

# Blue Grass *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



January-March 2011

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Blue Grass Chemical Agent-  
Destruction Pilot Plant

### Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

1000 Commercial Drive, Suite 2  
Richmond, KY 40475  
(859) 626-8944  
bgoutreach@iem.com  
Hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F  
Other hours by appointment

**Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction  
Pilot Plant Public Affairs**  
(859) 624-6326

**Blue Grass Army Depot Public Affairs**  
(859) 779-6221

**Blue Grass Chemical Activity Public Affairs**  
(859) 779-6897

**Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Public  
Communications**  
(859) 625-1291



[www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil)



Photo by Chris Higginbotham

The EONCs have arrived! EONCs, or Enhanced On-site Containers, recently were delivered to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant from the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. EONCs will be used to safely transport the chemical weapons from storage to the processing facility. Above, Scott Newberry, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass ironworker, guides an EONC to its storage location near the Highway 52 entrance to the pilot plant. To learn more about the EONCs, please turn to page 6.

## Messages From the Managers



By JEFF BRUBAKER  
Blue Grass Chemical  
Agent-Destruction Pilot  
Plant Site Project Manager

“So, Jeff, how can I learn more about the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant project?”

I get this question a lot as I connect with stakeholders in the community. It's really very simple to keep up with the project, and that's by design. Our goal is to provide information at all levels and answer any questions you might have about our project, and I feel so strongly about this I've made 'sharing of information' the final cornerstone of my management philosophy.

This newsletter is one way we disseminate important information and gather feedback, and that's why we've been looking at ways to improve access to the *Exchange*. Beginning in spring 2011, we will be transitioning this newsletter to an electronic format. This monthly publication will provide you timely news from the construction site and a more immediate mechanism to ask questions and provide feedback. Be sure to register for it by providing your e-mail address on the enclosed comment card, or by visiting [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil).

We at the pilot plant are looking forward to another great year on the project. Major changes readily apparent on the construction site, new equipment being manufactured and installed, and certification of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program Star Status are only a few of the noteworthy events we anticipate happening in 2011. Keep in touch with us and we'll make sure to keep all of you in the know. Thank you for being an active participant in this important project.



By MARK SEELY  
Bechtel Parsons Blue  
Grass Project Manager

At Bechtel Parsons, we also look forward to another great year of visible construction progress. We are proud of the work we've performed thus far on this important project and share Jeff's vision of communicating our progress with the local community and stakeholders.

The skyline of the construction site will continue to evolve in 2011 as we complete more work. Some of our anticipated accomplishments include: continuing vertical and elevated concrete placements, installing additional structural steel, beginning electrical and piping installations, and achieving our Voluntary Protection Program certification.

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program's social media channels, print publications and public forums are a great way to learn more about these kinds of construction activities as well as employment opportunities, sustainable development efforts, project economic impact, and charitable contributions and events. These mediums are also a great way for people to share in the accomplishments of the project, as we believe our success is the success of our community as well.

Through these channels, we are able to share information about how we are working to safely design, build, systemize, test, operate, and close the facility that will destroy the chemical weapons stockpile.

So, as we continue with more progress in 2011, we are pleased to share information about the project and encourage everyone to stay connected to the project at [www.pmacwa.army.mil/bgcapp](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/bgcapp).

### Where to Find the Information You Need

- **ACWA Website:** [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil)
- **ACWA Photos on Flickr:** [www.flickr.com/photos/acwa](http://www.flickr.com/photos/acwa)
- **ACWA Page on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/pmacwa](http://www.facebook.com/pmacwa)
- **ACWA YouTube Channel:** [www.youtube.com/usaeacwa](http://www.youtube.com/usaeacwa)
- **ACWA Page on Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/acwanews](http://www.twitter.com/acwanews)

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Susan Kahler, Editor • Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office • (859) 624-7277 • [susan.kahler@iem.com](mailto:susan.kahler@iem.com)

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## Quarterly Status Update

By GEORGE RANGEL  
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass

This section provides overview information to keep you updated on the progress of the Blue Grass chemical weapons destruction project.

### Construction

Work continues at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant construction site, with the following projects ongoing:

- Munitions Demilitarization Building blast-containment walls and structural steel
- Control and Support Building roofing and siding, electrical and piping systems and interior walls
- Utility Power Centers
- Fire Water Pump House systemization
- Utility Building interior walls and electrical systems
- Supercritical Water Oxidation Processing Building foundation

### Project Staffing – Richmond, Ky.

- Total employment: 663 (54 percent are local hires)
- Non-manual: 378
- Manual: 285

### Acquisitions

More than \$69.7 million has been spent with Kentucky companies since project inception.

## News Brief: Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program Changing Hands

Kevin Flamm, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program manager, has accepted a new position on the U.S. Army staff. Conrad F. Whyne, director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), will serve as the interim program manager until the position is filled through the recruitment process.



Conrad F. Whyne

Although Whyne will wear two hats during his service as interim program manager, this is not a merger between CMA and ACWA, as public law separates the two programs.

### Mark Your Calendar

Your involvement is essential to the success of the project. Please share your views at the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board meetings. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for **March 8, 2011** and **June 14, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.** in the **Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B** at **Eastern Kentucky University**.



From what was so recently the flat concrete foundation of the Munitions Demilitarization Building, a forest of reinforcing and structural steel and walls of concrete now reach for the sky.

Photo by Debra Hogan

## Lizards and Turkeys and Bears, Oh My! *Pilot Plant is Surrounded by Wildlife*

By SUSAN KAHLER  
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

The Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), home of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP), prides itself on opening its doors to visitors. But depot personnel weren't quite sure what to make of a recent guest who just arrived one day and made himself a place to stay.

On July 10, 2009, Irvine the bear showed up on the depot and decided to test its suitability for a new habitat. Irvine, a small black bear, was named by BGAD biologists after the town they determined he traveled from. He made himself at home as he toured his environment, snacking on grubs and beetles in the woods, drinking from the clear streams, and probably wondering just what all the fuss was about as Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) officials and depot personnel checked him out.

While Irvine eventually moved on to a home more to his liking, plenty of other animals are choosing to make BGAD their home, living peacefully alongside the varied missions ongoing

at the depot, including the chemical weapons destruction project. Many species of animals, birds, fish, reptiles, insects and plants thrive on the depot, and BGCAPP workers are often treated to sightings as they drive into and out from the construction site, or as they work or take breaks.

**DID YOU KNOW...** BGAD has a bald eagle? The eagle actually stops over at the depot on his way to his home in Morehead, but it's amazing to see an iconic American symbol soaring over BGCAPP and the depot.

**DID YOU KNOW...** The depot is one of eight Eastern Bobwhite Quail recovery sites in the Commonwealth? A growing society and changes in land use over time have greatly diminished the Kentucky bobwhite population, but efforts are being made to repopulate these beautiful birds in specific areas of the state. Quail habitat is actively created and managed on the depot, and quail are encouraged to prosper there. Construction workers can hear that familiar "Bob-bob-white" refrain at quiet times on the BGCAPP site.



Photo courtesy of Blue Grass Army Depot

**A rare white deer follows an internal fence line at the depot, heading back to its daytime resting spot. White deer are a result of recessive genes and are not albinos.**



Photo courtesy of Blue Grass Army Depot

**Irvine the bear scans the area as he ponders making part of the Blue Grass Army Depot his home.**



Turkeys are a common sight for pilot plant workers as they drive on the access road from Highway 52 to the construction site.

Photo courtesy of Blue Grass Army Depot

**DID YOU KNOW...**

The depot has a natural resources specialist and a resident KDFWR biologist? Alan Colwell is responsible for all aspects of BGAD's land management, including animals, plants, waterways, use of land and management of habitats. He and Tom Edwards, a biologist with the Commonwealth's wildlife department, endeavor to maintain, improve and promote the 15,000 rolling acres the depot encompasses and the many living organisms that thrive there. They work hard to ensure that the depot's projects have a minimal effect on the land and wildlife.



Photo courtesy of Blue Grass Army Depot

**If you happen to have lost bait while fishing one of the depot's beautiful lakes, this snapping turtle just may have been the culprit.**

**DID YOU KNOW...** Burning the land appropriately actually makes it more productive and a better habitat for many species? BGAD conducts regularly prescribed burns of areas of the depot in accordance with KDFWR guidance. This helps to provide renewed and more effective forage and habitat for many species.



Photo courtesy of Blue Grass Army Depot

**This prescribed burn of open land on the depot will kill off weeds and allow native plants and grasses to repopulate the area. This, in turn, will provide forage and shelter for many of the depot's small animals.**

**DID YOU KNOW...** The depot protects an endangered species of clover? Running Buffalo Clover, driven toward extinction by habitat loss, the invasion of non-native plants and the loss of the buffalo that may have helped distribute its seeds, is now managed and encouraged to grow on the depot.

*For questions about wildlife management on the depot, please contact Alan Colwell, BGAD natural resource specialist, at (859) 779-6328 or at [alan.colwell@us.army.mil](mailto:alan.colwell@us.army.mil).*

## Control and Support Building Update

By SUSAN KAHLER  
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

From the outside, it might not look like much is going on at the Control and Support Building (CSB) at the pilot plant site. Externally, the structure that will be the brain and nerve center of the processing facility looks almost complete, but inside it's a hive of activity.

In order for the facility to properly operate, miles of piping and wiring must be run, walls and fixtures must be installed, and equipment must be placed and hooked up. Due to the complexity of these tasks, this will take several years.

"Having indoor work is important," said Gary Cough, pilot plant site construction manager. "It helps us balance the workload of our craft workers. If the weather's bad outside, we can bring more workers inside, and maximize our efficiency."

When complete, the CSB will be the culmination of concerted effort from every group of craft workers on the site, from ironworkers to pipefitters to electricians. It will control the equipment used to destroy the chemical weapons and houses multiple air handlers that will supply inlet air to the plant cascade ventilation system.



Photo by Chris Higginbotham

**As the winter weather wears on outside, pilot plant workers prepare a pipe for installation in the relative comfort of the recently enclosed Control and Support Building.**

## EONCs? Not Just for Donkeys Any More

By SUSAN KAHLER  
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

If you hear someone saying “EONC” (pronounced “ee-onk”), no one would blame you if you thought they were imitating a donkey’s bray. But when you hear people talking about EONCs all over the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) construction site, meeting rooms and Richmond mall project offices, you might start to realize there’s probably a another meaning to the word.

An EONC, or Enhanced On-site Container, is a highly specialized container designed to transport chemical munitions from their storage areas to the processing facility. In the Blue Grass, they will be used to safely convey the rockets and projectiles from the Blue Grass Chemical Activity to the BGCAPP destruction facility; both are on the Blue Grass Army Depot.

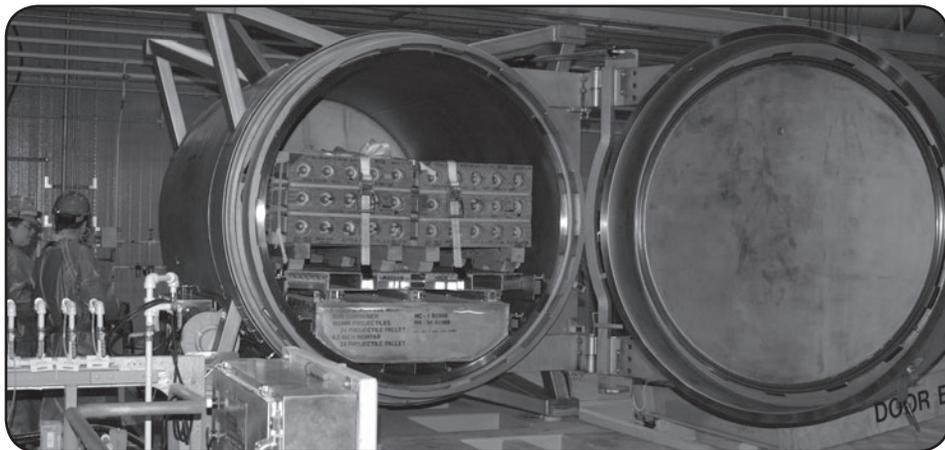


Photo Courtesy of Pine Bluff Chemical Activity

**An Enhanced On-site Container (EONC) is opened at the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Destruction Facility in Arkansas after being tested to ensure none of the munitions inside have leaked. Some of the Pine Bluff EONCs are being transferred to the Blue Grass pilot plant for use during systemization and operations.**

BGCAPP has already received 38 EONCs, and will eventually receive a total of more than 50 from closing chemical stockpile disposal facilities in Arkansas and Alabama. Reusing EONCs from other sites will save

BGCAPP more than \$10 million when compared to the cost of purchasing new equipment. The containers have never been exposed to chemical agent and have been cleaned and inspected before being delivered to BGCAPP.



Pilot plant workers attach a lifting device known as a spreader bar to a newly arrived Enhanced On-site Container (EONC). Afterward, a crane lifted the EONC and placed it in its storage space. During operations, it will be used to move the chemical munitions from their protective storage igloos to the destruction facility.

## Seeing is Believing

By CHRIS HIGGINBOTHAM  
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Not every community can say it is near a chemical weapons stockpile. Many have grown comfortable with the safety measures surrounding the weapons, some have just gotten used to the weapons being around, but the chemical weapons stockpile remains a topic on people's minds in the region.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker knows that the community is paying attention to the project and that's why he's adamant about communicating with the stakeholders. "We are committed to sharing timely and accurate information," he says.

One way the project communicates with the public is through citizens' groups like the Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB). Even better than telling members of these groups about the plant is showing them the plant itself.

Reverend Robert Blythe of the CDCAB toured the site in November 2010.

"You see a lot more than what's in the pictures," he said. Blythe and other advisory group members not only got to see the site itself, but also the workforce in action. "Openness really helps the project dispel some of the myths about what's going on."

CDCAB Co-chair Craig Williams has been on a number of tours throughout the life of the project.

"Being transparent to the community is really important for this project," Williams said. "I'm glad that so many members of the group got to attend the tours we've done this year."

BGCAPP hosted two tours for the CAC/CDCAB in 2010, as well as tours for the media and state and local officials.

The site is restricted for security reasons, which limits the number of visitors who can come to the project, but Brubaker hopes the word does still get out from these tours.

"We hope the community leaders we can bring out to the site share information and thoughts on progress with their



Photo by Chris Higginbotham  
**Jeff Brubaker, pilot plant site project manager, narrates as the group passes the Munitions Demilitarization Building on the construction site.**

constituents, organizational groups and the general public," he said.

The project also makes a great effort to show site progress to those who can't come along on tours. To see the latest photos of site progress, be sure to check out the project website at [www.pmacwa.army.mil/bgcapp](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/bgcapp). All the latest photos are there and on the Flickr site, [www.flickr.com/photos/acwa](http://www.flickr.com/photos/acwa).

"And, of course," said Brubaker, "the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 1000 Commercial Drive in Richmond is open to all visitors between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays."



The benefit of a site tour is that attendees can see the pilot plant in three dimensions. Here, Mark Seely, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager (left), explains to Madison County Fiscal Court members how the chemical munitions will be processed through the destruction facility.

Photo by Chris Higginbotham

## Stop the Presses, We're Going Green!

*This is the last edition of the Blue Grass Exchange newsletter*

The Blue Grass *Exchange* newsletter is going electronic this spring! Beginning in May, our quarterly Blue Grass Exchange newsletter will transition into an e-newsletter delivered directly to your inbox. In an effort to “go green” and conserve resources, we’re transitioning to this online format to deliver you more frequent, timely and comprehensive news, photos and information from the construction site.

For those of you who already receive our monthly *Connect with BGCAPP* e-mails, there is no need to sign up for the e-newsletter. You can just look forward to receiving more robust and informative editions. If you are not already on our electronic distribution lists, don’t delay. Go to the ACWA website at [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil) to register today, or complete the enclosed comment card and drop it in your nearest mailbox!

If you have any questions or comments regarding the e-newsletter, please contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or at [bgoutreach@iem.com](mailto:bgoutreach@iem.com).

## Online Resources

Find out more about ACWA’s mission to safely destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles located at the Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky., and U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., by visiting [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil). Interested stakeholders may provide feedback to the program by clicking on the “Give Feedback” icon.

Additional information regarding chemical weapons destruction in Colorado and Kentucky can be found at the following websites:

- ACWA Website: [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil)
- ACWA Page on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pmacwa](http://www.facebook.com/pmacwa)
- ACWA Page on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/acwanews](http://www.twitter.com/acwanews)
- ACWA Photos on Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/acwa](http://www.flickr.com/photos/acwa)
- ACWA YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/usaeacwa](http://www.youtube.com/usaeacwa)

You may also subscribe to the ACWA Real Simple Syndication, or RSS feed, by visiting [www.pmacwa.army.mil/connect/acwa\\_rss.html](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/connect/acwa_rss.html).

**Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office**  
1000 Commercial Drive, Suite 2  
Richmond, KY 40475

