



DuPont Public Affairs
Wilmington, DE 19898
302-774-4005 Tel
302-545-0316 Cell

Fact Sheet:
Potential DuPont Secure Environmental Treatment
U.S. Army/Newport Initiative

Project Background/U.S. National Security Assistance

- As part of strengthening our nation's security measures after the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. government announced plans to minimize potential terrorist targets by accelerating destruction of its chemical agent stockpiles. The Army's plans at its sites in Aberdeen, Md., and Newport, Ind., include destroying the stockpiles at its military sites through a rigorous chemical-destruction process – effectively eliminating significant terrorist targets.
- At the military sites, the agent is destroyed when it is mixed vigorously with hot water, causing an irreversible chemical reaction in which the agent is destroyed and a resulting wastewater is produced. It is an organic-salt wastewater that is mostly water. It will require additional treatment – removing any hazardous materials from the wastewater – before final disposal.
- In early 2002, the Army asked for the assistance of the DuPont Secure Environmental Treatment (SET) facility in New Jersey to safely and effectively treat the wastewater from its destruction efforts at Aberdeen – where mustard agent is destroyed. The wastewater is approximately 90 percent water with a mixture of salts and thiodiglycol, a compound commonly found in pen ink.
- In addition, DuPont has extensive experience and knowledge in handling and transporting numerous materials, including hazardous chemicals and has demonstrated it can do so safely and without negative impact to people's health or the environment.
- Before DuPont accepts **any** wastestreams, treatability analysis studies are conducted, confirming that the treatment will have no impact on human health or the environment. Treatability studies indicated that the hydrolysate from Aberdeen was similar to other wastewater that has been treated safely and effectively in the past with SET's unique technology treatment.
- DuPont completed and safely handled over 7 million gallons of wastewater from Aberdeen.
- The U.S. Army has placed a high value on DuPont science, technical and safety capabilities following the demonstrated success of SET's role in assisting with the wastewater from Aberdeen.
- No contracts have been signed by DuPont Secure Environmental Treatment (SET) facility to participate in the potential initiative involving the Army's plans at Newport, Ind., in destroying its stockpile of VX nerve agent through a rigorous destruction process – effectively eliminating another significant terrorist target.

DuPont's Response to Community Input

- For more than two years, DuPont has conducted ongoing communications with stakeholders in the community, including Chambers Works' Community Advisory Panel, numerous community groups and public officials.
- As a result of these communications, it became clear that the community had two primary concerns: the possibility of residual phosphonates in the effluent discharged to the river and the possibility of residual VX in the wastewater being transported to Chambers Works.

- While several studies indicated these residual phosphonates would have had no substantial effect on Delaware River ecology, concern over potential effects from phosphonates was one of the key points raised by regulators, government officials, and the community in 2003.
- In response, DuPont applied its scientific knowledge, technology and unique capabilities to essentially remove these materials from the effluent.
- Another revision to our original plan – based on community input – includes DuPont serving in a role directly at the Army’s facility to ensure that the wastewater is safe to treat in New Jersey. DuPont analytical experts would help to confirm that the wastewater is non-detectable of any agent before it leaves the Army’s Indiana site.
- The revised proposal is substantially different from the original plan in 2003 based on input from regulators, government leaders and community members

Status of CDC/EPA Studies

- In 2004, DuPont agreed with the Delaware and New Jersey Congressional delegations that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) should conduct a formal, independent review of the Army’s proposal.
- The CDC, with assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), has now completed its comprehensive and objective review of the new proposal. Overall, both the CDC and EPA reported that their previous concerns now have been addressed and that this revised proposal – which is substantially different from the original plan in 2004 based on input from regulators, government leaders and community members – can be completed safely and effectively with no adverse impact on the environment or the community.
- CDC concluded that the wastewater can be transported safely and effectively with the appropriate protocols in place. DuPont recently completed a similar project with the Army’s Aberdeen (MD) site. More than 7 million gallons of wastewater were safely transported and treated with no incidents over the course of the three-year project.
- It concluded that DuPont’s patented-process treatment facility is a viable process and capable of treating the wastewater resulting from the Army’s process.
- It also concluded that due to DuPont’s newly-developed phosphonate removal technology, all previously identified ecological concerns have been resolved, according to the EPA.
- In conclusion, the CDC has said all of its recommendations and issues identified from its 2005 report now have been addressed.

Next Steps

- Now that the CDC and EPA have issued their findings, DuPont believes that stakeholders involved in this proposal should be provided the opportunity and ample time to fully examine the report’s conclusions and incorporate them into their review process.
- During this review period, DuPont will continue to work with stakeholders – including regulators, government leaders and others in the community – building on meetings held with more than 75 community groups in the last 18 months in New Jersey and Delaware.

DuPont’s Pledge to the Community

- Our pledge is firm and clear. From the outset, DuPont has said that we would be involved in this proposal only if it can be accomplished safely and effectively without any adverse impact on the community, our employees or the environment.

To learn more about DuPont’s SET facility and this project, please visit: www.set.dupont.com