

## Partnership for Performance

The ACWA program, the Pueblo Chemical Depot, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and supporting contractor teams are working to ensure the chemical weapons destruction project is conducted in the safest, most efficient manner possible.

Bechtel Pueblo Team members include Bechtel National, Inc.; Washington Demilitarization Company/URS Corporation; Parsons; and Battelle Memorial Institute. The teaming partners have successfully designed, built and/or operated all the existing chemical weapons destruction facilities in the United States, while adhering to the highest standards of safety, performance and corporate citizenship.



## For More Information

### Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

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### U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot Public Affairs Office

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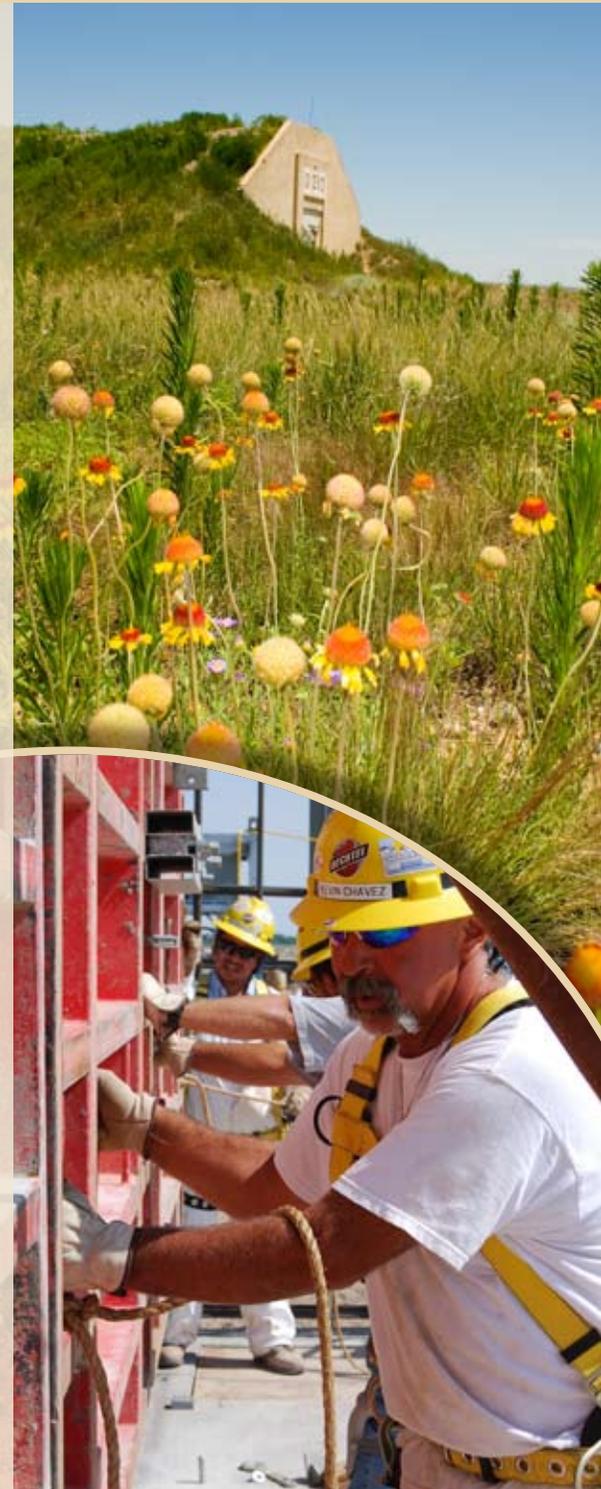
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Pueblo Chemical Agent  
Destruction Pilot Plant

[www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil)

PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT



## Our Commitment to Safety

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, or PCAPP, is being built to safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons that has been stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot since the 1950s. The Department of Defense's Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program, known as ACWA, is responsible for destruction of the mustard agent-filled projectiles, thereby eliminating the risk associated with continued storage. The safety of the workforce, as well as the safety of people in the neighboring communities, is the most important priority of this program.

## Our Commitment to the Community

The Bechtel Pueblo Team, the systems contractor responsible for the design, construction, systemization, pilot testing, operation and closure of the plant, will hire as much of the workforce as possible from Pueblo and the surrounding region. As such, constructing and operating the facility will benefit Pueblo's economy and contribute to the community's growth. With the activities at the depot as a catalyst, the citizens of Pueblo are working together on a sustainable development process to plan for opportunities to shape the community's economic future during the next decade.



The Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office regularly staffs booths at events where the community members can pick up information materials or ask questions.

## Our Commitment to Openness

Throughout the life of the project, a steady and transparent working partnership with elected officials, oversight agencies and the community will remain a cornerstone of the program.

## U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot

Upon its construction in 1942, the Pueblo Chemical Depot was designed to store and service ammunition, but quickly grew to receive and issue general supplies in support of World War II. The depot eventually became responsible for renovating and demilitarizing ammunition and maintaining missiles, and in later years, supported Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm by shipping contingency stocks, ammunition and materials to Southwest Asia.

Today, the Pueblo Chemical Depot's primary mission is the secure storage and protection of the chemical weapons stockpile. However, as the depot's missions have shifted and expanded during the years, one feature has remained constant: the quality and commitment of depot staff - from those who received the first carload of ammunition in 1942 to today's workers who ensure the safe storage of chemical weapons.



## State-of-the-Art Technology

PCAPP will perform a variety of functions - agent processing; energetics reconfiguration; control and storage of hazardous wastes and materials; munitions disassembly; biotreatment; entry control; laboratory; maintenance; and other support tasks - as it destroys Pueblo's chemical weapons stockpile.

Extensively trained, skilled workers and state-of-the-art robotic systems will ensure the safe destruction of the stockpile. The selected technology is neutralization followed by biotreatment, which will use hot water to neutralize the chemical agent, effectively destroying the mustard agent molecules.

## How Neutralization Followed by Biotreatment Works

- **Removing the energetics** - Robotic equipment removes energetics (explosives) from the weapon. The energetics will be disposed of at a permitted facility off site.
- **Removing the mustard agent** - The inside of the weapon is remotely accessed and mustard agent is washed out with high-pressure water.
- **Neutralization of the mustard agent** - The mustard agent is mixed with hot water. The resulting mixture is neutralized with a caustic solution. The byproduct is called hydrolysate.
- **Biotreatment** - The hydrolysate is treated with microbes that break down the solution into water and biosludge. The water is recovered for reuse in the process and the biosludge is secured in containers for disposal at an off-site permitted facility.
- **Disposing of the metal parts** - Metal parts are heated to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes and can then be recycled.