



U.S. Army Element, Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

ACWA QUARTERLY BRIEF

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

December 2010



HOT TOPICS

ACWA Program Changing Hands. Kevin Flamm, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program manager, has accepted a new position on the U.S. Army staff. Conrad F. Whyne, director of U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), will serve as the interim program manager, until the position is filled through the recruitment process. Although Whyne will be dual-hatted during his service as interim program manager, this is not a merger between CMA and ACWA, as public law separates the two programs.

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) Addressing Compliance. On Oct. 20, 2010, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued a Compliance Advisory to the PCAPP team as a result of pinholes and cracks found in the protective coating on the concrete pads where the Immobilized Cell Bioreactors are being placed. This condition was considered not fully compliant with the project's state-administered Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit, which requires these coatings to prevent unwanted liquids from migrating into the concrete. In addition, the advisory addresses the adequacy of quality control documents and statements associated with the application of these protective coatings. PCAPP and its systems contractor, Bechtel National, Inc., have formed independent teams to review and correct the issues raised in the compliance advisory.

Blue Grass to Begin New Year with Container Shipment. In January, the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant will begin receiving more than 30 Enhanced On-site Containers from the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Arkansas. Known as EONCs, these containers are large cylindrical devices resembling metal tanks that will be used to safely transport chemical weapons from storage igloos to the Blue Grass facility during destruction operations. Upon completing their Pine Bluff mission, they will be cleaned and thoroughly inspected in preparation for shipment to Blue Grass.



Special Containers to Start Arriving in January

A worker at the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Arkansas is shown opening the hydraulic door on an Enhanced On-site Container, or EONC. EONCs will be used to safely transport the chemical munitions from the Blue Grass Chemical Activity to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. Since 1996, EONCs have been used to support U.S. chemical weapons destruction missions in Alabama, Arkansas, Utah and Oregon, and have safely carried chemical weapons to destruction facilities more than 21,000 times.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

The past 12 months have been another landmark year for the ACWA program. We officially completed the program's design phase in July when the Government approved the last of the Blue Grass team's 25 major design packages, while construction progress continued to accelerate at both sites. A year ago, the Blue Grass team had just begun its first vertical construction on the plant's main processing buildings. Today, blast-containment walls are being placed for the Munitions Demilitarization Building where most of the destruction process will take place and foundation work is well under way for Blue Grass's secondary treatment facility, the Supercritical Water Oxidation Processing Building.



ACWA Program Manager Kevin Flamm (right) and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Project Manager Mark Seely scan the progress unfolding at the Blue Grass construction site.

Pueblo construction now stands at more than 65 percent complete. Aside from ancillary support buildings, the exteriors of all major processing buildings are finished. Workers have moved indoors to tackle the complex interior work of wiring, piping and the installation of the equipment and systems developed for destruction operations. This shift also coincides with the start of systemization at both sites. We are fabricating the last of the specialized equipment required for the destruction of the weapons, and are now beginning preparations for the important phase of systemization where the people, processes and procedures will be trained, tested and evaluated before the first chemical weapon is introduced.

When I arrived at ACWA in 2007, our construction sites were not much more than empty fields. In just three years, we've completely transformed them. Our progress on the ground, coupled with design completion, equipment fabrication and installation and the added responsibility and successful completion of Operation *Swift Solution*, make for a very long list of achievements for which we can all be proud. As I move on to other opportunities, I know I'm leaving the program in very good hands. I'd be remiss if I did not share my deepest thanks to the entire ACWA team and our stakeholders, for without you, these accomplishments would not have been possible. I thank you for your steadfast support during my tenure, and I wish you a happy and healthy new year.

Kevin Flamm
Program Manager,
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives



PILOT PLANT UPDATES

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP)

2010 At-A-Glance: Construction at PCAPP stands at more than 65 percent complete. In the last year, the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building was enclosed, Munitions Service Magazines were built and the concrete pads for the Immobilized Cell Bioreactors were placed in the Biotreatment Area of the construction site.

As more exterior projects reached completion, the construction team increased focus on interior projects including HVAC, mechanical equipment work and composite walls in the Agent Processing Building, Control and Support Building and the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building. They also installed various equipment including Munitions Treatment Units, Cavity Access Machines, Immobilized Cell Bioreactors, and Standby Diesel Generators. Planning efforts kicked off for systemization with the turnover of several systems – the Utility Building substations, Air Filtration Area systems, the fire protection system, and a Control and Support Building power system – to the start-up team.

Acquisitions: The systems contractor has awarded more than \$215 million in subcontracts to Colorado companies since project inception.



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant — December 2010

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP)

2010 At-A-Glance: While the Blue Grass team received the final approval on its last design packages in July, construction proceeded at full steam on the plant's main processing buildings - the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) and the Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO) Processing Building. The first several vertical concrete placements for the MDB were completed this fall, and foundation work for the SCWO building was kicked off.

Other focus areas for the construction team included the Control and Support Building, Utility Building, Utility Power Centers and the Fire Water Pump House, which recently was completed and turned over to the start-up group. Blue Grass also received equipment and systems that are being specially designed for the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile, including the Metal Parts Treater, the Energetics Batch Hydrolyzer and three Energetics Neutralization Reactors.

Acquisitions: More than \$68 million has been spent with Kentucky companies since project inception.



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant — December 2010

NEXT 90 DAYS AT ACWA

Pueblo: Continued arrival and installation of the unique equipment needed for destruction of the chemical weapons, including additional Projectile Mortar Disassembly machines; functional testing of the Standby Diesel Generator; and the start of installation of the high mast lightning protection system.

Blue Grass: Completion of Control and Support Building roofing, delivery of Utility Building boilers, and installation of utility power centers for the Utility Building, as well as piping and electrical systems in the Munitions Demilitarization Building.

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