

# Army to incinerate nerve gas sets off alarm

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500 tons  
he Army  
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dangerous.

nses

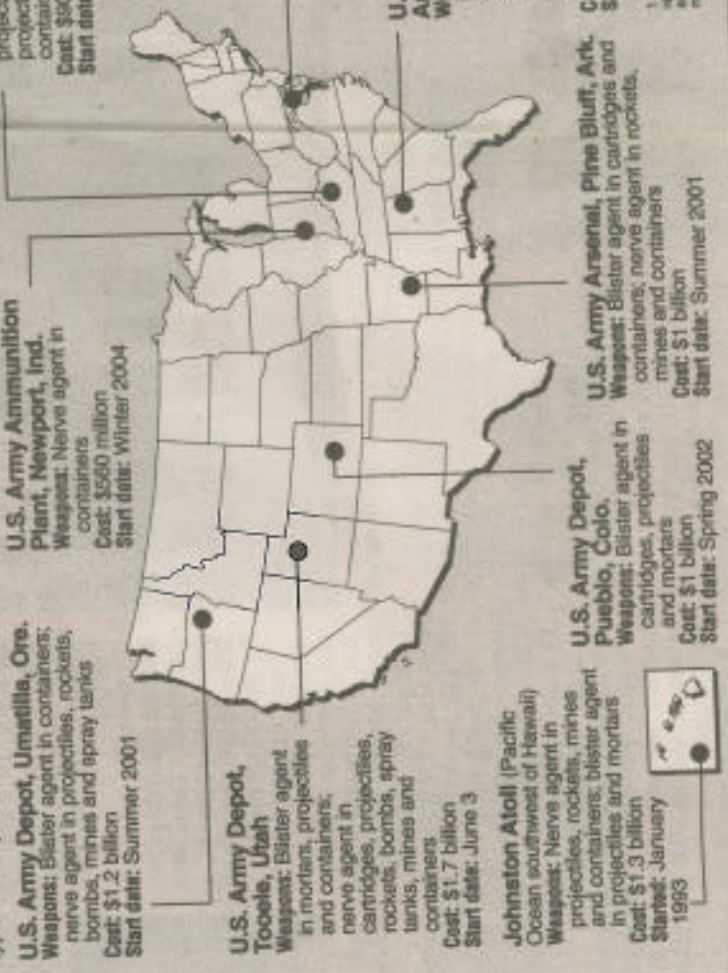
**TOOELE, Utah**

hope the Army  
vs what it's doing."  
t Mele says.  
st year, the home-  
nto a new split-level  
at 20 miles from  
plans to start bur-  
largest stockpile of  
urly as next Monday.  
or will be the first  
the continental USA  
n program to de-  
n rockets, land  
and artillery shells  
ison that can blister  
es and stop breath-

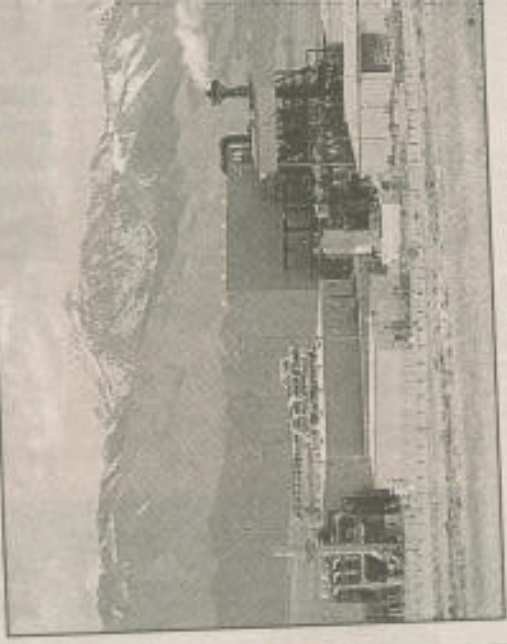
plan to burn 30,600  
as and mustard gas  
004 has raised safety  
plant's chief safety  
d in 1994 after ques-  
nt's safety.  
of scientists has ap-  
nt. And the Army  
dangerous to delay  
Cold War-era chemi-  
ome of which are  
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ponents get a federal  
the project, conveyor  
ant in the sigebrush

## Chemical weapons destruction sites

The federal government plans to spend \$12.2 billion<sup>1</sup> to build, operate and tear down incinerators that will destroy nerve gas and other chemical weapons. The location type of weapons to be destroyed, cost and opening date of those facilities:



By Greenwire Lynch, USA TODAY



**Safety questions:** The Army plans to burn 30,600 tons of nerve gas by 2004 at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.



**Jones:** Ex-safety officer foresees trouble. 'It'll be like Three Mile Island.'

United States has  
banning chemical  
gress ordered the  
the end of 2004. T  
waiting is more de  
The Army says  
its 3.3 million ner  
are leaking, most  
able wisps of pois  
aluminum seams  
M55 rockets. Sixt  
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small amount of  
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No one was inj  
Army says the in  
need for urgency  
are there, the gre  
says Army Maj. C  
head of the dispo  
Explosions co  
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this probably wo  
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thing unexpected  
a storage depot  
quake could trig  
Airspace over

## Gases, agents in U.S. inventory

Some chemical weapons to be destroyed:  
 ▶ Nerve agents. VX, the deadliest, has the consistency of motor oil and was designed to coat enemy equipment or terrain. The gooey, yellowish substance is hard to remove. GB (sarin) travels easily in the wind but

▶ Mustard gas. HD, a sulfur compound, blisters the skin painfully but is less lethal than nerve gas. It spreads slowly in the air, smells like mustard or garlic, and turns into a mudlike mix in weather below 50 degrees. Mustard gas also damages eyes and



Source: U.S. Army