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CDCAB Secondary Waste Working Group/CAC Recommendation on Non-Contaminated Rocket Motor Disposal Options

Background

In the continuing redesign effort for BGCAPP, consideration is being given to alternative treatment of non-contaminated rocket motors (NCRMs)--the objective being to reduce costs, reduce operational schedules and develop a final design that can accommodate the needs of the disposal mission while maintaining safety and environmental stewardship.

Because of the fires experienced at Umatilla, OR and Pine Bluff, AR in disposing of M-55 rockets, adjustments to rocket separation at BGCAPP have been made. The most notable of these adjustments is that the uncontaminated rocket motor sections of the M-55's stored at BGAD will be separated from the warhead section using a rocket cutting machine rather than slicing the entire rocket using the rocket shear machine. This will create two distinct disposal processes: one for the agent-containing warhead sections and contaminated rocket motors; and one for the non-contaminated rocket motors.

Eliminating the need to process non-contaminated rocket motors through the BGCAPP as chemical agent contaminated material is aimed at achieving the objectives stated above.

CDCAB SWWG

The CDCAB Secondary Waste Working Group (SWWG) met and was briefed by the BPBG team on 15 December. Members of the CDCAB present were: Craig Williams, SWWG Chair; George Wyatt, City of Berea; and Carl Richards, Madison County EMA. The NCRM Team Lead, Dan Jensen, presented options for NCRMs on behalf of BPBG. Other representatives of BPBG, along with representatives of BGAD, ACWA and the Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection were in attendance. Approximately 25 individuals participated.

As witnessed throughout the ACWA/BGCAPP project, the presentations, discussions and participation were transparent and thorough.

Options

The following three Primary Option Groups, containing 10 specific treatment processes, were presented.

- 1) On-Site Non-Deflagration (rapid burning, as opposed to detonation or explosion):
 - a. On-Site Caustic Hydrolysis/SCWO
 - b. On-Site Wet Grind/SCWO
 - c. On-Site Caustic Hydrolysis/Biotreatment
- 2) On-Site Deflagration:
 - a. On-Site Enclosed Static Fire
 - b. On-Site Contained Burn
 - c. On-Site Static Detonation Chamber
- 3) Off- Site Processes:
 - a. Off-Site Caustic Hydrolysis/Off-Site Disposal of Hydrolysate
 - b. Off-Site Wet Grind/ Off Site Recycle
 - c. Off-Site Recycle at Government or Commercial Facility
 - d. Off-Site Incineration at Government or Commercial Facility

The following seven Criteria Points will be used to select the preferred method of disposal of NCRMs.

- 1) Safety
- 2) Treaty Compliance
- 3) Environmental/Permitting
- 4) Technical Maturity
- 5) Community Input (Including Off-Site Communities for Off-Site options)
- 6) Schedule
- 7) Cost

Recommendation

Of the options presented, and with consideration given to all Criteria Points, the CDCAB SWWG recommends the following, in order of preference.

- 1) On-Site Caustic Hydrolysis/SCWO*
- 2) Off-Site Recycle at Government ~~or Commercial~~ Facility (Commercial facility choice stricken by the SWWG from presented option.)

* NOTE: Funds have been appropriated in the FY 2006 Defense Spending Bill to be spent on a separate Industrial SCWO unit (I-SCWO) at the BGAD for use in disposal of conventional weapons. The timeline and additional funds necessary to realize an operating I-SCWO at BGAD remains unclear at present. However, it is possible that such a facility could be available for processing of NCRMs. Consideration of this potential capability was considered by the SWWG.

Sincerely,

Craig Williams

Craig Williams, Chair, CDCAB SWWG,

George Wyatt, CDCAB SWWG

Carl Richards, CDCAB SWWG

and

On behalf of the Kentucky Chemical Destruction Citizens Advisory Board and the Kentucky
Chemical Demilitarization Citizens Advisory Commission