



Colorado Pueblo Chemical Depot

Facility and Location

Pueblo Chemical Depot is a chemical weapons storage site located in Pueblo County. The facility is on the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list and has 60 solid waste management units, which are regulated by the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment. The depot houses 2,611 tons of mustard agent in approximately 780,000 munitions, equivalent to about seven percent of the original chemical material stockpile of the U.S.

Construction of the Pueblo Chemical Agent Disposal Pilot Plant began in 2008. Destruction of the chemical munitions is scheduled to start in 2015. The plant will use neutralization with a hot caustic solution followed by bacterial biotreatment to destroy the mustard agent. The wastewater from this process would be shipped to existing offsite facilities. Destruction of the entire stockpile of weapons on the site is expected to be complete in 2020 and closure of the pilot plant complete in 2024.

Media Sampled and Findings

Drinking Water — In 2007, one sample detected perchlorate at 5.6 ppb.

Groundwater — In 2007, 20 of 20 samples detected perchlorate from 0.07 to 10 ppb. Prior to 2007, 5 of 39 samples detected perchlorate from 0.18 to 180 ppb.

Appropriate Actions

Not Applicable. All samples were below the EPA and DoD Preliminary Remediation Goal of 15 ppb and California Maximum Contaminant Level for drinking water of 6 ppb. The high detection in groundwater occurred in 2000 and no samples taken since then have approached those levels.