depot involving mustard agent and a fire.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/92928559.html>
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