



CWM PROJECT UPDATE

CWM removal nears completion

The chemical warfare materiel (CWM) removal project at Dunn Field is scheduled to come to a close in May 2001 when excavation and removal activities at the mustard neutralization pit (Site #24-B) are completed.

A layer of unaffected soil from the top of the site was excavated. Removal of this soil, known as the overburden, allowed the team to access the neutralization pit. Samples taken from the soil from within the pit indicate low levels of mustard at a depth of approximately 8.5 feet, which confirms the neutralization pit location.

A scientific test known as a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) analysis must be conducted on all excavated soil at Dunn Field to determine how it must be disposed. A TCLP soil sample is collected for each 20 cubic yards of soil excavated that does not contain mustard. This far exceeds Resource Conservation and

Recovery Act standards of one sample per 200 cubic yards of soil. The soil that was removed from the overburden is currently being stored at Dunn Field, and will be used to help fill in the excavation hole at the end of the CWM removal project after the TCLP analysis shows it is acceptable. Soil containing low levels of mustard, breakdown by-products, or other compounds is transported to approved disposal facilities. Soil containing any foreign material, such as broken china, glass, or other ordinary disposed items will not be returned to the excavation pit.

To date, nine cubic yards of soil containing low levels of mustard has been excavated from the site and shipped to a disposal facility in Kimball, Nebraska.

Soil containing low levels of mustard is placed in plastic lined fiberboard boxes before being removed from the vapor containment structure (VCS). Samples of the soil received by the incineration

UPCOMING RAB MEETINGS

The RAB includes community members who review proposed plans and actions and provide input on the environmental cleanup activities.

The next RAB meeting is Thursday, Mar. 15th at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the "J" Street Cafe at the Memphis Depot Business Park. Enter at the new Memphis Depot Parkway off Airways, turn left on Truitt and right on "J" Street. For more information call (901) 544-0613

facility are checked for metals. After this check, these boxes and the soil are disposed of together by incineration. The ash that remains after incineration is placed in an approved disposal site at the incineration facility.

Weekly CWM briefings are held in the Memphis Depot Community Outreach Room, Building 144, at the Memphis Depot Business Park, each Wednesday at 10 a.m., to update the community on the progress of the CWM removal project. For more information on these briefings, please call the Memphis Depot Community Relations Office at (901) 544-0613. □



Excavated soil is tested in the vapor containment structure (VCS) before removal.