



Explosive Destruction System Prepared to Begin Agent Operations

In the near future, the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant's Explosive Destruction System will begin destroying the first munitions of the Pueblo chemical stockpile. The significance of this milestone was highlighted in September at the plant's start of agent operations event. Then Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, the Honorable Andrew C. Weber, presented the Pueblo team with an American flag flown over the Pentagon, where 13 years ago, 184 fellow citizens lost their lives to a terrorist attack. This flag, passed to us with the instruction to "honor our commitment," is to be flown during the course of destruction operations and presented to the Pueblo community when the mission is complete – a most appropriate symbol of our national commitment to the global community, to the country, and to the citizens of Colorado. Everyone can be assured, the commitment will be honored.



CONRAD F. WHYNE
Program Executive Officer
Program Executive Office, Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

RELATED MEDIA



View: [The Start of Agent Operations in Pueblo Facebook Photo Album](#)



Watch: [Honoring Our Commitment: Start of Agent Operations Event in Pueblo](#)

From Point A to Point B: Transporting Chemical Weapons for Destruction

The Modified Ammunition Vehicle, or MAV, is a vehicle specially designed to transport chemical munitions safely from storage igloos to the Munitions Service Magazines located at the Pueblo plant. The MAVs are commercial vehicles that have been customized to meet strict engineering design specifications, codes, standards and regulations.

Watch: [Modified Ammunition Vehicles Ensure Safe Transportation of Chemical Weapons](#)



No Detail Left Unchecked at the Blue Grass Plant

Making a list and checking it twice is an understatement for the dedicated group of technicians who are putting the Blue Grass plant's Facility Control System through its paces. The system, housed in the control room within the Control and Support Building, is the electronic nerve center of the plant and is now in the midst of rigorous systemization testing by the start-up team. The team is ensuring that every component of the plant's complex mechanical processing equipment is properly integrated, synchronized and responsive to the control system's electronic commands. No detail is left unchecked as the plant will not start until it is ready to start. It's the start-up team's job to make it happen.

Watch: [Blue Grass Start-Up Team Systemizes Control and Support Building](#)



Chemical Agent Monitoring Capability Tested at the Blue Grass Plant

If you build a laboratory facility to test the air for traces of chemical agent, how do you check to make sure it works properly? As the Blue Grass plant prepares for construction completion, ensuring laboratory functionality is of utmost importance. At the Blue Grass Laboratory, scientists and technicians will test the facility's detection systems daily to make sure the laboratory and its equipment are fully ready to protect the safety of employees, the community and our environment.

Watch: [Inside the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Laboratory](#)



PLANTS AT-A-GLANCE



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Supercritical Water Oxidation**
- Construction complete: **87%**
- Systemization complete: **24%**
- Operations begin: **2020**
- Explosive Destruction Technology operations begin: **2017**
- Local project employment: **1,576**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$634 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2023**



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Biotreatment**
- Construction complete: **100%**
- Systemization complete: **65%**
- Operations begin: **2015**
- Explosive Destruction Technology operations begin: **2015**
- Local project employment: **1,075**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$856.4 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2019**

ABOUT PEO ACWA

The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, is responsible for managing the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky and the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado.

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