



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



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Department of Transportation Bottles

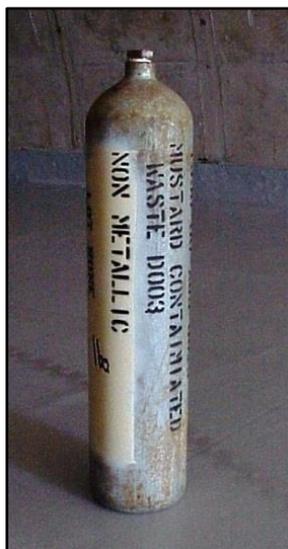
The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) has been built to safely and efficiently destroy the stockpile of chemical weapons stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD). The systemization phase encompasses the planning, technical work, training and testing activities required to ensure that once destruction operations start, the equipment and systems run safely and smoothly. PCAPP will use neutralization followed by biotreatment to destroy the majority of the stored munitions.

A small number of weapons will pose a problem for the main plant's automated processing equipment, including more than 550 overpacked munitions, including two overpacked Department of Transportation (DOT) bottles and nine DOT bottles. These problematic munitions will be destroyed by the [PCAPP Explosive Destruction System](#) (EDS), with the DOT bottles slated to be among the first items for disposal.

What are DOT Bottles?

To ensure public safety, cylinders of the highest standard were selected for storage of mustard agent generated during Army-directed agent sampling programs from 1977 to 1986. Approximately 25 inches high, with a 7-inch diameter, DOT bottles are seamless steel cylinders which, with chemical agent, weigh about 64 pounds. These bottles meet the rigorous standards established under federal guidelines for the transportation of hazardous chemical materials. Requirements include use of specific construction materials, container size, capacity limits and pressure qualifications. To ensure that worker and public safety is maintained, periodic inspections of the stored bottles are conducted.

During the sampling programs, samples of chemical agent were drained from 105mm and 155mm projectiles and 4.2-inch mortars stored at PCD. In 2010, vapor and liquid samples, totaling less than four liters (approximately 1.24 gallons), were removed from the 11 DOT bottles and successfully transported under Army escort to two U.S. laboratories for analysis. Analysis performed at that time has enhanced procedures for maintaining the highest levels of safety at the Pueblo plant.



Samples of mustard agent were drawn from the munitions stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot and placed into DOT bottles, like the ones shown here, for safe storage.