Community Involvement

The Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office provides the community with a one-stop information source for the chemical weapons destruction project. The outreach office's mission is to exchange information between the community and the decision-makers involved in the project. Visitors can view munition models, protective equipment, videos and other displays and speak directly with informed project personnel.

The outreach office welcomes opportunities to brief community members on the chemical weapons destruction project in Kentucky. Also, our education outreach program offers grade-specific, standards-based presentations for local students of all ages.

Additionally, the CAC holds public meetings on a quarterly basis where community members can learn about the chemical weapons destruction project. PEO ACWA has a long history of public involvement, with opinions and input from the community impacting the program from its beginning. Together with the depot and the BPBG team, project leaders recognize the importance of sharing information and involving the community in the decision-making process.

For More Information

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
1000 Commercial Dr., Suite 2
Richmond, KY 40475

8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday
(Closed holidays)

(859) 626-8944
bgoutreach@iem.com

Additional Contacts

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Public Communications
(859) 625-1291

Blue Grass Army Depot Public Affairs
(859) 779-6941

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

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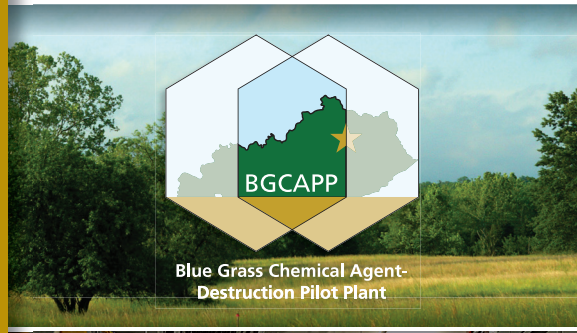
Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant



Mission and Safety

The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, or BGCAPP, is a full-scale pilot plant designed to safely and efficiently destroy the chemical weapons stockpile at the Blue Grass Army Depot near Richmond, Kentucky. The depot has safely stored two types of chemical weapons since the 1940s: projectiles containing mustard agent and projectiles and rockets containing nerve agents, GB and VX. The Department of Defense's Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, known as PEO ACWA, is responsible for safely destroying these weapons, thereby eliminating the risk associated with continued storage. The safety of the workforce, neighboring communities and the environment is the program's top priority.

Experienced Team

As the systems contractor selected to design, construct, systemize, pilot test, operate and close BGCAPP, the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team, or BPBG, is a joint venture of Bechtel National Inc. and Parsons Government Services Group Inc. Their teaming partners include AECOM, Battelle Memorial Institute, GP Strategies and General Atomics. The companies of BPBG have been involved collectively in designing, building and operating each of the nine U.S. chemical demilitarization facilities.

Partnerships

Safety and our partnership with the community are the cornerstones of our program. Project leaders work closely with the Blue Grass Army Depot, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, or CAC, and its Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board, the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, the Madison County Emergency Management Agency, the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, elected officials, numerous other oversight agencies and the community to ensure the chemical weapons destruction project is conducted in the safest, most efficient manner possible.

Neutralization Followed by Supercritical Water Oxidation

The Blue Grass plant will use neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation, known as SCWO, to destroy the nerve agent stockpile. Extensively trained, knowledgeable, skilled workers and state-of-the-art robotics systems will ensure the safe destruction of the stockpile.

Neutralization of agent

Robotic equipment disassembles the munitions and the nerve agent is drained and separated from the explosive components. The agent and energetics are neutralized with a caustic solution. The byproduct is called hydrolysate.

Supercritical water oxidation

SCWO blends water, fuel, air and hydrolysate together in a specialized vessel at temperatures and pressure conditions above the critical point of water. Water is recycled in the plant and the salt solution, or brine, is shipped off site for disposal at a permitted facility.

Disposing of the metal parts

Metal parts are heated to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes and can then be safely recycled.

Static Detonation Chamber

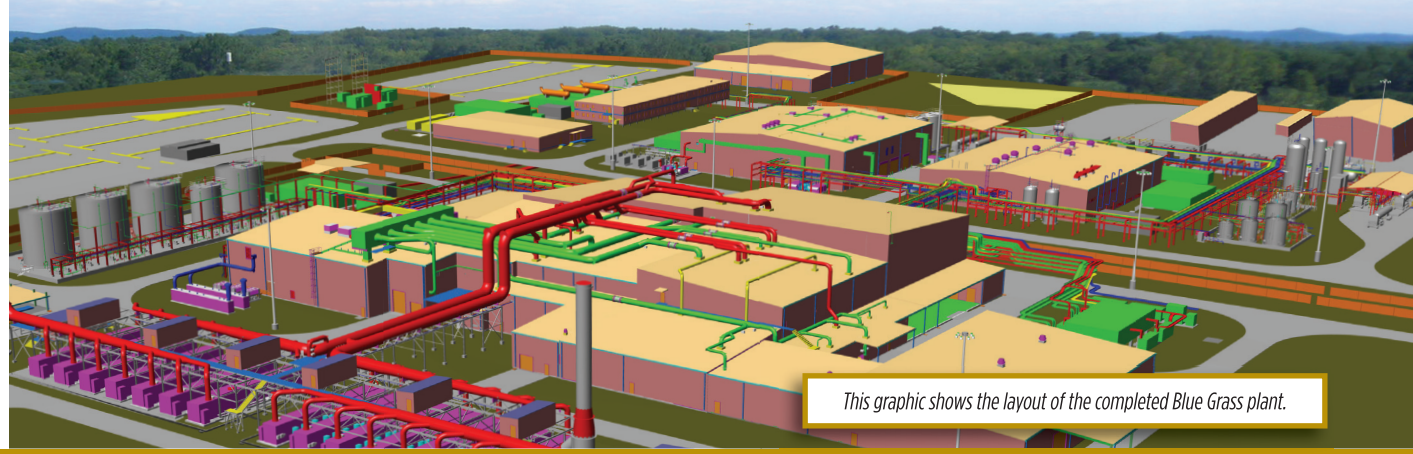
An X-Ray assessment of the Blue Grass stockpile determined that a number of projectiles contained solidified mustard agent and therefore could not be easily processed by the plant's automated equipment. As a result, an Explosive Destruction Technology facility will destroy the mustard agent stockpile using a Static Detonation Chamber.

Thermal decomposition

Projectiles are fed into electrically heated detonation chamber. High heat detonates the projectiles and the mustard agent and energetics are destroyed by thermal decomposition. Off-gases are treated by air pollution control system.

Disposing of the metal parts

Metal parts can be safely recycled.



This graphic shows the layout of the completed Blue Grass plant.