



U.S. Army Element, Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

ACWA QUARTERLY BRIEF

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

March 2010



PILOT PLANT UPDATES

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP)

Construction Update: Construction is now 49 percent complete at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). Recent construction activities include the installation of the prefabricated concrete arches for the Munitions and Energetics Service Magazines. These magazines will be used to store munitions and energetics during plant operations. Interior wall construction is proceeding in the Control and Support Building, which will serve as the computer nerve center for all PCAPP operations. The Biotreatment Electrical Building continues to take shape and will house the electrical feeds and controls for the Biotreatment Area. The Projectile Mortar Disassembly system that will be used at PCAPP is currently processing mustard-filled munitions at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Alabama. This critical testing will provide valuable operational data to PCAPP system engineers. Additionally, testing has been completed on several of the plant's other processing equipment including the Cavity Access Machine and the Munitions Washout System.

Upcoming Milestones:

- Systemization will begin at PCAPP as construction staff turn over the first two systems – the high voltage and selected medium voltage switchgear – to the start-up group. Following receipt of a system, the start-up group will test it to ensure its readiness for plant operation.
- Construction efforts will focus on installation of HVAC, fire suppression systems, piping systems and electrical conduit within the Agent Processing Building.

Acquisitions: Bechtel Pueblo has awarded more than \$200 million in subcontracts to Colorado companies since project inception.



Placement of Concrete Arches Complete

Pueblo construction workers complete installation of precast concrete arches on the Energetics Service Magazine (ESM). During pilot plant operations, the ESM will be used to safely store energetics after they have been removed from the munitions.

HOT TOPIC

Environmental Assessment Released for Public Comment

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program recently performed a study to identify alternatives to maintain continuity of destruction operations between Chemical Materials Agency completion and ACWA start-up. Results of this study proposed the use of explosive destruction technologies to augment the currently planned destruction technology of neutralization followed by biotreatment in Colorado. Alternatives being evaluated for possible use include the Army's Explosive Destruction System (EDS) and/or commercially available explosive destruction technologies used in other countries. Use of these technologies would increase confidence to achieve the congressional mandate to complete destruction of the Pueblo chemical weapons stockpile by 2017. To support this effort, the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, in conjunction with ACWA, completed an environmental assessment to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651. The environmental assessment, released on Feb. 27, concluded that no significant environmental impacts would occur as the result of the construction and operation of the EDS and/or other explosive destruction technology systems.

To view the environmental assessment, related documents and information on the public comment period, visit www.pmacwa.army.mil.



The aerial view of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site in March 2010 shows the completed exterior of three Munitions Service Magazines (foreground), which will house munitions during plant operations.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP)

Design Update: Design of the Blue Grass pilot plant is 99 percent complete, with design packages for the Hydrolysate Storage Area, Facility Control System, Electronic Security System and the Standby Diesel Generators in progress.

Construction Update: The workforce surpassed a safety milestone in early March - 5 million hours without a lost-time injury. This was achieved while focusing on several key projects including completion of the structural steel on the Control and Support Building, which serves as the electronic control center for operating and monitoring the demilitarization and neutralization process. Crews recently completed a major concrete placement for three sections of the blast area foundation of the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB), where the explosive components will be removed from the chemical munitions. Work also continues on the Water Storage Tanks and Pump House. The arrival and installation of major processing equipment, referred to as Blue Grass-Specific Equipment, commenced this spring with the arrival of the Metal Parts Treater components, which are being placed in the MDB.

Upcoming Milestones:

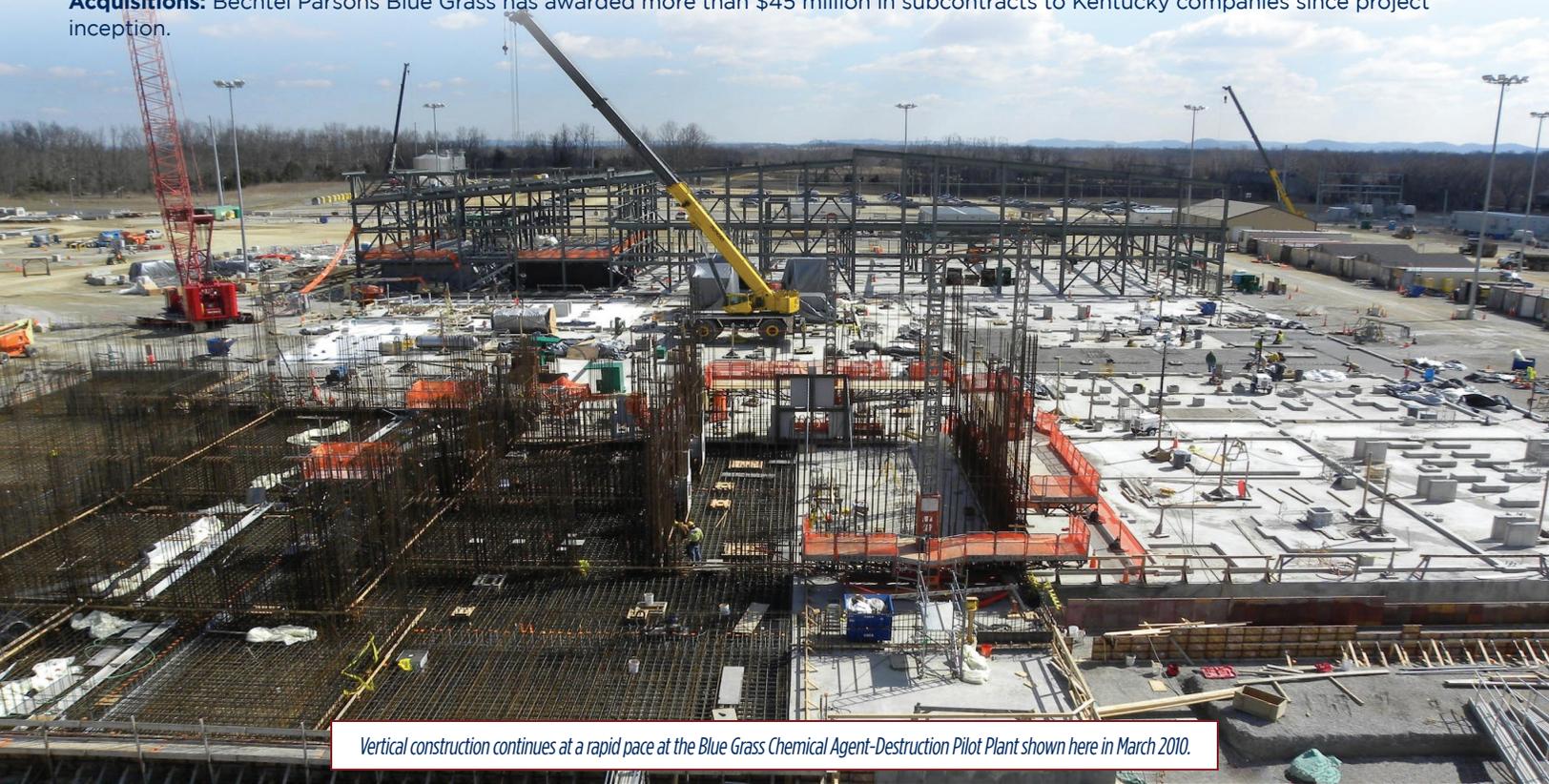
- Placement of the first structural steel for the MDB.
- Completion of the Utility Building foundation.
- Initiation of foundation work for the Supercritical Water Oxidation Building.

Acquisitions: Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass has awarded more than \$45 million in subcontracts to Kentucky companies since project inception.



Blue Grass-Specific Equipment Arrives at Pilot Plant

Blue Grass pilot plant workers guide the crane operator in placing the main chamber of the Metal Parts Treater on the foundation of the Munitions Demilitarization Building.



Vertical construction continues at a rapid pace at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant shown here in March 2010.

NEXT 90 DAYS AT ACWA

- Following the close of the environmental assessment public comment period and the review of all public comments, a decision will be made regarding the potential implementation of explosive destruction technologies at PCAPP.
- PCAPP will begin the systemization phase to test pilot plant systems and ensure readiness for operations.
- In Blue Grass, foundation work for the plant's main processing building, the MDB, will be completed.

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 ACWA Web Site: www.pmacwa.army.mil

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