



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

ACWA QUARTERLY BRIEF

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

June 2008



HOT TOPICS

Acceleration Assessment Complete, Validation Process Begins. The Department of Defense (DoD) has provided Congress three options for meeting the congressional requirement of destroying the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile by April 29, 2012, but no later than December 31, 2017, as mandated in Public Laws 110-116 and 110-181. DoD is now reviewing and analyzing these options and will incorporate its plan to meet the mandate in the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget submission.

The acceleration assessment was conducted by ACWA and the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, and it confirmed that achieving the 2012 deadline would not be possible under any circumstances. One of the options presented involves acceleration of ACWA program, which includes an adjusted funding profile, 24/7 destruction operations, modified construction and staffing plans and the use of an explosive destruction technology for destroying mustard-filled munitions in Kentucky. Additional alternatives offered as a path forward for the program include transferring the Colorado and Kentucky stockpiles to other U.S. chemical weapons destruction facilities or maintaining current plans to complete destruction in Colorado and Kentucky in 2020 and 2023, respectively.

PCAPP Team Adapts to Authorization Shortfall. In early FY 2008, it was determined that the total design and construction cost for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, known as PCAPP, would exceed the amount of military construction (MILCON) funds authorized under law. ACWA subsequently proposed a new MILCON funding authorization request for inclusion by Congress in the FY 2009 National Defense Authorization Act that would increase the authorization level. When approved, ACWA will have the authority to obligate the necessary MILCON funds, provided they are also appropriated as required, to complete construction of PCAPP. In the meantime, government contracting officials awarded a smaller task order to ensure that critical path construction projects move forward. DoD leadership is also working with congressional committees to ensure the authorization is increased by October 1, should the FY 2009 authorization act not be signed prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

Explosive Containment Designs Under Review. ACWA is continuing its efforts to obtain approval of the explosive containment designs for buildings to be constructed at both pilot plants. Leaders at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, known as BGCAPP, are working with systems contractor Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass on a redesign of the explosive containment room of the munitions demilitarization building. The original submission required acceptance from the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board (DDESB) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on an alternative approach to the vertical wall design that may have remedied challenges associated with placing the concrete around reinforcing steel. Based on the need for collection of additional data associated with this alternative, the approach will revert to a more traditional wall design in order to recover schedule. At PCAPP, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) approved a Temporary Authorization Request, or TAR, on June 11, 2008, allowing the start of construction on the foundation and associated steel work for the enhanced reconfiguration building. The TAR also requires that once DDESB approval of the building's explosive containment rooms is obtained, a copy of the approval and any design changes must be submitted to CDPHE for review. Until that time, only site preparation work will proceed on the building's foundation.

PILOT PLANT UPDATES

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

Design Status: The pilot plant design is 83% complete. The government and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass have resolved all comments related to the designs of two key structures: the control support building and the supercritical water oxidation process building. Resolution of the explosive containment designs of the munitions demilitarization building is ongoing.

Acquisitions: More than \$56 million in contracts have been awarded, with 56% going to Kentucky businesses.

Construction Update: Construction continues on underground utilities installation, flooring and vertical concrete walls for the maintenance building, and concrete footers for the control support building. Horizontal placement of concrete for the munitions demilitarization building and the electrical substation is expected to begin within the next several months.



BGCAPP's Control Support Building Begins to Take Form

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass workers place the first concrete pad for the control support building at the Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky.



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

Equipment Design & Testing: While the overall PCAPP design is complete, project engineers are currently designing and fabricating site-specific equipment, including the munitions treatment unit and the projectile mortar disassembly machine, in preparation for testing this fall.

Acquisitions: To date, 61% of more than \$106 million in subcontracts have been awarded to Pueblo County and Colorado businesses.

Construction Update: The Pueblo team is increasingly focused on vertical construction. The steel superstructure and walls of the multi-purpose building are up and the roof is going into place, as is the steel support structure for the extensive pipe rack system. In addition, work on the foundation, floor and underground utilities for the agent processing building (APB) continues. Formwork and reinforcing steel is being placed for the automated guided vehicle (AGV) corridor that will connect the APB with the enhanced reconfiguration building (ERB). The AGVs will be used to move the munitions from the ERB to the APB after the energetic materials are removed.



Agent Processing Building Foundation Work Continues

Bechtel construction workers even out the foundation for the agent processing building. A critical path structure, the agent processing building will be the most complex structure of the 65-acre construction site to build.

NEXT 120 DAYS AT ACWA

Key ACWA priorities for the next quarter include:

- ACWA and the U.S. Army will respond to a Unilateral Compliance Order received on June 23, 2008, from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment regarding the chemical weapons stockpile at Pueblo Chemical Depot.
- CDPHE released the draft PCAPP Stage 3 permit modification for public comment on June 25, 2008, and will make a decision regarding the final permit in the September/October timeframe. This is a major project milestone as the permit covers construction activities for facilities associated with processing agent, munitions and secondary waste, as well as allowing for the commissioning and systemization of the pilot plant. The state is holding public meetings and a comment period to address any questions or concerns from the community.
- ACWA is coordinating with the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) regarding Operation *Swift Solution*, the effort to eliminate three deteriorating steel containers and wastes associated with management of these containers currently in storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot. KDEP has given approval for site preparation work to begin, which includes grading, placement of a concrete pad, and mobilization of equipment and support structures. Further work continues with the state on achieving authorization for treatment and storage operations. Additionally, ACWA will begin secondary waste treatment discussions with stakeholders this summer.



PCAPP Team Reaches 3 Million Man Hours

Walter Carnes (right), Bechtel manager of project support for environmental, safety and health, serves lunch to Jill Stevens, Bechtel Pueblo Team expediter/buyer, during PCAPP's celebratory barbeque picnic in May. The entire PCAPP team was honored for achieving more than 3 million man hours without a lost-time injury. The Blue Grass site follows closely with more than 2.8 million hours without a lost-time injury.



BGCAPP Team Orients Sen. McConnell's Staff

Andrea Liptak, appropriations director with Sen. Mitch McConnell's Washington, D.C. staff, reviewed progress in May at the Blue Grass construction site with Public Affairs Officer Dave Easter, left, and Jim Fritsche, site project manager. The senator has scheduled an upcoming visit for the late summer timeframe.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, known as ACWA, is responsible for the safe destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado and the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

Monthly status updates on chemical weapons destruction in Colorado and Kentucky can be found at www.pmacwa.army.mil.

For additional information, please contact the U.S. Army Element, ACWA Communications and Congressional Affairs office at (410) 436-3398.