

Blue Grass *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



Summer 2008

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Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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In July, Col. Joseph Tirone, top, and Lt. Col. David Musgrave, new commanders at the Blue Grass Army Depot and Blue Grass Chemical Activity, each took the helm in a time-honored ceremony, known as the change of command.

Photos by Stephanie Parrett

Message From the Managers



By JIM FRITSCHÉ
Blue Grass Chemical
Agent-Destruction
Pilot Plant Site Project
Manager



By MARK SEELY
Bechtel Parsons Blue
Grass Project Manager

Here at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP), transition and change is constant – whether it be on the pilot plant site where construction is now going vertical, or within our extended team of partner organizations and community groups, all of which have played a critical part in our project's progress to date.

We are excited to welcome to Kentucky Col. Joseph Tirone and Lt. Col. David Musgrave, who will be serving as the new commanders at the Blue Grass Army Depot and Blue Grass Chemical Activity, respectively. In turn, we extend our gratitude to the former commanders, Col. Richard Mason and Lt. Col. Thomas Closs, who will be moving on to new chapters in their military careers. We thank them for their contributions to the project and the community and wish them well.

BGCAPP and the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program are continuing to keep the community up to date on site progress by participating in several Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) activities. ACWA leadership provided an Operation *Swift Solution* update to the Secondary Waste Working Group, a subcommittee of the CAC's Chemical Destruction

Community Advisory Board (CDCAB). Project representatives also attended the inaugural meeting of the Monitoring Working Group, which was formed by CDCAB members to review monitoring technologies for the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile.

More recently, the BGCAPP team hosted a construction site tour for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell and U.S. Rep. Ben Chandler. As you flip through the pages of this newsletter, you'll read about some of the progress that they observed on the construction site.

There has also been recent progress regarding the acceleration assessment, which began in the fall of 2007 when the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency and ACWA began a formal assessment to examine three options for accelerating the destruction of the stockpiles. These options were presented to Congress on June 30, 2008 as mandated by Public Laws 110-116 and 110-181, which requires that the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile must be destroyed by April 29, 2012, and under no circumstances later than Dec. 31, 2017.

Currently, the Department of Defense is conducting an acceleration schedule assessment. The results will be provided to Congress with the Fiscal Year 2010 President's Budget request. In the meantime, construction of the BGCAPP facility will continue as projected by the approved acquisition program baseline with the start-up of chemical weapons destruction in 2017.

As changes and updates continue to develop at BGCAPP, we hope to see you at the remaining public meeting scheduled for the year – Dec. 9 at 1:30 p.m. in the Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A & B, Eastern Kentucky University on Kit Carson Drive in Richmond.



Employees of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass reached a major safety milestone on July 31, surpassing 3 million job hours and 1,876 days without a lost-time injury.

"This outstanding record is a tribute to our people and their commitment to working safely," said Mark Seely, Bechtel Parsons project manager. "As we have moved from office engineering to field construction, the hazards have increased, but our people have continued to work safely."

Seely noted that Bechtel Parsons employees are engaged in a variety of high-hazard activities such as digging 20-foot-deep trenches, installing structural steel, fabricating metal equipment and making heavy lifts with cranes.

Gary Cough, Bechtel Parsons construction manager, said much of the credit goes to the construction workers from the Central Kentucky Building Trades Council who formed a "CATS" team, or Constructive Attitude Towards Safety team.

"Our workers don't just rely on management to ensure a safe work site. They take responsibility for keeping each other safe on the job," Cough said.

The CATS team comprises construction workers who identify hazards on the job and recommend ways to mitigate them.

Achieving 3 million hours is the equivalent of 500 full-time employees working more than three years. A lost-time injury is one that causes any loss of time from work beyond the day or shift it occurred.

New Leadership Takes Command at Blue Grass

Routine Changes of Command at the Depot

By REBECCA TOY
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

The Blue Grass Army Depot and Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) are entering a new era of leadership with recently appointed commanders Col. Joseph A. Tirone and Lt. Col. David L. Musgrave.

Tirone took command of the depot on July 10, accepting the mission to safeguard a ready supply of conventional munitions and provide chemical defense equipment and special operations support to the U.S. Department of Defense.

Six days later, Musgrave took command of the chemical activity, a tenant organization located at the depot responsible for the safe storage of the chemical weapons stockpile.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Site Project Manager Jim Fritsche coordinates with the commanders on a weekly basis to provide them with constant communication and support. "This is an exciting time for the Blue Grass team as we welcome such intelligent and enthusiastic individuals to the project, who will fully support and commit to our mission of safely destroying the chemical weapons stockpile," Fritsche said.

Tirone, who has taken command from Col. Richard Mason, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wyoming and a master's degree from Central Michigan University and from the U.S. Air War College. A native of Port Chester, N.Y., his last assignment was with the Pentagon as the Department of the Army G3 (Operations) munitions chief.

Musgrave, now serving as BGCA commander, holds a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. A Brownsville, Tenn., native, Musgrave last served as the senior military assistant to the director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency/U.S. Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction.

In a speech given during the chemical activity ceremony, Conrad Whyne, director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, offered direction to the newly appointed commander and the rest of the project leadership. "You must never forget that both our local friends and our citizens of this nation as a whole are relying on you to carry out your mission to safely and securely store these chemical weapons as our partner, the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Program, prepares to destroy them from our national arsenal for all time," he said.



Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Col. Joseph Tirone, left, incoming Blue Grass Army Depot commander, Gen. James Rogers, then Joint Munitions Command commanding general, and Col. Richard Mason, outgoing depot commander, prepare for the exchange of the command flag.



Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Kirk Kopitzke, Blue Grass Chemical Activity environmental protection specialist, welcomes Lt. Col. David Musgrave and his wife Anita to Kentucky.

Ceremonies for the Blue Grass Army Depot's completion of ISO9001 certification and the dedication of the new depot headquarters building preceded the July 10 change of command ceremony.

Vertical Construction Changes 'Skyline' of Pilot Plant Site

By JOHN SCHLATTER
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass

Construction is going vertical at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant as the maintenance building and personnel support building change the "skyline" of the construction site.

As always, safety is the overriding consideration. This summer the project reached 3 million job hours without a lost-time injury, which is the equivalent of 500 full-time employees working injury-free for three years.

During the past few months, crews from WG&T Builders, a local subcontractor on the project, placed the foundation, erected the structural steel skeleton and installed exterior walls on the maintenance building. When completed later this year, the building will be used for receiving, storing and servicing equipment for the plant.

Just north of the maintenance building, Futron, Inc., a second subcontractor, is completing work on the personnel support building. The first step in construction was to install a series of concrete piers, after

which a crane lifted 28 modules. Utility installation and finish work are now in progress and the building is scheduled for occupancy later this year.

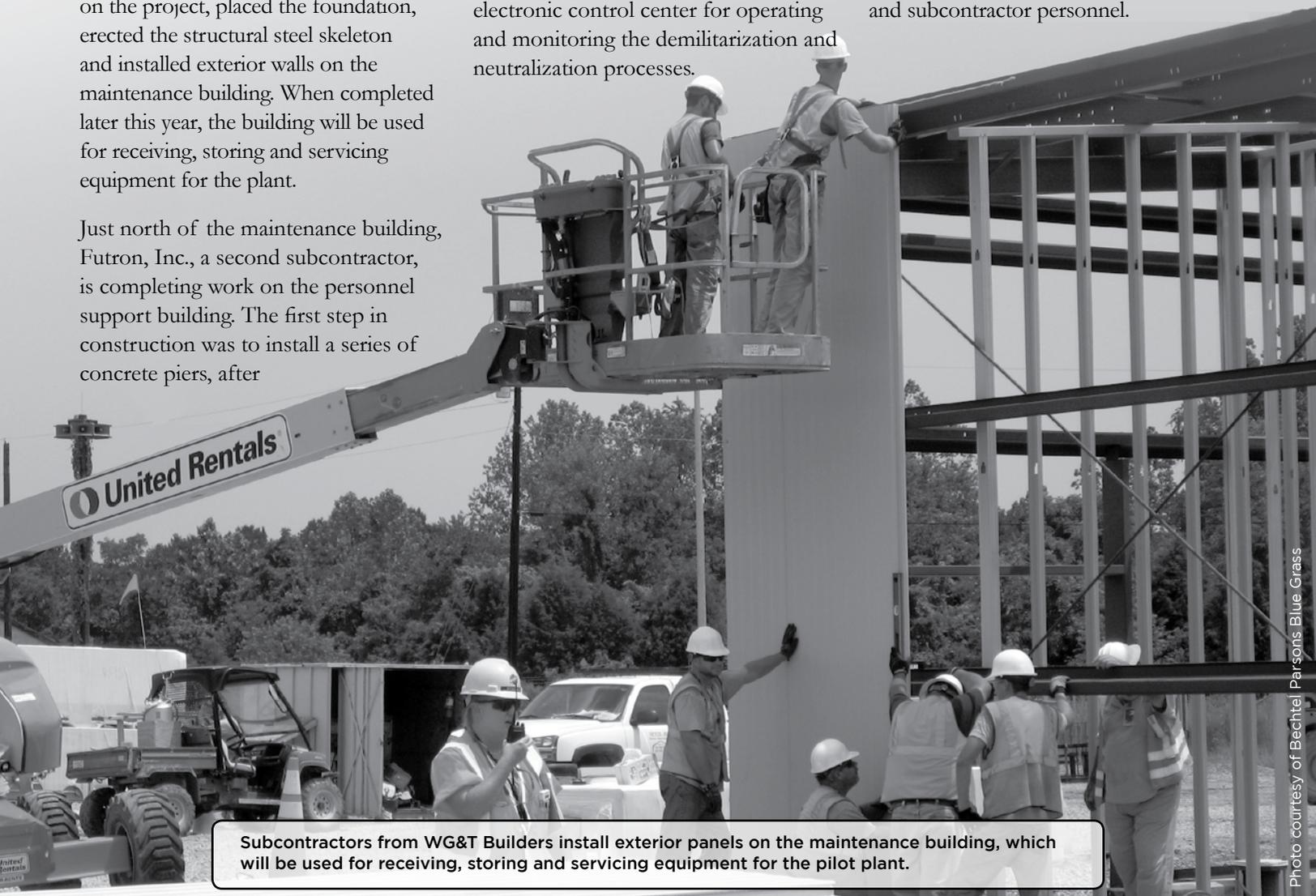
This two-story modular office building will initially house the construction management staff. After construction is completed in future years, the personnel who will systemize and operate the plant will move in as the construction work phases out.

Elsewhere on the site, several major concrete placements have been completed for the foundation and floor of the control support building, the electronic control center for operating and monitoring the demilitarization and neutralization processes.

Utility work is also moving ahead in several areas. Most of the excavations for underground utilities have been backfilled and closed, and testing has been completed on the water lines.

Along the access road leading to the site, large utility poles that will bring high-voltage electricity to the plant have been installed. The new electrical substation and its control building were lifted into place with a 500-ton crane in early August.

There are now approximately 200 people on the job site any given day, including government staff, direct-hire craft, Bechtel Parsons non-manual employees, and subcontractor personnel.



Subcontractors from WG&T Builders install exterior panels on the maintenance building, which will be used for receiving, storing and servicing equipment for the pilot plant.

Photo courtesy of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass



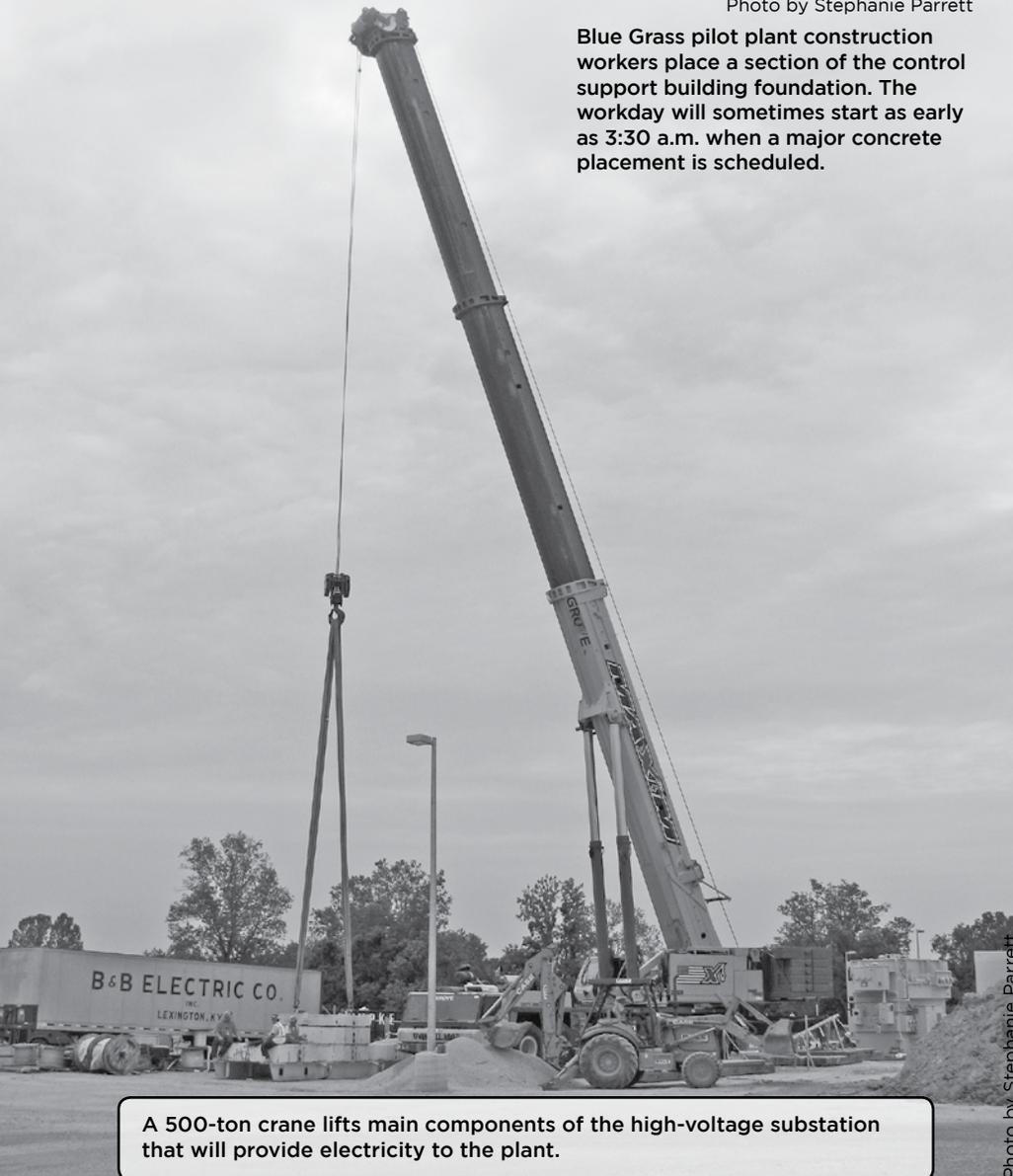
Photo courtesy of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass

Blue Grass workers use a crane to place one of 28 modules that make up the personnel support building. The facility is a two-story modular office building that will initially house the construction management staff.



Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Blue Grass pilot plant construction workers place a section of the control support building foundation. The workday will sometimes start as early as 3:30 a.m. when a major concrete placement is scheduled.



A 500-ton crane lifts main components of the high-voltage substation that will provide electricity to the plant.

Portions of Munitions Demilitarization Building Undergoing Design Changes

By JOHN SCHLATTER
Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass

The Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team is redesigning portions of the explosive containment area in the munitions demilitarization building (MDB) in response to questions raised by the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB).

To minimize impact on schedule, the construction sequence is being revised to move other work forward and start construction of the MDB later than originally planned.

"We have confirmed that we can still complete construction as scheduled, so this redesign should have no effect on the start of operations," said Mark Seely, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager.

As reported in the spring issue of the *Exchange*, the original design of blast containment areas in the MDB was selected to remedy constructability challenges associated with placing concrete in walls that are heavily reinforced with rebar. That design employed particular types of couplers and embedded frames to minimize rebar congestion. While this method has been used commercially and in other military explosive containment designs, the concept has not been previously approved by DDESB for chemical demilitarization plants.

In March, during a review of the project's Site Safety Plan Submission, the DDESB requested additional technical information to help evaluate the adequacy of the design.

"After consulting with ACWA and the Corps of Engineers and evaluating the time that would have been required to review additional data with DDESB and obtain their approval, we decided to revert to a more traditional design in order to minimize delays," said Seely.

Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Emergency Preparedness Program Ramps Up Capabilities With New Equipment and Technology

By STEPHANIE PARRETT
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

The Kentucky Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP), best known for the phrase “Know Your Zone,” (emergency response areas) makes educating the community on emergency preparedness its number one priority and has made several strides in enhancing its facilities and technology during the past year.

Recently, the Madison County emergency preparedness program, in conjunction with the Blue Grass Chemical Activity and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, celebrated the completion of the Madison County Joint Information Center (JIC), which is designed to serve as the conduit for public information during an emergency. Through continuous communication with the Madison County Emergency Operations Center, Blue Grass Army Depot, surrounding CSEPP counties and the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management, the JIC disseminates updated information about incidents and, if necessary, instructions to the public.

“The JIC fulfills its function during a disaster, but it also provides a place where all of the CSEPP communities can conduct meetings and ongoing necessary training— quality training for all emergency responder entities who want to, now have the space in this facility,” said Carl Richards, Madison County Emergency Management agency director.

In the event of a real incident, trained volunteers from the community would staff the JIC by answering public and media calls, developing and distributing news releases, monitoring media and facilitating press conferences.

Volunteers, including members of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant team, practice these skills by participating in training exercises and in the annual federal graded exercise.

The JIC also contains a Federal Response Center, which provides space and resources for federal agency officials who may be required to respond to an emergency in Madison County.

In addition to the opening of the JIC and the Federal Response Center, the Madison County emergency preparedness program is enhancing their 800 megahertz radio capabilities for all emergency responders. The team is also expanding warning siren coverage and replacing additional tone alert radios and increasing the distribution. Additional warning sirens and radios will provide a broader alert notification for residents in rural areas of Madison County.

CSEPP has also made strides with their technological capabilities by placing satellite alert notification systems in all emergency preparedness program counties and by obtaining additional Powered Air Purifying Respiratory kits for emergency responders. In addition, Estill and Fayette counties are building Emergency Operations Centers to



Photo by Stephanie Parrett

Members of the community celebrate the opening of the new Madison County Joint Information Center. From left, Roger Barger, William Tudor, Harold Botner, Madison County magistrates; Linda Ginter, Madison County Deputy Judge-Executive; Carl Richards, Madison County Emergency Management Agency director; Terry Madden, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region IV Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program director; Kent Clark, Madison County Judge-Executive; Connie Lawson, Richmond City mayor; Steve Connelly, Berea City mayor; and Lt. Col. Tom Cross, former Blue Grass Chemical Activity commander.

provide a convenient location for key officials and responders to meet and make joint decisions.

The program was created in 1985 when Congress passed a law directing the Department of Defense to dispose of its aging chemical weapons inventory with maximum protection of the public and environment as its primary consideration. In Kentucky, 10 counties are affected by the chemical stockpile, including Clark, Estill, Fayette, Garrard, Jackson, Jessamine, Laurel, Madison, Powell and Rockcastle.

Until the chemical stockpile is safely destroyed, CSEPP will continue supporting precautionary efforts to ensure the community’s preparedness and safety in the unlikely event of a chemical agent incident.

Bulldozers Rolling at Operation *Swift Solution* Site

By STEPHANIE PARRETT
Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Thanks to recent permitting progress, workers at the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) have begun site preparation, construction of the aggregate pad and associated improvements, concrete work and other site mobilization actions for Operation *Swift Solution*.

Operation *Swift Solution*, the initiative to destroy three deteriorating steel containers and wastes associated with the management of these steel containers currently in storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), is well under way. These steel containers have also been commonly referred to as “one-ton” containers,” or simply “ton containers”. The containers contain a mixture of chemical agent GB and its breakdown products that have occurred over time.

Additionally, the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), in collaboration with BGAD (the permit owner) and BGCA (the permit operator) is working with the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) to amend the depot’s existing hazardous

waste storage permit. If approved, this would allow the depot to store certain wastes generated during Operation *Swift Solution* for more than 90 days, if necessary. Current federal and state law requires action on removal of such generated wastes within 90 days to prevent waste generators from stockpiling these materials and creating a significant and potentially dangerous hazard.

The Chemical Agent Transfer System will be used to neutralize the contents of containers, which will then be decontaminated and recycled. In July, ACWA officials met with the Secondary Waste Working Group members, a subcommittee of the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory

Board, to provide the committee with information on monitoring and options for treating hazardous waste generated during the disposal process.

ACWA is coordinating Operation *Swift Solution* with the following partners: BGAD, BGCA, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, KDEP and local stakeholders.



Photo by Richard Sloan, Blue Grass Chemical Activity
Operation *Swift Solution* is underway with the placement of the concrete pad that will serve as the foundation for the structure that houses the Chemical Agent Transfer System.



Site preparations for Operation *Swift Solution* include leveling the ground prior to the placement of the concrete foundation pad.

Photo by Richard Sloan, Blue Grass Chemical Activity

Information | Exchange

The Blue Grass *Exchange* is designed to keep you up to date on the chemical weapons destruction project. The *Exchange* newsletter welcomes feedback and story ideas. Contact the editor, Stephanie Parrett, by phone at (859) 626-8944 or e-mail at bgoutreach@bah.com.

Virtual Information | Exchange

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

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

Mark Your Calendar

Your involvement is essential to the success of the project. Please share your views at the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board meetings. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for **Dec. 9, 2008** and **March 10, 2009** at **1:30 p.m.** in the **Carl D. Perkins Building, rooms A and B** at **Eastern Kentucky University**.

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