



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT
431 BATTLEFIELD MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
RICHMOND, KENTUCKY 40475-5060

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 25, 2013

Environmental Office

Dear Stakeholder,

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) facility is currently under construction at Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) to safely destroy the stockpile of chemical munitions in storage here. Although this highly-automated, state-of-the-art facility will be able to destroy most of the 523 tons of nerve and mustard agent contained in the stockpile, we know there are a number of munitions we will not be able to process through the plant. A 2011 X-ray assessment of the chemical weapons mustard agent stockpile confirmed solidification in a significant number of 155mm mustard projectiles, rendering them unsuitable for automated processing in the main plant. These problematic munitions, together with some 200 mustard projectiles that have leaked in the past and are now over-packed, require a different technological approach to their destruction. In order to resolve this issue, we are considering the use of an explosive destruction technology (EDT) to augment the plant's neutralization/supercritical water oxidation destruction process. Enclosed is a fact sheet which explains this matter in greater detail.

An important part of the government's consideration is an assessment of potential environmental impacts that might result from the use of an EDT. Accordingly, the Army has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) of four different EDTs either used previously in the United States or currently in use overseas. The EA analyzed the potential impacts of each EDT and concluded that any of the four could be used with no significant environmental impact, in order to destroy the entire inventory of 155mm mustard projectiles and two Department of Transportation bottles containing a quantity of mustard agent. You may access copies of the EA and the draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) at the information repositories listed in the enclosed fact sheet, or directly from the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives website at www.peoacwa.army.mil.

Your thoughts and opinions on this matter are important to us. We are requesting that you share with us any questions or comments you might have during the public comment period from June 25, 2013 through July 24, 2013. You may do so by writing, calling, or emailing the contacts listed on the enclosed fact sheet. We would also encourage you to attend a public meeting on the EA process to be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Eastern Kentucky University, Carl D. Perkins Building on Kit Carson Drive in Richmond, Kentucky.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in the BGCAPP process. The successful accomplishment of this important BGAD mission would not be possible without your support.

Sincerely,

Brian L. Rogers
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Jeffrey L. Brubaker
Site Project Manager, BGCAPP
Program Executive Office,
Assembled Chemical
Weapons Alternatives

Enclosure



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
1000 Commercial Drive, Suite 2
Richmond, KY40475
(859) 626-8944
bgoutreach@iem.com

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Public Affairs
(859) 624-6326

Blue Grass Army Depot Public Affairs Office
(859) 779-6221

Blue Grass Chemical Activity Public Affairs Office
(859) 779-6897



A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

www.peoacwa.army.mil



Environmental Assessment of Proposed Installation and Operation of an Explosive Destruction Technology Facility at the Blue Grass Army Depot

The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is currently being built to safely and efficiently destroy the chemical weapons stockpile currently stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot. Although this highly-automated, state-of-the-art facility will be able to destroy most of the 523 tons of nerve and mustard agent contained in the stockpile, there are a number of munitions that will not be able to process through the plant. A 2011 X-ray assessment of the Blue Grass stockpile confirmed the solidification of mustard agent in a significant number of 155mm mustard projectiles, rendering them unsuitable for automated processing in the main plant. These problematic munitions, together with some 200 mustard projectiles that have leaked in the past and are now overpacked, require a different technological approach for their destruction. To resolve this issue, the Program Executive Officer, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives is considering the use of an explosive destruction technology (EDT) to augment the plant's neutralization/supercritical water oxidation destruction process.

To meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651, the U.S. Army conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of installing and operating an EDT facility at the depot for the destruction of the problematic munitions as well as the overpacked chemical munitions.

The areas of environmental analysis examined in the EA include land use, air quality, water resources, human health and safety, ecological resources, socioeconomic resources, environmental justice, noise, waste management and resource consumption. The EA concluded that the installation and operation of an EDT facility will have no significant environmental impacts. In keeping with the NEPA process, a draft "Finding of No Significant Impact" has been prepared and is available for public comment.

Public Comment Period:

The public comment period on the EA and draft "Finding of No Significant Impact" begins June 25 and concludes July 24, 2013. A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16 from 6–8 p.m. at the Carl D. Perkins Building on Kit Carson Drive in Richmond, Ky. The meeting will begin with an informal poster session, followed by formal presentations. Public comment forms will be available and accepted at the meeting.

Interested stakeholders can access copies of the EA and draft "Finding of No Significant Impact" at the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, www.peoacwa.army.mil, or at the following locations:

- **Richmond Branch, Madison County Public Library**, 507 W. Main Street in Richmond
- **Berea Branch, Madison County Public Library**, 319 Chestnut Street in Berea
- **Crabbe Library, Eastern Kentucky University**, 521 Lancaster Avenue in Richmond
- **Hutchins Library, Berea College**, 100 Campus Drive in Berea

Public comments may be submitted to:

Mail: Program Executive Office, ACWA
5183 Blackhawk Road, ATTN: SFAE-ACW-RM
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424
Email: osd.APG.usamc.mbx.acwa-hq-environmental@mail.mil
Fax: (410) 436-6026 Website: www.peoacwa.army.mil