

NEWPORT CHEMICAL DEPOT

INDIANA

LOCATION

Newport Chemical Depot (NECD) is a government-owned, contractor-operated federal property that has contained a number of plants used to manufacture military munitions. The installation is located approximately 32 miles north of Terre Haute, (I-70) Ind., and about 35 miles south of Danville, Ill. (I-74). The town of Newport is three miles north of the main gate. The depot is located on rolling plains near the Wabash River. The area is primarily agricultural and the depot leases more than 5,000 acres of cultivated land to local farmers. The four-lane Indiana State highway 63 runs parallel to and connects with US Highway 41, which extends south from Lake Superior into Georgia. Newport Chemical Depot is subject to all four seasons, and occasional windy conditions.

SIZE

Acres: 8,498

Square Footage of Buildings: 924,716 SF

Plant Replacement Value: \$ 269,340,900

HISTORY

The Wabash River Ordnance Works was developed by the Army in 1941 on property that was primarily residential and agricultural. Because of the war in Europe, the Army purchased the properties and developed plans for a munitions factory. After Pearl Harbor, development proceeded quickly and an RDX explosives plant was built and operational by 1942. Also in 1942, construction began on a smokeless powder plant but was halted and the plant located in another state. A heavy-water pilot plant was constructed in support of the Manhattan Project and placed into production during World War II. As many as 10,000 workers were involved in construction of the plant and 2,000 employed in production. The factories wound down and fell into disrepair following the war but the plant was reactivated in 1952 to support the war in Korea. A larger heavy water plant also was constructed in 1952. A chemical plant to produce Chemical Agent VX was constructed in 1962, using some of the foundation and "footprint" from the recently-demolished heavy water plant. All the VX manufactured for U.S. defense stockpiles was made at Newport. Munitions were shipped to the site by rail, filled with chemical agent, and then shipped out to various defense destinations. Though Newport never was intended as a storage site, when chemical agent production was halted in 1968 and a moratorium on shipment declared in 1969, the final inventory of bulk agent was "trapped" on site. Planning for a TNT Plant began in 1968 when Vietnam conflict required new supplies of explosives for various shells and bombs. Construction began in 1970. Only two of the five production lines were operational before 1975 when the plant was put into layaway, pending future defense needs. In the late 1990s, the Army dismantled and disposed of the plant.

MISSIONS

Mission Statement: Safely store and eliminate the Newport Chemical Depot VX stockpile and related materials, while protecting the workforce, the public and the environment.

While care, maintenance, and storage of the chemical agent continue as the primary mission at NECD, other programs include the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program. Under the terms of the multilateral Chemical Weapons Convention treaty, the Army is required to dispose of the agent stockpile by April 2012. The depot has a comprehensive environmental restoration program and was winner of the Secretary of the 1996 and 2003 U.S. Army Environmental Security Awards Program in the Small Installation Category.

At present, the U. S. Army Material Command (CMA) controls depot operations. A U. S. Army officer serves as Installation Commander, assisted by two military personnel and a Civil Service staff of 13. Mason Hanger Corp., a subsidiary of the Day-Zimmermann Corp., is the operating contractor. Mason & Hanger provides security, fire protection, engineering, maintenance, operations, purchasing, inventory, chemical surety and administrative support for the installation with approximately 308 employees. Another contractor, Parsons, has built the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, which is scheduled to begin chemical agent disposal operations in FY 2005. The Tennessee Valley Authority is dismantling the former VX production facility located on the Newport Chemical Depot, another project under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

MAJOR UNITS/TENANTS

Newport Chemical Depot
Program Manager for Alternative Technologies/Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility
Program Manager for Chemical Stockpile Disposal/Tennessee Valley Authority
Chemical Site Defense Force

POPULATION

	Authorized
Military	210
Civilian	99
Contractor	603
Student	0
Other	1
TOTAL	913