Monthly Status Briefing

December 2014

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

Program Executive Office
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

BGCAPP

Blue Grass Chemical
Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

www.peoacwa.army.mil

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

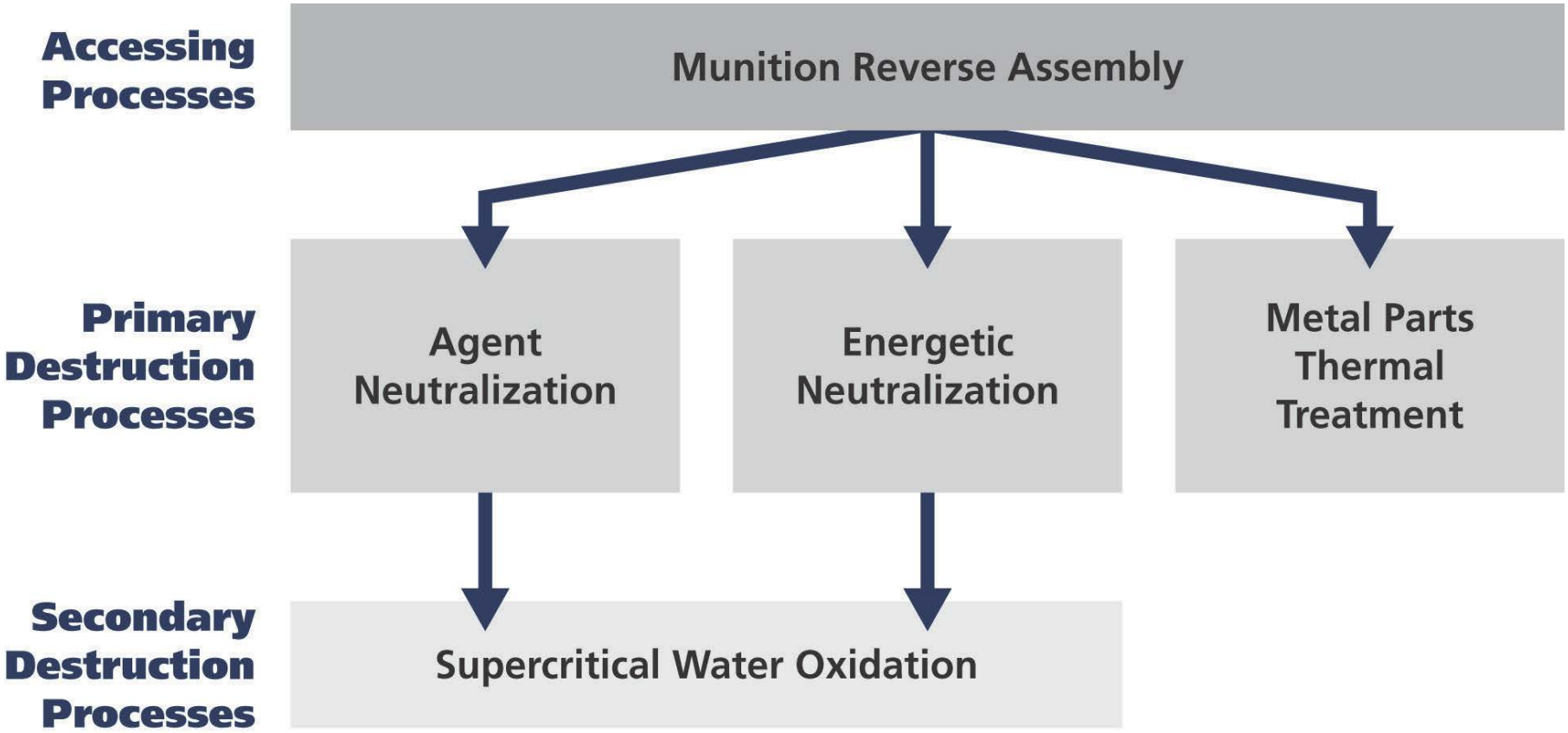
Project Background

- The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) will safely destroy 523 tons of chemical agent in rockets and artillery projectiles stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky.
- The main plant technology selected by the Department of Defense to destroy the Blue Grass VX and GB (Sarin) nerve agent weapons stockpile is neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO).
- The technology selected by the Department of Defense to destroy the Blue Grass mustard (H) agent weapons stockpile is Explosive Destruction Technology.
- The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA) Program, headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., is responsible for managing all aspects of the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles in both Kentucky and Colorado.
- The Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Team, a joint venture of Bechtel National, Inc., and Parsons Government Services Inc., along with teaming partners URS Corporation, Battelle, General Atomics and GP Strategies Corporation, is the systems contractor selected to design, build, systemize, pilot test, operate and close BGCAPP.

Main Plant Destruction Technology

BGCAPP MONTHLY STATUS BRIEFING

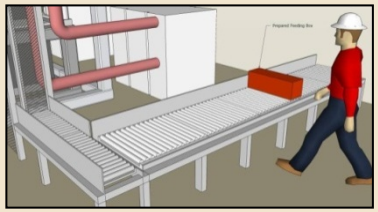
Neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation will be used to destroy the nerve agent weapons stockpile.

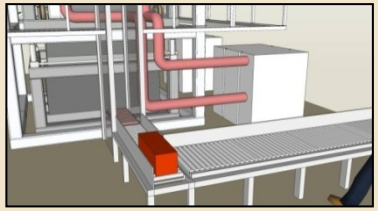


Explosive Destruction Technology Static Detonation Chamber (SDC)

SDC will be used to destroy the mustard agent weapons stockpile.

Step 1

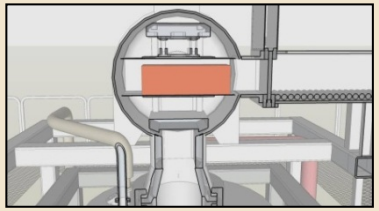


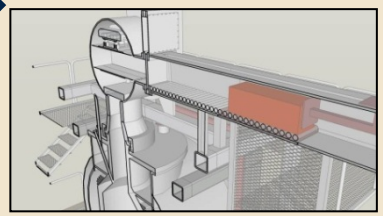


Workers place mustard projectiles in feed tray with aid of material-handling equipment

System allows for single handling of projectiles by workers

Step 2

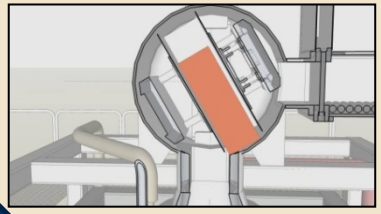


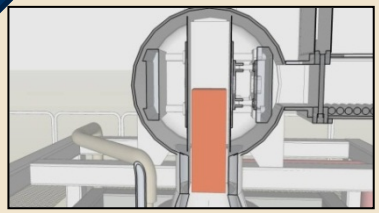


Projectiles conveyed to top of vessel

For added safety, it is a fully automatic, double air-lock feeding conveyor system

Step 3

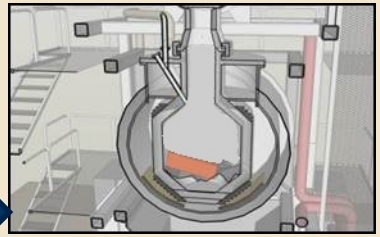




Projectiles fed into electrically heated detonation chamber

Chamber temperature maintained above critical temperature of energetics inside the projectiles

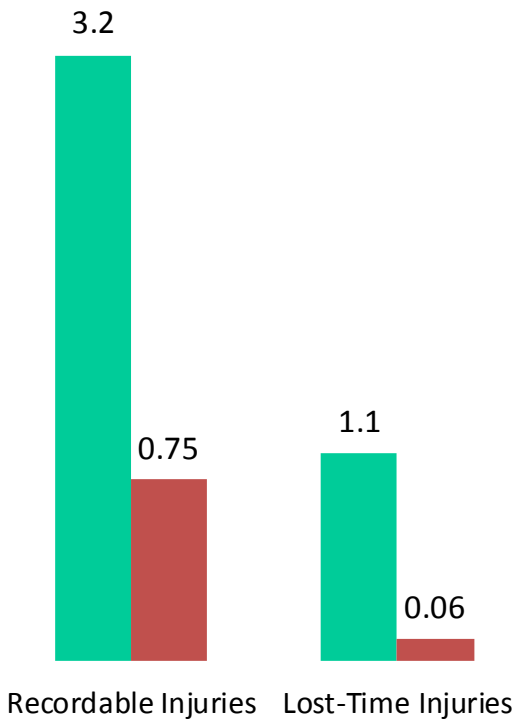
Step 4



High heat detonate/ deflagrate projectiles, mustard agent and energetics destroyed by explosion/thermal decomposition

Off-gases treated by air pollution control system

Safety



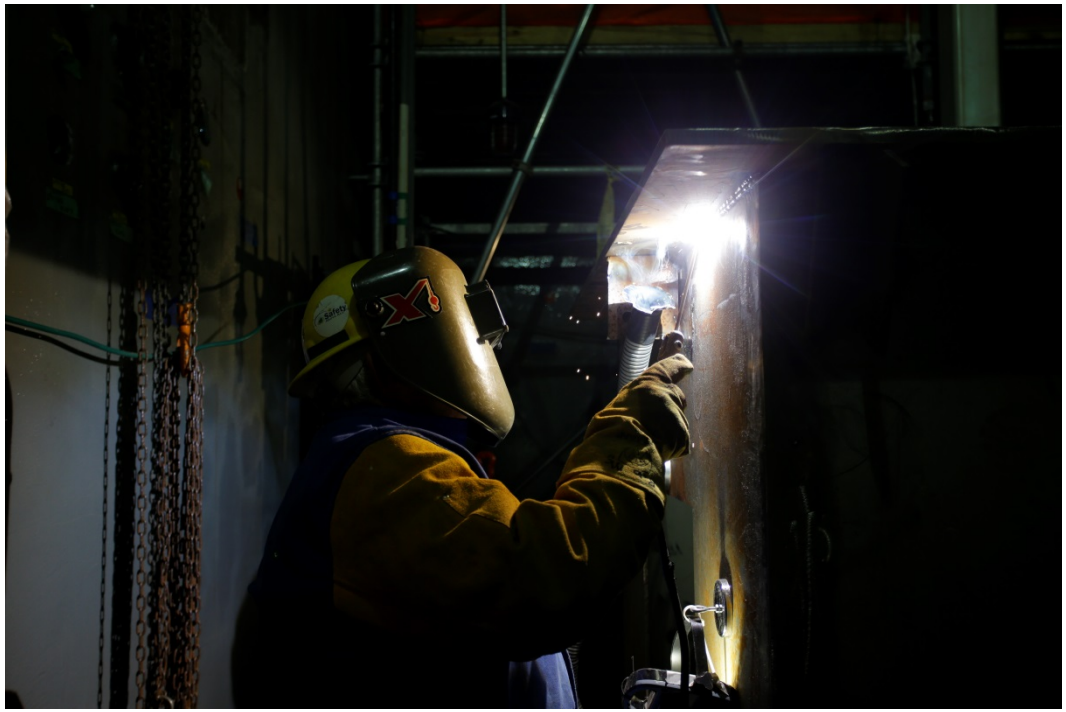
- Safety remains a core value of the project workforce
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration Voluntary Protection Program Star Status site
- Lost-time injury rate is **95 percent lower** and recordable injury rate is **77 percent lower** than industry average
- As of November 30, 2014, the project has completed 2,256,790 hours and 214 days without a lost-time accident

DEDICATED TO SAFETY EXCELLENCE
ACCIDENTS

VPP
Voluntary Protection Programs
An OSHA Cooperative Program

Current Project Staffing

- **Total project employment—1,554**
- **Richmond, Ky.—1,547**
  - Nonmanual—816
  - Craft—731
  - Local hires—57 percent
- **Other locations—7**
  - Pasadena, Calif.
  - San Francisco, Calif.



Economic Impact

- **Acquisitions to date**
  - $134 million spent with Kentucky companies
  - $76.7 million spent in Madison and surrounding counties
- **Payroll to date**
  (includes nonmanual and craft)
  - $660 million of local payroll paid

Main Plant Work in Progress

BGCAPP MONTHLY STATUS BRIEFING

Northwestern Corner - Observation Point

1. Hydrolysate Storage Area
2. Control and Support Building
3. Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) Filter Banks
4. MDB
5. Utility Building
6. Supercritical Water Oxidation Building (not visible in photo)
7. Laboratory Building (not visible in photo)
8. Container Handling Building

Control and Support Building (CSB)

Systemization continues in the Control and Support Building.

Container Handling Building (CHB)

The CHB, which will accept the Enhanced On-Site Containers (EONCs) containing munitions from the Chemical Limited Area (CLA), has had significant structural progress this month. Here, two workers attach insulation and cladding to the exterior of the CHB.

Support Infrastructure

Excavation continues at the northeast corner of the BGCAPP site. Above, a surveyor measures an area of excavation.

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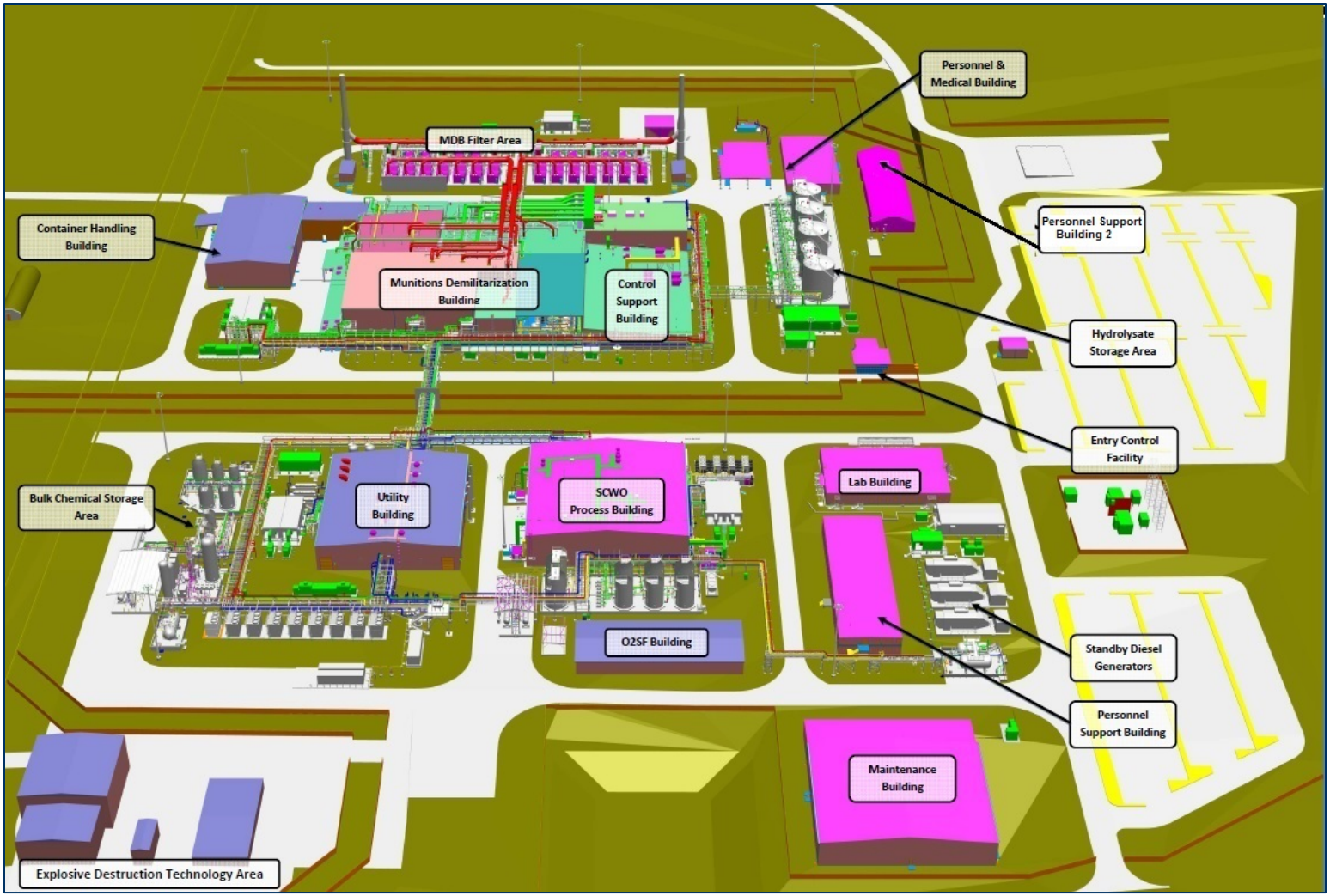
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