



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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# Blue Grass-Specific Equipment: Munitions Washout System

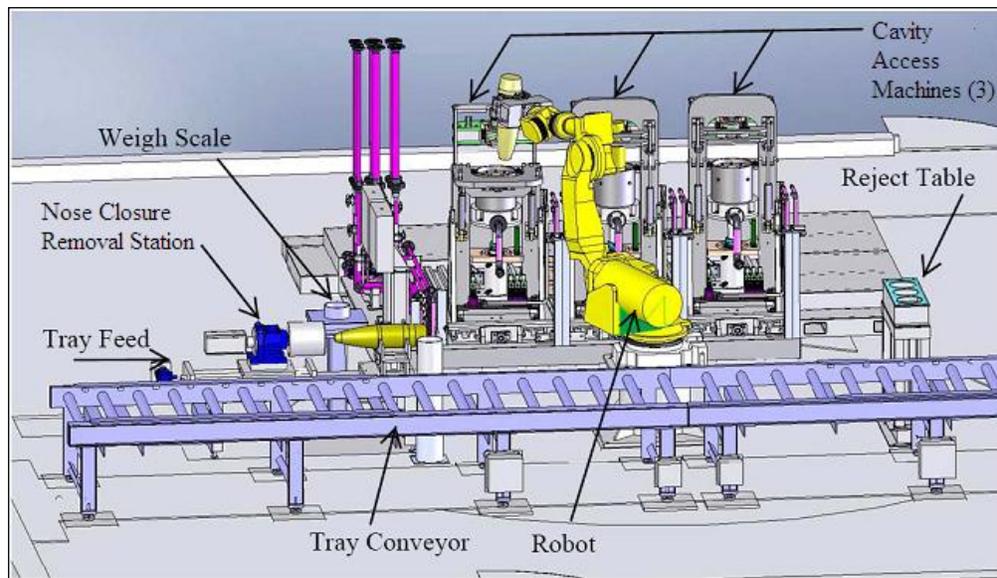
The [Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant \(BGCAPP\)](#) is being built to safely destroy a chemical weapons stockpile that comprises more than 500 tons of chemical agent in weapons stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot. The plant will remove both explosive components (energetics) and chemical agents from the munitions and neutralize them in separate processes. These processes involve equipment specifically designed and extensively engineered and tested for this use.

One of the specialized pieces of equipment being developed for BGCAPP is the [Munitions Washout System \(MWS\)](#). It was fabricated and tested in Pasco, Wash. The Pasco facility is operated by Parsons, one of the joint-venture companies of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, the contractor responsible for the design, construction, systemization, operations and closure of the BGCAPP project.

The MWS will remove agent from projectiles. It will remotely access the cavity that contains chemical agent, drain the agent and wash out the cavity.

Some projectiles in the Blue Grass stockpile also contain explosive components known as bursters, which will be removed by a different piece of equipment before the projectiles are transferred to the MWS.

Once projectiles are in the MWS, a robotic arm will hold the projectile upside down in a device known as the Cavity Access Machine. A hydraulically powered ram will be inserted into the burster well (a tube in the middle of the projectile) and will crush the burster well to access the chemical agent. Agent will be drained from the projectile and then the inside of the projectile will be flushed with hot, high-pressure water. The agent and the washout water will be transferred in separate streams for further processing. The metal projectile bodies will then be placed on trays and transferred to the Metal Parts Treater, where they will be heated to ensure that any residual agent has been removed.



*This computer graphic of the Munitions Washout System highlights major system components and shows projectiles being processed through the system.*