Once hydrolysis had been completed, it was no longer possible to keep the hydrolysate stirred. The undisposed material was allowed to separate and over a period of time the aqueous layers were removed and evaporated in a pit.

At the present time the five vats remain intact with a shallow layer of thiodiglycol at the bottom of each. It is possible that traces of mustard were trapped under the lead liners, although none has been detected through sampling and analysis. Studies have been carried out to recommend suitable means of decontamination and destruction of the vats. Some consideration has been given to recovery of the lead, however for safety reasons it has been decided against this. Also, the remaining thiodiglycol will not be removed. Contracts are now being negotiated to cut the concrete tops and upper walls of the vats into sections and lower them into the cavity. As the vats are more than 50 per cent below the surface, the resulting materials will be covered with earth and planted to grass. It is anticipated that this work will be completed within 1981.