



Source: US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)

### Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Process

#### Project: Construction of the Shchuch'ye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility

Canada considers the Shchuch'ye chemical weapons destruction facility to be the top CW priority, as it will destroy Russia's most lethal and proliferation-prone chemical weapons. The arsenal consists of 5,440 tonnes of the deadly nerve agents sarin, soman and VX, which are stored in more than 1.9 million artillery and rocket-launched munitions. The artillery shells pose a particular risk because they are small enough to be carried and are thus especially

attractive to terrorists. While the Shchuch'ye stockpile accounts for 13.6 percent of Russia's total agent stockpile by volume, it represents almost 44 percent of the total number of chemical weapons in Russia's declared stockpile of 4.5 million. Prior to the *Global Partnership*, Canada had already contributed \$5.35 million to assist with road, electric power and gas pipeline infrastructure for the Shchuch'ye facility.



Production Building: Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Complex

Photo Credit: US Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)

#### Canada's prior contribution to the Shchuch'ye facility

In 2000 and 2001, Canada contributed \$350,000 for the design of an access road to the site's industrial area, and for the design and partial construction of 10-kilovolt and 110-kilovolt power lines to supply electricity to the site. In 2002, Canada contributed \$5 million directly to the Russian Munitions Agency to help fund the construction of a natural gas pipeline to provide energy for the facility. The pipeline project, which also included support from Italy, was successfully concluded in September 2003.