

Pueblo *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



January-March 2011

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Pueblo Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

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International Visitors Applaud Progress

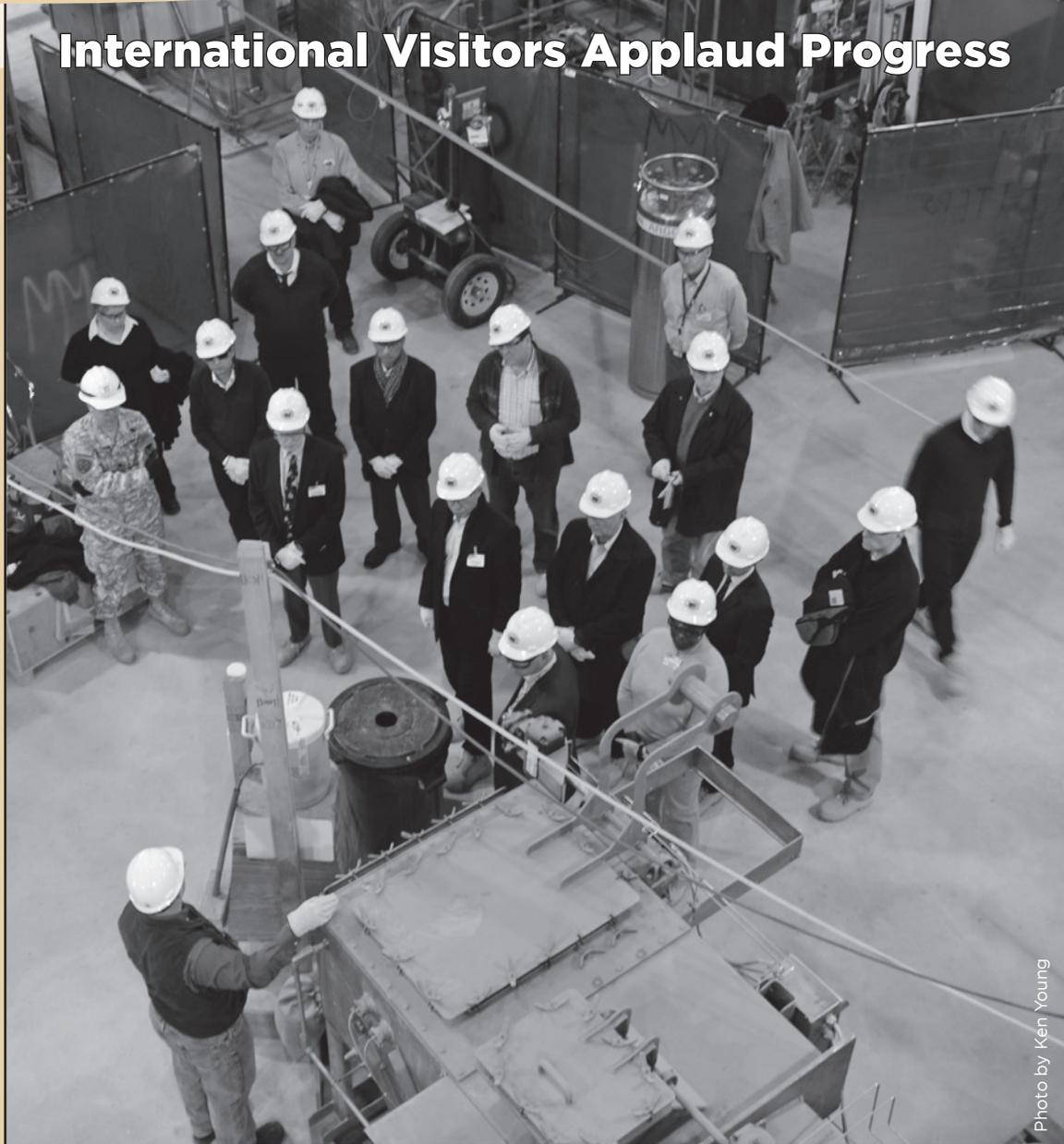


Photo by Ken Young

Representatives from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) Executive Council delegation toured the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant on Feb. 28 and observed progress that has been made since their last visit. Pictured in the Agent Processing Building, the dignitaries learned about the Munitions Treatment Unit. The OPCW, based in The Hague, Netherlands, visits chemical demilitarization installations in Russia and the United States each year to monitor progress in weapons destruction.

By the Numbers

Facts and figures related to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

Excavation: 58,743 cubic yards, or enough earth to fill 18 Olympic-size swimming pools

Backfill: 50,478 cubic yards, or almost enough earth to fill the rotunda in the U.S. Capitol Building

Concrete: 33,678 cubic yards, or the amount used in the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge

Rebar: 2,529 tons, or the weight of 550 average, adult Indian elephants

Embeds: 186,094 pounds, or the weight of 600 NFL defensive tackles

Steel: 2,301 tons, or the weight of 1,211 American mid-size cars

Roofing: 159,565 square feet, or enough to roof 20 average-size homes

Wire & Cable: 693,311 linear feet, or approximately the distance from Pueblo, Colo., to the Great Sand Dunes National Park, Colo.

Tubing: 12,112 linear feet, or the length of 252 school buses

Concrete Coatings: 136,797 square feet, or enough to cover 1½ major league baseball diamonds, between foul lines

Formwork: 190,764 square feet, or enough to cover 40 basketball courts

Pipe: 60,541 linear feet, or enough to wrap around the Pueblo Riverwalk 6½ times



Photo by Ken Young

Large spools of electrical cable are stored in preparation for placement throughout the pilot plant.



Photo by Ken Young

Pipe is being placed on the Pipe Rack, leading from the Agent Processing Building to the Biotreatment Area. Various pipes will carry hot and cold water, as well as hydrolysate.



A mason puts the finishing touches on a concrete placement on top of one of three Munitions Service Magazines (MSM). The MSMs will be used for temporary storage of the chemical munitions before processing.

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Steady as She Goes

By SANDY ROMERO
Bechtel Communications Manager

Construction progress at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project continues to move along. The hiring of craft remains steady as the bulk of construction concentration remains on the Agent Processing Building (APB), one of two main processing facilities on the site.

In the APB, the last shipment of piping for the Toxic Room is expected to arrive on site by the end of March. To install this pipe, additional pipefitters will be hired to complete this critical task. A moderate increase in electricians is anticipated during the next month and a half to continue installation of electrical wire.

“In an effort to facilitate start-up activities, we have been working with the start-up group to provide permanent power to some of the outlying buildings, including the Laboratory Building, Multipurpose Building, Medical Facility, Control and Support Building and Entry Control Facility,” said PCAPP Site



Photo by Rosemary Patterson

Workers complete formwork for the platform that will hold the Brine Reduction System.

Superintendent Steve Thieme. “This effort will allow the removal of several thousand feet of temporary wire used to supply electrical power to build the plant.”

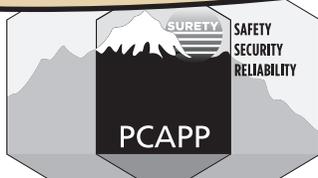
In the next several weeks, the engineering department is expected to provide the necessary designs to

complete the bulk of concrete left to go on the site, including several foundations associated with the Brine Reduction System (BRS). Follow-on activities in this area will include the last vertical construction of structural steel for the BRS and filter press and placement of tanks and equipment.



Photo by Bob Kennemer

The Biotreatment Area saw many developments in 2010, including the Pipe Rack, foreground, and the Biotreatment Electrical Building, top right, as well as the arrival of the Immobilized Cell Bioreactors, center.



2010 Year in Review

JANUARY

- All 10 filter units installed in the Agent Filtration Area
- Control and Support Building siding completed, allowing workers to install HVAC, fire protection and frame the interior walls
- Foundation mats installed for the Immobilized Cell Bioreactors

FEBRUARY

- Brine Concentrator Feed Tanks insulated and coated
- Control and Support Building fully enclosed
- HVAC installed atop of the Agent Filtration Area
- Biotreatment Electrical Building siding placed

MARCH

- Pre-cast arches for the three Munitions Service Magazines and the Energetics Service Magazine installed
- Concrete pads placed for the Immobilized Cell Bioreactors
- Pueblo City Council briefed on PCAPP construction progress
- Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors toured PCAPP

APRIL

- Fireproofing completed in the Munitions Receiving and Transfer Area and Vapor Containment Rooms within the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building
- Duct work installed on top of the Automated Guided Vehicle corridor and Agent Filtration Area
- Boone Town Council briefed on PCAPP construction progress
- U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot Restoration Advisory Board toured PCAPP

MAY

- Siding installed on the Energetics Service Magazine corridor
- Concrete masonry exterior walls placed for the Entry Control Facility
- Citizens' Advisory Commission members toured PCAPP

JUNE

- Exterior brick work completed on the Entry Control Facility
- Control and Support Building enclosed and HVAC installed
- PCAPP Site Project Manager Gary Anderson announced his departure
- Night shift for electricians and painters started

JULY

- Standby Diesel Generator, which will provide backup power to the plant, arrived on site
- Electrical conduit placed inside the Agent Processing Building
- Structural steel placed on the Munitions Service Magazines
- Scott Susman named PCAPP interim site project manager
- Colorado 30 Group toured PCAPP

AUGUST

- Immobilized Cell Bioreactors arrived on construction site
- Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Threat Reduction and Arms Control) Dr. Tom Hopkins visited the PCAPP site
- Roof panels installed atop the Energetics Service Magazine corridor
- Components of the Munitions Washout System arrived on site
- Pueblo County Commissioners briefed on PCAPP construction progress

SEPTEMBER

- Jennifer Barrett, deputy legislative director and national security advisor to U.S. Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), toured the site
- Equipment needed to operate the Immobilized Cell Bioreactors including the moisture separator, control panels, two auto samplers and effluent tank and feed tank placed in the Biotreatment Area
- Fencing placed around the future Chemical Limited Area, including the Entry Control Facility
- Interior HVAC and process piping installed in the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building
- *Chemical Weapons Destruction in Pueblo, Colo.*, video released

OCTOBER

- Cavity Access Machines, part of the Munitions Washout System, installed in the Agent Processing Building
- Brine Reduction System Evaporator arrived at the site
- Monitoring houses, which will accommodate Miniature Chemical Agent Monitors, or MINICAMS, completed
- Medical Facility's pre-fabricated sections assembled on site

NOVEMBER

- Construction on the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot's Fire Station commenced
- Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Kevin Flamm announced his departure
- First of three Projectile Mortar Disassembly systems arrived at the site and was placed in an Explosion Containment Room in the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building
- Staff members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region VIII toured PCAPP
- Walton Levi named PCAPP acting site project manager

DECEMBER

- Installation of Laboratory Building modules started
- Rebar installed for pump foundations near the Brine Concentrator Feed Tanks
- Pumps and piping installed in the utility area
- Air Tank and the Caustic Storage Tank placed in the Agent Processing Building
- Conrad Whyne named acting program manager for the ACWA program



When comparing a photo of the pilot plant as it looked in January 2010 to how it looked in January 2011, much progress can be seen. The three Munitions Service Magazines and corridor, foreground, are now complete.



JANUARY

One of 10 filter units was lifted into place in the Agent Filtration Area.



FEBRUARY

Brine Concentrator Feed Tanks, which will treat liquid waste generated in the Biotreatment Area and recycle it back into other areas of the plant, were placed, insulated and coated, beginning in February.



MARCH

Pre-cast arches for the three Munitions Service Magazines were installed.



APRIL

DENDAMIX, a fireproofing substance, was sprayed in the Munitions Receiving and Transfer Area and Vapor Containment Rooms within the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building.



MAY

Workers install siding on the Energetics Service Magazine corridor.



JUNE

Exterior brick work was completed on the Entry Control Facility.



JULY

One of two Standby Diesel Generators, which will provide backup power to the plant, arrived on site.



AUGUST

One of 16 Immobilized Cell Bioreactors (ICB) was lifted off the delivery truck. The ICBs will carry out the biotreatment process.



SEPTEMBER

Two members of U.S. Sen. Mark Udall's (D-Colo.) staff, Casey Howard, left, and Jennifer Barrett, toured the site.



OCTOBER

Monitoring houses, which will accommodate the Miniature Chemical Agent Monitors, or MINICAMS, were completed.



NOVEMBER

Construction on the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot's Fire Station commenced.



DECEMBER

The modules for the Laboratory Building were installed. The Lab will ensure that the process for destroying mustard agent is done in compliance with treaty requirements.

Baby, It's Cold Outside

By BOB KENNEMER
PCAPP Public Outreach Manager

Winter always sends the mercury in Colorado thermostats plunging well below zero. The winter of 2011 has been no different, and the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant team has been making the requisite adjustments to help workers brave the cold, while ensuring worker safety and keeping the project moving.

Bechtel follows a Construction Winterization Plan, which provides policies and procedures pertaining to everything from snow removal to cold weather safety tips.

“In February, we experienced wind chill temperatures at 23 degrees below zero here on the worksite. In those conditions, our craft workers could experience cold related injuries in a very short timeframe. The first thing we did was to try and find ways for most of the staff to work inside,” said Terry Wells, Bechtel’s safety

manager, “We try very hard to avoid sending workers home because of cold temperatures, but sometimes that is the only option. Fortunately, most of our structures are now enclosed and we have been able to keep most workers indoors,” added Dave Thompson, construction superintendent.

Wells says that the site has numerous portable heaters that can be used in buildings where the heating system has not yet been activated. “We also erect temporary shelters and wind breaks around worksites to keep the wind and snow off of the workers,” Wells continued.

Dressing in layers is key, as a worker might be in varying temperatures

throughout the course of a day. From long underwear to heavy duty coveralls, the craft workers need to keep their core temperature warm.

Frostbite remains a key concern at sub-zero temperatures; however, it can be difficult to protect one’s face and extremities. Construction workers are provided with a variety of gloves and with face and head gear. “The workforce needs to be able to work and move, so our protective clothing has to be thin and easy to take on and off,” said Scott Navarette, who manages PCAPP’s Tool Crib, the on-site trailer for the distribution of tools and Personal Protective Equipment. “I don’t envy those guys. They just keep plugging along in spite of the cold!”



Photo by Bob Kennemer

Snow from a February storm, along with ice falling from the roof of the Agent Processing Building (APB), accumulated near a primary entrance of the APB and required workers to add “snow removal” to their activities for the day to ensure the entrance and walkway was safe.



Photo by Bob Kennemer

Electrician Jeff Iberg is dressed appropriately for sub-zero temperatures. Wearing four layers of clothes, Iberg is comfortable in a variety of temperatures.

Employee Corner

World Traveler Returns to PCAPP

By ROSEMARY PATTERSON
PCAPP Public Outreach Assistant

He's baaaaack!

After what became a six year stint in Europe, Mike Strehlow has been welcomed back into the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) family with open arms, and has brought experiences from all over the world with him.



Photo courtesy of Mike Strehlow

What Mike Strehlow, pictured in Zabrie, Croatia, enjoyed most about living overseas was the R&R. He visited more than 200 European countries and loved them all.

Strehlow's career spans 33 years. Initially working out of the URS San Francisco, Calif., office, his first tour of duty with the PCAPP project was between 2003 and 2004. He was then shipped overseas to serve as turnover manager for the Russian Chemical Weapons facility and eventually went on to other assignments in Albania, Azerbaijan and France.

Now back in the saddle at PCAPP, Mike will leverage all his experience to play a key role in systemization. He will be PCAPP's support services manager, primarily responsible for preparing plant systems and processes in order to receive the systemized facility and be ready for operations. He will also provide oversight of the training subcontractor, project controls, cost and schedule, procedure development, operational readiness review and work control.

Born in Placerville, near Sacramento, Calif., Strehlow grew up in construction. His father worked as a union laborer, so Strehlow never lived for more than two years in any location. Following his father and projects all over the west, Strehlow earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff.

Hoping to retire in three to five years, Strehlow would like to teach high school math or science. His hobbies include riding his motorcycle and camping with his wife.

She's Not in Kansas Anymore

By RENEE MARTINEZ
PCAPP Public Outreach Specialist

Cheryl Myers has no ruby slippers to go back to Kansas, and the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) team is glad of it.

Myers arrived at PCAPP on Jan. 10 from Fort Riley, Kan. There, she served as protocol assistant with the 1st Infantry Division, but is coming on board at PCAPP as the new administrative assistant for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff.



Photo by Bob Kennemer

Cheryl Myers, new administrative assistant for the Army Corps of Engineers, is getting acclimated to the fast pace of Colorado, as compared to that of Kansas.

Among other duties, Myers is responsible for preparing travel documents, clearances, itineraries, schedules, summaries and labor distribution reports, as well as compiling and entering data for time and attendance. Myers enjoys learning new things, which is a good thing since each day at PCAPP, there is something new to learn. Her coworkers have made transitioning into a new job easier. "The people here are great," she said.

She also reports that she's been experiencing a bit of a culture shock transitioning to a much bigger and populous area in El Paso County than that of Abilene, Kan., but is grateful for all the help from her new colleagues.

Myers grew up in upstate New York and attended Burlington County Community College in Pemberton, N.J. She enjoys sewing and is a self-taught quilter, who has made quilts for each of four children, seven grandchildren and her husband. When not at work, Myers spends time with her husband hunting, fishing, camping and hiking with their dogs Abby and Hailey. She also enjoys riding her motorcycle, a hobby she shares with her husband.

Stop the Presses, We're Going Green!

This is the last edition of the Pueblo *Exchange* newsletter

The Pueblo *Exchange* newsletter is going electronic this spring! Beginning in May, our quarterly Pueblo *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 PCAPP* 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 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 Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (719) 546-0400 or at PuebloOutreach@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. 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
- ACWA Page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pmacwa
- ACWA Page on Twitter: www.twitter.com/acwanews
- ACWA Photos on Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/acwa
- ACWA YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/usaeacwa

You may also subscribe to the ACWA Real Simple Syndication, or RSS feed, by visiting http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/connect/acwa_rss.html.

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