

Celebrating 25 Years

Chemical Weapons Destruction

Utah's Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) began storing chemical weapons in 1942 and once stored 13,676 tons of chemical agents, which totaled more than 44 percent of the nation's original stockpile. DCD's original stockpile consisted of various munition types and ton containers, containing GB, GA and VX nerve agents and mustard (H, HD, HT) and Lewisite blister agents.

The depot also served as the location for the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) and the Chemical Agent Munitions Disposal System (CAMDS). CAMDS once served as the primary research, test and development facility for the nation's chemical weapons elimination program; closure of this facility was completed in April 2013. CAMDS started processing chemical agent-filled munition in September of 1979.

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) provided oversight of the destruction of Utah's chemical agents (weapons of mass destruction). The CAMDS facility received their federal RCRA Research and Development and Demonstration Permit (RD&D) in May 1991. TOCDF received their RCRA Part B Permit in June 1989.

Destruction of the chemical weapons by the TOCDF, the first full-scale disposal facility in the continental United States, began in August 1996. The last chemical agent munition in the DCD stockpile was destroyed on January 21, 2012. The Army worked in partnership with DEQ and local government agencies, as well as federal agencies like the EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to safeguard the local community and protect the environment as they stored and disposed of these chemical weapons.



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UTAH DEPARTMENT of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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