

June 30, 2014



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Permit Temporary Authorization Request

Background: The Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) located near Richmond, Kentucky, provides conventional ammunition services, chemical defense equipment management and other industrial services for the Department of Defense. BGAD is also responsible for safekeeping and storage of the chemical weapons stockpile at the depot as well as demilitarization through tenant support operations. The tenant, Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) is responsible for executing the storage mission. The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program, known as PEO ACWA, is the agency responsible for managing the chemical demilitarization mission through the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP). This plant is being built at the depot to safely and efficiently destroy GB (sarin) and VX nerve agents in rockets and artillery projectiles, utilizing neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO). Additionally, an Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) system will augment BGCAPP's main pilot plant to destroy approximately 15,000 mustard-filled 155mm projectiles and two Department of Transportation (DOT) 3A bottles containing mustard in the Blue Grass stockpile. BGCAPP has selected an EDT system to safely destroy the mustard stockpile because solidification of the mustard agent was found in a significant number of mustard projectiles, rendering them unsuitable for the automated neutralization process. The EDT system will be employed to destroy the entire Blue Grass mustard stockpile to augment the main pilot plant destruction process.

As such, the mustard-filled projectiles and two DOT bottles are subject to a Class 3 Modification to BGAD's Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Permit. BGAD, in collaboration with the systems contractor Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) as the permit owner/operator, formally submitted this permit modification request to the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) in March 2014. This permit modification has recently completed the 60-day public notice process in coordination with KDEP, as required by the RCRA regulations.

Temporary Authorization Request: On June 23, 2014, BGAD and systems contractor BPBG, the permit owner/operator, submitted a Temporary Authorization Request (TAR) to KDEP. This submittal is in accordance with the provisions of RCRA, to allow for beginning the construction of an EDT system, while the Class 3 RCRA Permit Modification to add the EDT is being reviewed by KDEP.

For more information, please contact BPBG Public Communication Manager George Rangel at (859) 625-1291.



Program Executive Office
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

