

N62604.AR.000041  
NCBC GULFPORT  
5090.3a

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "HERBICIDE ORANGE PROJECT SET" NCBC GULFPORT MS  
1/22/1976  
DAILY HERALD

# Herbicide Orange project set

22 JAN '76

Final preparations for restart of a project to test the economic and technical feasibility of reprocessing the Air Force's stocks of Herbicide Orange are underway at the Gulfport Seabee Center.

The program, originally scheduled to begin in November, was delayed when technical problems developed in the pilot plant built at the Center by Agent Chemical Inc. of Houston, Tex. Redesigned equipment has now been installed and will be fully tested before any herbicide is processed.

Agent chemical technicians will then work with up to 5,500 gallons of the material to determine whether impurities can be removed to make it safe for possible resale and commercial use. The material is made up of 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, two widely used herbi-

cides.

If the Gulfport tests prove successful, the Air Force plans to work with the Defense Property Disposal Service and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make the reprocessed material available for use.

Approximately 800,000 gallons of Herbicide Orange are in storage at Gulfport, with another 1.5 million gallons stored on Johnston Island in the Pacific.

The material was used as a defoliant during the Vietnam War until its use was discontinued by the Department of Defense when the

scientific community raised questions about its safety to humans and animals.

According to Karl Merrill, Air Force project officer, both the Air Force and the EPA will monitor the environment at the pilot plant and in the immediate NCBC area during the tests to insure safety of the reprocessing operation. Constant sampling of air, water and plant life in the area will be carried out, Merrill said.

Construction and operation of the pilot plant by Agent Chemical Inc. have been approved by the Mississippi Air and Water Pollution Control Commission.

## Herbicide project set

A project to test the economic and technical feasibility of reprocessing the Air Force's stocks of Herbicide Orange will get underway this week.

Agent Chemical Co. of Houston, Tex., has constructed a pilot plant at the Seabee Center in Gulfport and will work with up to 5,500 gallons of the material to determine whether impurities can be removed from the liquid to make it safe for possible resale and commercial use.

The material is made up of two basic and widely used herbicides, 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T.

Approximately 800,000 gallons of Herbicide Orange are in storage at Gulfport, with another 1.5 million gallons stored on Johnston Island in the Pacific.

The material was used as a defoliant during the Vietnam war until its use was discontinued by the Department of Defense

mediate Seabee Center area during the tests to insure safety of the reprocessing operation.

DAILY HERALD