



U.S. Army Element, Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

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Accelerated Schedule Overview

In May 2009, the Department of Defense (DoD) concluded a formal assessment of options for accelerating the destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile across the entire chemical demilitarization program, which included both organizations charged with chemical weapons destruction responsibilities: the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency and the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA).

The result of this assessment was outlined in the May 2009 Chemical Demilitarization Program Semi-Annual Report to Congress. The report reviewed various acceleration options and the results of evaluations regarding on-site and off-site treatment and disposal of hydrolysate, which is a waste generated during chemical weapons destruction operations that requires secondary treatment. The following outlines the legislative mandates that required the acceleration assessment and the recommended path forward as it relates to the ACWA program and ACWA's mission to destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles in Colorado and Kentucky.

Legislative Mandates

The purpose of the acceleration assessment was to examine alternatives for destroying the entire U.S. chemical weapons stockpile by 2012, and in no case later than 2017. It was initiated as a result of two laws: the DoD Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-116) and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110-181). These laws mandate that the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile must be destroyed by the deadline established by the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) (April 29, 2012), and under no circumstances later than Dec. 31, 2017.

ACWA Acceleration

In response to this legislation, DoD's May 2009 Report to Congress confirmed that achieving the 2012 deadline would not be possible under any circumstances and presented several acceleration options. The recommended option was a course of action that would seek additional resources for accelerating the ACWA program to complete destruction of the Colorado stockpile by 2017 and the Kentucky stockpile by 2021, thereby resulting in an acceleration in destruction of three years at Pueblo and two years at Blue Grass. It also clarified that on-site treatment and disposal of hydrolysate for both locations would continue unless unforeseen technical difficulties arise. The table below outlines the accelerated schedule for both the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado and the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Kentucky. Funding for this accelerated course of action is included in the President's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request which must be approved by the Congress and enacted into law.

ACWA Acceleration Dates

Activity	Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant	Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant
Start of Operations	2015*	2018
End of Operations	2017	2021
Closure	2020	2023

**Note: January 2015 projected start of PCAPP operations reflects systems contractor current estimate.*



A Partnership for Safe
Chemical Weapons
Destruction