

January 14, 2009



## Modification to Temporary Authorization Request Submitted

The U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), in collaboration with the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD)/Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) as the permit owner/operator and other partners, has formally submitted a modification to its Temporary Authorization Request, known as a "TAR," to the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) for Operation *Swift Solution*.

Operation *Swift Solution* is the Army initiative under way at BGAD in Richmond, Ky., to destroy the contents of three steel containers commonly referred to as "ton containers," holding a corrosive mixture of the nerve agent GB and its breakdown products. One of the containers leaked in the past and the others showed signs of corrosion.

A first TAR for Operation *Swift Solution* was submitted in April 2008 to KDEP outlining ACWA's plan for destruction operations for the three steel containers stored at BGAD. All generated hazardous wastes from the operation will be shipped off site to a permitted disposal facility within 90 days, as required by federal and state regulations. A second (separate) TAR was submitted in September 2008 in response to KDEP's suggestion that BGAD seek permission to amend the existing hazardous waste storage permit in order to allow storage of certain wastes generated during Operation *Swift Solution* for more than 90 days, if that becomes necessary.

With KDEP approval, *Swift Solution* destruction operations began on Nov. 12, 2008. The team recently completed the first phase, neutralization of the nerve agent GB and its breakdown products stored in the containers using a process known as the Chemical Agent Transfer System, or CHATS. The second phase of the operation is in progress, which includes removing and neutralizing any sludge, rust, or other solids that may have formed over time inside the containers.

The Army team recently identified some practical revisions to the sampling protocol for classifying secondary waste generated during *Swift Solution*, for off-site shipment. These revisions help to better clarify the full intent of meeting Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requirements. These revisions neither increase the risk of shipping waste off site, nor do they relax the 99.9999 (commonly known as the "6-9s") percent treatment goal objectives. As a result, a field change to the first TAR outlining the revised sampling and analytical requirements for the generated secondary waste has been submitted through ongoing dialogue with the KDEP team, which has provided daily oversight assistance during this second phase of the operation.

The third and last phase of the mission involves processing the legacy and secondary wastes generated during the management and destruction of the containers for off-site shipment. Finally, the operational facilities will be shut down and the temporary structures and equipment will be shipped back to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Army teams including members from the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, the Army Chemical Materials Agency, BGCA, BGAD and ACWA are involved in the destruction effort, with cooperation and oversight from local and state government agencies, and daily oversight from KDEP.

Please visit [www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky/swift\\_solution.htm](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky/swift_solution.htm) for previous advisories and additional information.



U.S. Army Element, Assembled  
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

**A PARTNERSHIP FOR SAFE CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives  
Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-3398 or visit [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil).

