

4.4 Waste product disposal

The filter cakes containing arsenic eliminated from the washing water, as well as solid wastes with residual arsenic, if found on the charging wagons, are finally deposited in an old underground salt mine.

The purified filtration waters are disposed of into the municipal sewer system. However, because of their high salt concentration, a waste water evaporator will be required in the future.

Conclusion

The disposal of OCW recovered on German territory represents a long-term effort, and the time required for its completion is hardly predictable.

Incineration is felt to be an appropriate method of destruction of OCW (and of current CW), since it leads to irreversible total mineralization of the toxic chemicals involved. (In a few exceptional cases, as in the case of phosgene, hydrolysis could be more effective.) The double-chambered incineration plant in Munster is likely to continue its operation on the long term. Due to the lack of uniformity and the extent of corrosion, most of the OCW items need to be handled individually in a time-consuming and costly process.

Procedures aimed at speeding up the disposal of OCW require further efforts of technological research and development and extensive testing. The incineration of OCW fillings using universal furnaces, such as a rotary kiln, seems to be feasible in a continuous process.

Manual techniques will widely continue to be employed in the searching, excavation, transporting and demil activities. However, improved physical and chemical methods of identification of types of munitions and fillings could facilitate and accelerate the demil steps.

In any case, considerable efforts in the areas of protection of personnel and decontamination will continue to be necessary.