

Pueblo *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



Spring 2009

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Pueblo Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

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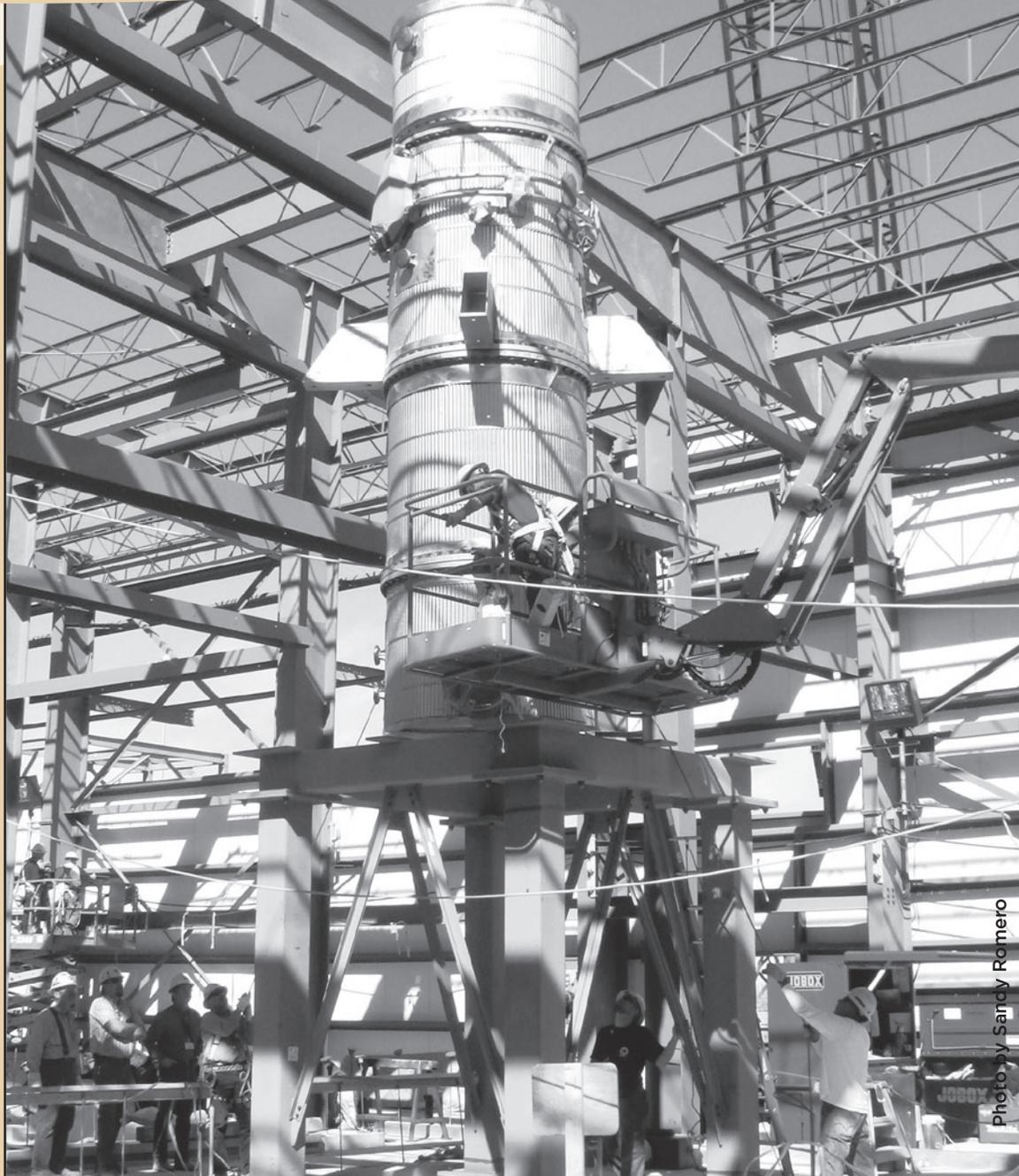


Photo by Sandy Romero

A Bulk Oxidizer was placed in the Agent Processing Building on March 5. Due to its size, 24 feet in height and 6 feet in diameter, the vessel was erected on site at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. Bulk Oxidizers will be used in treating gases produced during the agent neutralization process.

Earth Day and Wildlife Safety Go Hand in Hand

By BOB KENNEMER
PCAPP Community Outreach Manager

On April 21, the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) celebrated Earth Day 2009. As part of this year's Earth Day activities, a wildlife safety and awareness program was offered to workers on the post. The program focused on how to prevent unwanted encounters with wildlife and how to react if confronted with dangerous animals.

Workers who attended the Earth Day wildlife program were provided with wildlife safety brochures from the Colorado Division of Wildlife. A professional naturalist was on hand to discuss everything from treating snake bite wounds to understanding animal's signs like tracks and scat.

According to Max Canestorp, PCD's natural and cultural resources manager for the Colorado Fish & Wildlife Assistance Office, a division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, prairie rattlesnakes are one of the most frequent types of wildlife found on the post. "Several rattlers were encountered in and around the PCAPP site when construction first started," said Canestorp. Snake tongs were used to capture and move the snakes to a less populated area of the depot for release.

Canestorp also noted that coyotes on the post sometimes become habituated, or familiarized, with people. "We want to avoid wildlife becoming habituated with humans because once they lose their fear of people, the wild animals may get too close for comfort," Canestorp said. He suggests that if a coyote comes too close, one should make a lot of noise or hold their coat open to look larger. These tactics often scare the coyote away.

PCAPP's Emergency Preparedness Manager Ken Young and others occasionally spot coyotes in the construction parking lot. Young stated, "We are making sure to keep the work site clean of food scraps so as to not attract wildlife."

Almost two-thirds of PCD's 21,000 acres is made up of open space that is home to a wide variety of wildlife. In addition to snakes and coyotes, species found on the post include: bald eagles, the mountain plover, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, an occasional mountain lion, badgers and black bears. Because wildlife on the depot is so abundant, the PCAPP team takes proactive measures, including special training, to help its team know how to respond if an animal makes its way onto the construction site.

Editor's note: All wildlife is protected on Army installations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assists the Army with wildlife management. All wildlife concerns should be referred to Max Canestorp at (719) 549-4288.



Photo by Bob Kenemer

A rattlesnake is perfectly camouflaged to blend in with its surroundings. This snake was spotted near a pond on the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot grounds.



Photo by Ken Young

A coyote ventures on to the pilot plant construction parking lot in search of a meal. Staff are encouraged to keep the worksite clean and free of food wastes as a means of discouraging wildlife from becoming dependent on humans for food.

Two buck pronghorn antelope graze near the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) construction site. Pronghorn are abundant on the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot and are often seen around the worksite. As part of the PCAPP safety program, visitors and staff are encouraged to not feed wildlife and to use caution when driving on the post.

On-site Medical Services Expanding

By BOB KENNEMER
PCAPP Community Outreach Manager

As the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) construction site continues to grow, so does the on-site medical clinic. In January, several new services were added to the clinic's offerings, including the Non-occupational Acute Minor Illness/Injury Services (NOMIS) clinic for all on-site employees.

Although the NOMIS clinic is not meant to replace a family doctor, it can be used

to bridge the gap between taking time off for a doctor's appointment and receiving an on-site medical evaluation. Once at the clinic, staff can help to determine if the worker needs additional follow up care with their regular physician.

In addition to NOMIS, new preventative medicine programs include the recently established "Lunch and Learn" sessions, where information on issues such as women's heart health and smoking cessation is shared with employees.

The clinic also provides emergency medical care and readiness, safety and accident prevention, occupational medicine, Workers' Compensation care, wellness promotion and supplementation of primary care. The clinic staff conducts drug screenings and provides pulmonary function and hearing tests.

Dr. Paul Smith, medical director; Jennifer Wilson, registered nurse; Cristina Sigala, emergency medical technician; and Ken Young, paramedic and emergency preparedness manager, make up the PCAPP medical services team.

According to Smith, the primary goal of the clinic is to support chemical surety as it relates to the mustard weapons stockpiled at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD). Chemical surety has many components, including PCD's mission of the safe and secure storage of the stockpile. "We ensure that the medical and emergency procedures in place are being followed," Smith said.

Wilson reaches out to all non-manual employees with the monthly distribution of her *Health Advisor* newsletter, which provides health and wellness tips and has covered such topics as ear protection and the importance of sleep. Similarly, Young writes a newsletter for the craft workers called *Construction Times*. It is also distributed monthly and provides safety and health messages.

"We are here to help the employees and to keep them well," Smith concluded.



Photo by Ken Young

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Medical Clinic provides glucose screenings, blood pressure checks and weight monitoring. The clinic strives to supplement employee's primary care, not replace it.

CSU-Pueblo Alum Joins Medical Team

By BOB KENNEMER
PCAPP Community Outreach Manager

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) site has recently welcomed Dr. Paul Smith, the new medical director for the project.

In his new role at PCAPP, Smith is developing a medical systems plan that will encompass all aspects of medicine related to pre-operation activities on site. As the project moves closer to systemization and operations, Smith will be responsible for routine physical monitoring of workers in the Personnel Reliability Program (PRP). The PRP requires that all personnel who work with the chemical weapons meet strict mental, emotional and physical standards.



Photo by Bob Kennemer

Dr. Paul Smith, pilot plant medical director, reviews the medical history of Charley Colby, Bechtel Pueblo Team senior quality assurance engineer.

"Smith was brought on now because we want to be prepared, from the very beginning, to have medical services in place once plant testing and operations start," said Site Project Manager Gary Anderson.

Smith was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., and grew up in Indiana. After attending college at Colorado State University – Pueblo, Smith went to medical school at Northwestern University in Chicago. Eventually completing a Family Practice residency in the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, N.C., Smith was active duty for seven years, including four years at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. It was during his stay at Fort Carson that Smith was first introduced to the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, as he served as backup doctor for the depot's Occupational Health Clinic.

Currently, there are 500 people working at the PCAPP site and Smith makes it his priority to ensure that they all have access to exceptional health services while on the job. "I feel a sense of ownership for the well-being of all the employees here," Smith said.

PCAPP Construction Team Multitasks

By SANDY ROMERO
Bechtel Communications Manager

Even though construction of the two main processing facilities, the Agent Processing Building (APB) and the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building (ERB), remains a priority, substantial progress is also being made with other Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) buildings.

“We’re still on a critical path to construct these buildings,” stated Steve Thieme, PCAPP site superintendent. “However, we are proceeding with selective work in the Biotreatment Area and other PCAPP facilities.”

To construct PCAPP, the Bechtel Pueblo Team has planned construction activities in a specific sequence that maximizes funding and staff resources, while also ensuring the pilot plant is built in the safest manner possible. This allows the

team to keep construction activities moving across the construction site, while maintaining a sharp focus on its critical path buildings – the APB and the ERB. Some of these construction activities are described below.

Pipe Rack

Pipe installation is continuing throughout the yard areas. Cable tray installation has begun and will continue to progress throughout the year. The cable tray is designed to carry multiple cables and wires to various locations and equipment.

Automated Guided Vehicle (AGV) Corridor

Most of the construction has been completed on the AGV corridor. Engineering design for the corridor enclosure is proceeding and work continues with pipe and cable tray installation in the overhead rack. Air filtration duct work will begin toward the end of the year.

Control Support Building (CSB)

Foundation for the CSB will be placed this summer. Projectile Mortar Disassembly (PMD) units will be controlled by operators in the CSB. PMDs will robotically remove the nose closures and fuzes of the munitions.

Biotreatment Area (BTA)

The Brine Tank foundation is complete and the BTA pipe rack foundation is well underway. Soon, the structural steel pipe rack will be erected.

Field-erected Yard Tanks

The subcontractor for field-erected tanks has mobilized and is well into the fabrication and erection of large steel plate panels, which make up the shell of the tanks. Currently, the Process Water Tank, which will hold the water to reprocess during neutralization, is complete and work on several other tanks are in various stages of assembly.



A temporary framework is utilized to install blast doors for the Explosive Containment Rooms (ECR) located in the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building (ERB). The chemical weapons will be disassembled in the ERB, making them safer for additional processing. The ECRs are designed to safely contain the munitions as the explosives and propellants are removed from the chemical weapons.



Photo by Sandy Romero

Blast doors for the Explosive Containment Rooms have been installed in the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building.

Employment

The hiring of electricians and pipe fitters will increase as civil work phases out in various locations. By early fall, the PCAPP project will experience this shift as additional pipe fitters, electricians and mechanical workers are brought on to the project.

In addition to these activities, APB and ERB work continues. All APB large vessels should be placed inside the building, and siding and roofing should be complete by summer, except for

several openings to provide access for equipment and better air flow during the summer months. In the ERB, several building slabs will be complete, including the base foundation for the Explosive Containment Rooms. In addition, structural steel erection and siding will have begun. Also by summer, the Multipurpose Building will begin to house PCAPP warehouse and procurement employees, as well as government property specialists.

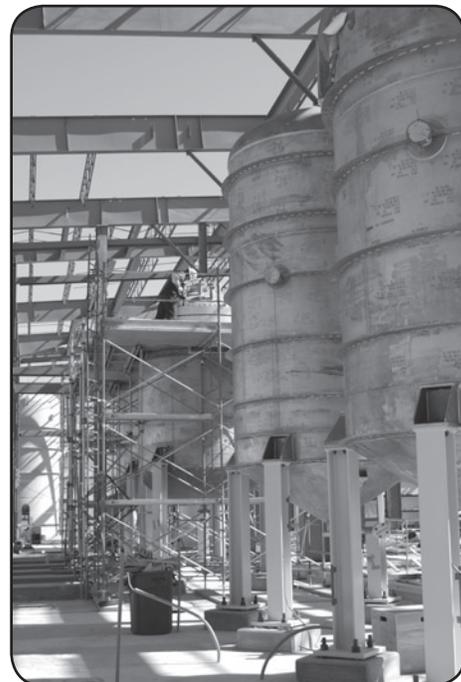
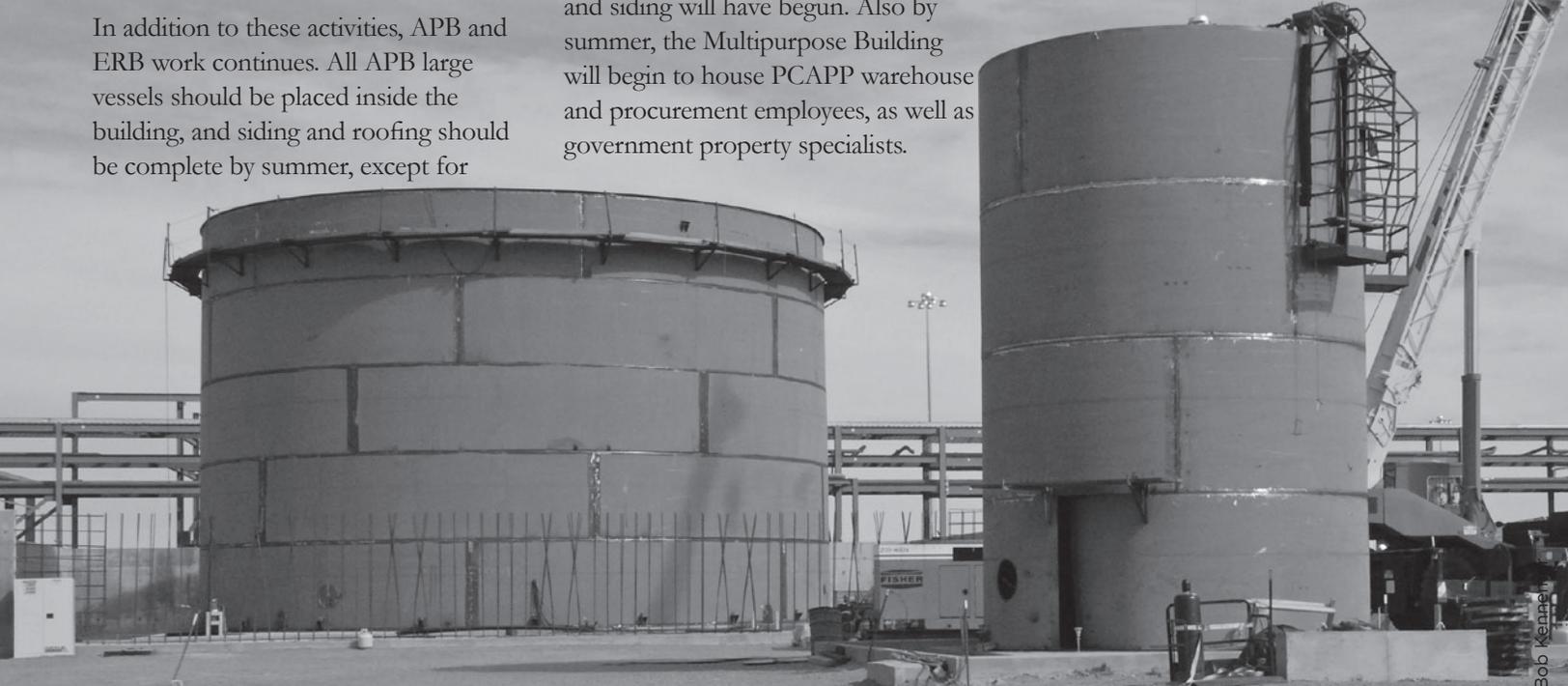


Photo by Sandy Romero

Agent Water Separator Tanks, foreground, and Agent Hydrolyzer Tanks were placed in the Agent Processing Building in December 2008. Mustard agent will be hydrolyzed by reaction to hot water in the Agent Hydrolyzer Tanks. Hydrolysis is part of the neutralization process.



The Process Water Tank, left, and the Sanitary Waste Tank are among several very large tanks being assembled on site to support the eventual neutralization of the Pueblo chemical weapons stockpile.

Photo by Bob Kenne

National Research Council Provides Assessment of Explosive Destruction Technologies

By RENEE MARTINEZ
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program, which is responsible for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles in Colorado and Kentucky, tasked the National Research Council (NRC) to perform a technical analysis of explosive destruction technologies (EDT) designed to eliminate chemical munitions. In March, the NRC provided ACWA the report titled, *“Assessment of Explosive Destruction Technologies for Specific Munitions at the Blue Grass and Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plants.”*

This report is important to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project, as the current design requires the use of an EDT to destroy overpacked munitions

currently in storage at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot and any reject munitions identified during PCAPP operations. Overpacked munitions are leaking or damaged munitions, which are placed in metal tubes with special seals to prevent further leakage.

Within the report, the NRC evaluated five government or commercially developed EDTs against criteria such as safety standards, process maturity, ability to satisfy destruction requirements and safely support schedule goals, public and regulatory acceptability and secondary waste considerations. For the PCAPP project, the NRC concluded that although each technology has its own unique set of pros and cons, four of the five EDTs would be viable options for successfully fulfilling these requirements.

ACWA and its contractor, the Bechtel Pueblo Team, will review the NRC recommendations, other data and cost information to select an EDT for PCAPP. Independent assessments, like this one, are part of the program’s checks and balances to ensure that program decisions support the safe and expedient destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile in Colorado.

Interested parties can review the entire report through the ACWA Web site (www.pmacwa.army.mil) and at the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, as well as attend upcoming Chemical Demilitarization Citizens’ Advisory Commission meetings to learn more about EDTs, the NRC’s recommendations and next steps.

Looking for Information on the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) Project?

In addition to the documents that can be found on our Web site at www.pmacwa.army.mil, Information Repositories serve as libraries of official PCAPP documents that are available to the public. These repositories are available at the following locations:

Avondale Water and Sanitation District
321 3rd Street
Avondale, CO
Hours: 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.,
Monday – Friday

Boone Town Hall
100 Baker Street
Boone, CO
Hours: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday – Thursday

Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
104 West B Street
Pueblo, CO
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

Robert Rawlings Public Library
100 East Abriendo
Pueblo, CO
Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday – Thursday;
9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday & Saturday;
1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday

For more information on these repositories, contact the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (719) 546-0400.

Employee Corner

New Human Resource Manager Learns from Employees

By RENEE MARTINEZ
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

Although Brian Arrington is new to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP), he has a wealth of experience working with Bechtel National, Inc. (BNI). Arrington has a three-year history with the company, having served as employee relations manager and most recently, as learning and development manager in the Frederick, Md., office. Arrington now serves as the BNI human resources (HR) manager for the PCAPP project.



Photo by Bob Kennemer

Brian Arrington is the new human resource manager for Bechtel at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. He began the position in January.

Arrington oversees all aspects of HR functions on the PCAPP project, including support services in compliance with Bechtel Systems Infrastructure, Inc., policies and procedures and government contracting standards, among numerous other duties.

One of Arrington's favorite aspects of HR management is interacting with and learning from the employees on the project. "I have found that every employee has their own perspective and it's through their experiences on this project, and with Bechtel, which makes them unique," explained Arrington.

Arrington hails from Pittsburgh, Pa., where he published a book of poems about growing up in the inner city. He holds a bachelor's degree in business management from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.

Years from now, when his kids are grown and he is retired, Arrington looks forward to traveling and playing golf. Until then, his focus is on spending time with his wife and five sons.

Environmental Scientist Brings Determination to Team

By KRISTEN SZYDLOSKI
ACWA Public Affairs Specialist

As a newcomer to the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program and the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) field office, Vicki Strause brings years of environmental science experience to the project. "The most rewarding aspect of being an environmental scientist is when you can see a project from start to finish," Strause said.



Photo by Kristen Szydoski

While out of the office, Virginia (Vicki) Strause enjoys riding her Harley and spoiling her grandchildren.

Strause, who has been an environmental scientist for 12 years, became interested in this field while employed at the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (CHPPM) in an internship program. While employed at CHPPM, Strause taught the packaging of biomedical materials and hazardous waste for transport. It was from that experience that Strause embarked upon the journey of environmental scientist.

Strause was the compliance-related cleanup program manager with the Army Environmental Command. There she developed Army guidance on the removal of and ways to decrease contaminants in the soil or water, from the ground up. Strause also helped in the coordination of the Air Force Environmental Cleanup Program as a project officer for the Massachusetts Military Reservation.

In her current role with ACWA, Strause provides environmental oversight for the PCAPP field office. She also serves as the liaison between upper management and the field office, reviewing documents and developing environmental policies. Currently, Strause is reviewing permitting documents and is involved in resolving waste management issues. Strause takes pride in the work and takes solace in the knowledge that the plans and products she develops will not only support destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile, but also will be a resource for future generations.

Information | Exchange

The Pueblo *Exchange* is designed to keep you up to date on the chemical weapons destruction project. Submit your feedback and potential story ideas by contacting the editor, Renee Martinez, by phone at (719) 546-0400 or e-mail at martinez_renee@bah.com.

Virtual Information | Exchange

Find out more about U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives' mission to safely destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles located at U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., and Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky., by visiting www.pmacwa.army.mil.

Current and past editions of the Pueblo *Exchange* can also be found online. To locate the newsletters, click on the "Information Products" link and then on the word "Newsletters."

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