

Greenwire: 11/20/97

*6 CHEMICAL WEAPONS: TOOELE CITED FOR HAZWASTE VIOLATIONS

The state of Utah on 11/17 issued 25 citations to the Army's Tooele County chemical weapons incinerator for violations of state hazardous waste rules between 8/96 and 8/97.

None of the violations were serious enough to force closure of the facility and none "endangered workers or the environment," according to Dennis Downs, director of the Utah Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste. Most of the violations involved clerical errors, failure to follow standard operating procedures, and "routine inspections slipping behind schedule."

Henry Silvestri, general manager of EG&G Defense Material Inc., an Army contractor which manages the site, said most of the violations were reported by EG&G workers (Greenwire, 12/2/96) and "all were corrected soon after being discovered."

Penalties have yet to be determined, but the more serious violations carry maximum fines of \$10,000 per incident (Jim Wolf, Salt Lake Tribune, 11/18). Plant spokesperson Jon Pettebone said the plant is being monitored "round-the clock" by plant and state officials to ensure worker and public safety (Joe Bauman, Salt Lake Deseret News, 11/18).

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