



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



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Systemization at Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, or PCAPP, is being built to safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons currently in storage at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. Building and safely operating PCAPP involves six distinct stages of work including design, construction, systemization, pilot testing, operations and closure. The PCAPP design stage was completed in 2007. Construction was completed in 2012. The systemization stage is currently under way. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an overview of the activities associated with systemization.



Systemization involves all activities required to ensure PCAPP is ready to begin chemical weapons destruction operations. It will prepare the PCAPP team for mission success in three areas: paper, plant and people.

- **Paper:** Paper refers to the development of all standard operating procedures and periodic maintenance instructions, as well as test plans for various elements of the plant. A tremendous amount of planning is required to ensure PCAPP runs efficiently.
- **Plant:** Systemization involves the commissioning, start-up, and testing of the physical plant – ensuring all the systems and facilities work properly and function together. It includes testing of the software programs that will run the plant, and also affords personnel the opportunity to access the areas and equipment in the plant that will become restricted once operations begin. As construction teams complete various facilities and structures, they will turn them over to the start-up group for testing. This “waterfall” approach maximizes efficiency and provides systemization experts the opportunity to identify and solve any problems as soon as possible.
- **People:** Safety of the PCAPP workforce is paramount. A key element of systemization involves the hiring and training of the operations and maintenance staff needed to complete the PCAPP mission. Activities include classroom learning, practical training on physical and simulated processes, on-the-job training with mentors, and a certification program.

The final step of systemization brings together all three aspects – people, plant and paper – and is referred to as optimization. Optimization includes an Operational Readiness Review (ORR) process and seeks to confirm the pilot plant is capable of conducting its mission, while being fully protective of personnel and the environment. An independent review team will conduct these ORRs, which evaluate the readiness of the whole, multi-functional organization to ensure the pilot plant is prepared for destruction operations.

To support this process, each operations team will participate in Integrated Operations Demonstrations, during which they will test-run the systems and procedures that will occur during normal operations. They will also practice reacting to unexpected conditions or emergencies. Personnel will use simulated munitions known as Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Test Equipment to complete the demonstrations. These munitions are the same size, weight and configuration as the real chemical weapons that will be destroyed at PCAPP, except they do not contain chemical agent or energetics. The demonstrations will support the decision to declare readiness to begin PCAPP pilot testing and chemical agent destruction operations.

At PCAPP, the entire systemization stage is scheduled to take about 42 months. Following the successful completion of systemization, the fourth project stage, called pilot testing, will begin with the gradual introduction of actual chemical agent-filled munitions into the system. Destruction operations are expected to begin at PCAPP in 2015.

To learn more about systemization stage, visit the Program Executive Office, ACWA YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/usaecwa>, and view the *Systemization at the Pueblo and Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plants* video. For more information about PCAPP and updates on current progress, visit www.peocwa.army.mil.