



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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# Workers Set Environmental Exhaust Stacks at Chemical Weapons Destruction Plant

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RICHMOND, Ky. — Things are stacking up at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. Literally.

The plant, known as BGCAPP, reached a major milestone last month when they set two huge environmental exhaust stacks in place which will release clean air back to the atmosphere during future main pilot plant operations.

“This achievement is another sign of visible construction advancement,” said Terry Stroschein, resident engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The stacks are a key component to the plant’s Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) and its cascading ventilation filter area system. The two, 120-foot tall, 35-ton stacks were set with four critical crane lifts. Construction crews initially set the 12-foot diameter lower section of the first stack, and then set its 10-foot diameter upper section. Crews repeated the process for the second stack.

“Safely setting the stacks is a major accomplishment for our team as we move forward to complete construction,” said Doug Omichinski, project manager for systems contractor Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass. “Setting the stacks changes the site skyline and opens the pathway for continued construction progress.”

The MDB will be equipped with a cascading ventilation system, which means that during plant operations, the building will be maintained under a slight vacuum with fresh air continually drawn into the building. The air can only return to the atmosphere after passing through a series of carbon filter units that scrub the air as it passes through the multiple carbon banks in each filter unit. An agent monitoring system will monitor between the carbon banks and at the exhaust stacks to make sure the air released back to the environment is clean.

“The design of the pilot plant, in combination with the cascading ventilation system, filter units, environmental exhaust stacks and agent monitoring, will help ensure all regulatory requirements are met and safe plant operations in the future,” said Jeff Krejsa, BGCAPP environmental engineer.

To view how the team safely set the environmental exhaust stacks, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxgoFkz2mf0&list=UU-8mjoe4oRWVLkOn5AWhoaQ&feature=c4-overview>.

**About BGCAPP:** BGCAPP is being built to safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons at the **Blue Grass Army Depot**. Currently, main plant construction is more than 79 percent complete, systemization is more than 14 percent complete and work is progressing on a variety of facilities that will support operations.

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Additionally, BGCAPP has begun early design and permitting work for a Static Detonation Chamber, Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) system to safely destroy mustard projectiles deemed unsuitable for processing through the main pilot plant. Following an Environmental Assessment and "Finding of No Significant Impact," an X-Ray assessment of the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile confirming solidified agent in a significant number of mustard projectiles and a full public involvement process, the PEO ACWA decided to proceed forward with use of EDT at Blue Grass.

For more information on the project, please visit the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives website at [peoacwa.army.mil](http://peoacwa.army.mil).



Workers recently finished raising two 120-foot environmental exhaust stacks. From here, the stacks will be connected to the cascading ventilation system ductwork in order to eventually fulfill their job during operations of releasing cleaned, filtered and monitored facility air to the environment.

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