

Parsons Begins the Destruction of Newport Stockpile

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NEWPORT, Ind.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 6, 2005--Parsons, the systems contractor at the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF), announced today that the first steel containers of liquid nerve agent VX were safely transported, drained, and pumped to agent holding tanks. The agent was slowly fed into a reactor then thoroughly mixed with heated sodium hydroxide and water until it was completely destroyed.

Parsons was awarded the Army contract to design, construct, and operate the plant to destroy the stockpile of chemical agent VX stored at the Newport Depot. Parsons self-performed the design, fabrication of modularized chemical processing equipment, and facility construction; and will self-perform operations. Their construction workforce peaked at over 1,000 local craft employees. They achieved over 4 million work hours without a lost time accident during the design-build work phase. The agent destruction process of the Newport stockpile is expected to take approximately 30 months to complete.

"This is a very significant day," says John Stewart, Parsons Senior Vice President, "I am very proud of the Newport team and each and every person and organization who has contributed to make this milestone a reality." Richard Rife, Parsons NECDF Project Manager, pointed out that the Newport team is prepared and trained to safely complete this mission. "Today we are one step closer in totally eliminating the risk from the continued storage of the chemical stockpile housed at the Newport Chemical Depot," Rife said.

Parsons, celebrating over 60 years of setting industry standards, is a leader in many diversified markets such as environmental compliance and remediation; facility planning, design and construction; military range management; homeland security; nuclear and chemical demilitarization; industrial processes; communications; transportation; and water. Parsons provides technical and management solutions to private industrial customers worldwide as well as federal, regional, and local government agencies. For more about Parsons, please visit us at www.parsons.com.

Source: Parsons