

Pueblo *exchange*

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



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Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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Photo by Bob Kennemer

U.S. Sen. Mark Udall, left, recently toured the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) construction site with Gary Anderson, PCAPP site project manager, center, and Lt. Col. Christopher Chesney, former commander, U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot. See related story on page 2.

Tours Provide Firsthand Glimpse of Site to Key Stakeholders

By RENEE MARTINEZ
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

With major construction underway, Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) site tours serve as a valuable visual tool helping to educate key stakeholders.

From March through mid-November, monthly site tours are given to various community leaders, staff from governmental agencies and elected officials. These guided tours allow attendees to see construction firsthand and to discuss the project with both Bechtel and government staff. Tour members also receive a safety briefing and a project overview.

Of the most recent notable tours, U.S. Sen. Mark Udall visited the PCAPP site on May 30. He was accompanied by several staff members, including Matt Sugar and Gloria Gutierrez, regional

representatives; Doug Young, director of state policy outreach; and Tara Trujillo, communications director. Members of the media also accompanied the senator.

After the tour, Sen. Udall stated that he will work to ensure a steady stream of funding for FY 2010 and beyond, and that he is committed to helping Pueblo achieve a 2017 completion date. Sen. Udall also noted that he supports the decision to treat hydrolysate on site, especially because it affords Pueblo an additional economic opportunity. The senator concluded by expressing his confidence in the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot staff as they execute their safe storage mission.

In addition to Sen. Udall's visit, six other groups have toured the site since March, including members of the American



Photo by Bob Kennemer

Citizens' Advisory Commission members recently toured the PCAPP construction site. Site tours help key stakeholders to better understand the project.

Society of Mechanical Engineers, Coalition of Professional Engineers, Pueblo area fire chiefs, Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission and the Boone Town Council.

Tours of the PCAPP site will continue throughout the summer and fall. If your group is interested, please contact the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (719) 546-0400.

Bechtel Construction Staff Help Rescue Injured Owl

By BOB KENNEMER
PCAPP Community Outreach Manager

On what they thought was just a normal day at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) site, ironworkers Brian Romero and Isaac Guajardo were surprised to find a barn owl in the Agent Processing Building.



Photo by Ken Young

On May 5, this injured barn owl was discovered by construction workers at PCAPP. The workers initiated protocol designed to protect wildlife found on the project site.

"At first, we thought the owl was sleeping because it was standing on the floor leaning against a wall," said Romero. Assuming the owl might be sick or injured, Guajardo stayed with the

bird, while Romero contacted their supervisor, following the protocol used for protecting wildlife on site.

Staff from the PCAPP Environmental Compliance group arrived on the scene, including manager Steve Nakasaki. Knowing that owls are raptors and a protected species, Nakasaki and his team contacted the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot's (PCD) United States Fish and Wildlife Service Officer Max Canestorp.

As the team was determining the best method for safely removing the owl, which they had nicknamed Barney, he scurried through a small opening in a plywood enclosure, which had been built to protect the Munitions Treatment Unit (MTU). Because the MTU could not be moved, a decision was made to let Barney come out on his own.

The next morning, when the owl did not emerge as hoped, the team removed plywood sheets from around the MTU.

Canestorp was then able to carefully capture the owl, and noticed that it had a broken wing. He immediately took it to the Pueblo Raptor Rehabilitation Center (PRRC), where Barney was treated by a veterinarian who found that he had a spiral fracture of the humerus. According to PRRC Director Diana Miller, wires and pins were surgically placed to stabilize Barney's wing; however, due to nerve damage and a severe break, the veterinarian made the difficult decision to euthanize the owl.

Despite the sad outcome, Nakasaki gave credit to the construction workers for their attentiveness and quick action. "They have totally adopted our safety and environmental culture, and we couldn't have rescued the owl without them," Nakasaki stated.

Editor's note: Although Barney did not survive, Canestorp and Miller report that more than 50 percent of the injured raptors rescued on PCD have been successfully rehabilitated and released onto the depot.

Summer Brings New Jobs to PCAPP

By SANDY ROMERO
Bechtel Communications Manager

Start-up specialists and start-up engineers are among the most sought-after employees, as the Bechtel Pueblo Team gears up for the next phase of hiring at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP).

“This summer marks the beginning of PCAPP systemization and operations hiring,” said PCAPP General Manager Jerry Tiller. “Systemization integrates a fully tested facility with a trained and certified workforce, and all the documentation necessary to operate the plant.”

Tiller, who has chemical demilitarization plant experience from working at the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System in the Pacific, is looking for start-up engineers and start-up specialists, as well as folks with operations and maintenance skills. He expects some of the workers to come from local operating plants, such as Trane, which announced layoffs this past spring due to the struggling economy. Other workers will most likely come from the chemical demilitarization community. One potential employee, he said, resides in Thailand and travels to various plant start-up projects around the world.

“If people have experience in heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), or electrical, mechanical, or instrumentation and controls, their skills will likely transfer to the chemical demilitarization industry,” Tiller stated.

“We’re seeking workers with experience in process systems, utilities and general infrastructure with large complexes, like manufacturing plants and chemical refineries.”

According to Tiller, the number of systemization and operations employees is expected to total 500 by summer 2012. These employees will be part of a start-up team that will operate the plant once construction is complete. Eventually, the team will transition to provisional operations, where the plant will be fully tested to ensure all systems are properly working. Provisional operations last about 18 months, during which time most of the hiring, training and certification of maintenance and operations workers takes place. Eventually, more than 800 employees will be needed to operate the plant.



Photo by Sandy Romero

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) General Manager Jerry Tiller, right, reviews operations procedures with Cost Analyst Rick Garcia, of Pueblo, a recent hire for PCAPP systemization.

Operating the safest, most efficient facility possible is at the top of Tiller’s agenda. “This is the eighth plant in the United States that will be destroying chemical weapons,” he said. “While many of the positions do require specialized skills, a wide array of operations positions where we provide training will also be available.”

To view current PCAPP employment opportunities, visit <http://pueblo.bechtel.com> and click on “employment.”

NEWS BRIEF: Hydrolysate to be Treated On Site

At the May 27 meeting of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens’ Advisory Commission, Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) Site Project Manager Gary Anderson announced the Department of Defense decision to treat the neutralized agent wastewater, known as hydrolysate, on site, unless unforeseen technical difficulties arise.

Anderson also outlined the current course of action for PCAPP, which pending congressional approval of the President’s Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request, will allow for acceleration of the project schedule. After systemization and pilot testing of the facility, full-scale destruction operations are expected to begin in 2014 and to be complete by 2017. The plant will operate until all the chemical weapons have been destroyed. Closure activities (shut-down, dismantling, and restoration of site) are slated to be wrapped up by 2020.

More Changes Ahead on the Pueblo Construction Site

By SANDY ROMERO
Bechtel Communications Manager

When the fall months arrive, a shift in construction activities will take place at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP).

As civil work (concrete, rebar and excavation) starts to taper off, more electricians, pipefitters and welders will be required for work in the two main processing buildings—the Agent Processing Building (APB) and the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building (ERB)—which are on a “critical path” for construction completion.

By the end of the year, significant construction progress will be made on the plant, including:

- Siding and roofing for the APB
- Installation of a second Munitions Service Treatment Unit in the APB
- Completion of the Explosion Containment Rooms
- Structural steel, siding and roofing for the ERB
- Siding and roofing for the Automated Guided Vehicle corridor

- Erection of pre-cast Munitions Service Magazines and steel erection for corridors
- Completion of all 12 field-erected tanks, including the Hydrolysate and Brine Reduction Tanks
- Control Support Building foundation and erection of the Structural Steel Building

“We’re making great progress,” said Steve Thieme, PCAPP site superintendent. “Extra government funding has allowed us to plan our construction activities more effectively.”



Photo by Sandy Romero

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning have been installed on the Automated Guided Vehicle corridor. Automated vehicles will transport munition bodies from the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building to the Agent Processing Building.



Photo by Sandy Romero

Laborers place a concrete slab under the raised floor for the Control Support Building.



In this aerial view of the 80-acre PCAPP construction site, progress on the primary processing buildings, the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building (ERB) and the Agent Processing Building (APB), can be seen. The two cranes in the foreground are being used to place rebar and formwork for the Explosion and Vapor Containment Rooms, in the ERB. The APB is seen in the upper right with two cranes being used to place wall and roof panels.



Photo by Sandy Romero

Ironworkers install rebar in the Explosion Containment Room walls within the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building.



Photo by Sandy Romero

Munitions Wash Water Collection Tanks, left, Agent Water Separators, right, and Agent Hydrolyzers, background right, have been placed in the Agent Processing Building.



Photo by Rosemary Patterson

This is one of two air filtration units that has recently been placed in the Agent Filtration Area. These units are part of the PCAPP air emission system.

Bechtel Pueblo Receives Construction Team of the Year Award

By SANDY ROMERO
Bechtel Communications Manager

Bechtel construction projects around the world compete each year for the coveted Bechtel Construction Operations Inc. Construction Team of the Year award. This past April, the 2008 award went to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project.

"It is an honor to be recognized for this award," said Bechtel Project Manager Paul Henry. "It further validates our commitment to safety and performance."



Photo by Abby Boucher

Steve Thieme, PCAPP site superintendent, and Ed Snatchko, Bechtel construction manager, second and third from left, accept the Bechtel 2008 Construction Team of the Year award in the Large Projects category from Walker Kimball, Bechtel Construction Operations, Inc. president, left, and Bill Dudley, Bechtel Group, Inc. president and chief operating officer, right.

Winners are based on performance in nine categories: safety, quality, performance, support of Bechtel's vision and values, focus on employees, marketing and selling Bechtel's strengths, innovation and excellence, sustainability and Six Sigma. As a very important award within Bechtel, it recognizes projects that exemplify the best of Bechtel employees and the company.

Award winners were selected by a committee of 17 Bechtel managers. Bechtel Construction Manager Ed Snatchko and Bechtel Site Superintendent Steve Thieme accepted the award in Chantilly, Va.

Education and Experience Aid Deputy Public Affairs Officer

By RENEE MARTINEZ
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

Having worked at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) for seven years, Ken Roque found transitioning to a new position to be effortless. Roque joined PCD's public affairs team last fall as the deputy public affairs officer (PAO).

Roque graduated from the former University of Southern Colorado with a bachelor's degree in graphic design and marketing. After working various jobs in the community, he acquired the position of depot security officer and later became a security technician in the identification and registration office before being named deputy PAO.

Among his duties as deputy PAO, Roque is responsible for creating artwork or photography that visually captures

significant events and achievements at PCD. With his background in graphic design and marketing, along with a passion for photography, Roque was prepared for this challenge.

His experience in security has also proven invaluable as he supports the commander's community relations mission through depot tours. However, with the increased security as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, fewer visitors are able to come on post. As such, when interacting with community members, Roque helps them to visualize what they cannot see. He believes that his artistic creativity gives him an edge on the job, and reports that the best aspect of his job is working with people. "Everyday is different; I look forward to new challenges," Roque said.



Photo by Rosemary Patterson

Ken Roque has seven years of security experience at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, and in November 2008, he was named as the depot's deputy public affairs officer.

In addition to having an artistic side, Roque, a Pueblo native, also has an adventurous nature – he races muscle cars and is working towards a private pilot license, with only five more hours of flying time to go.

Get Plugged in to the PCAPP Project!

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) outreach team has been looking into new ways to "green" our efforts, reduce our reliance on print materials and tap into online resources and tools. In case you're not sure how to find online information about PCAPP, the team wanted to take a moment to point you in the right direction!

PCAPP information will continue to be available through the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, or ACWA, program Web site. ACWA oversees the PCAPP project, as well as the chemical weapons destruction program in Kentucky, and its Web site houses both current and historical information on both projects. You can read up on the latest PCAPP news, look at recent photos from the construction site, check out new videos and learn who to contact with your questions.

Additionally, you can take advantage of the Web site's RSS, or Real Simple Syndication, feed. RSS feeds are common on most news-based Web sites and they allow subscribers

to automatically receive online updates when new information is posted. To learn more, visit www.pmacwa.army.mil.

Finally, the outreach office distributes project information electronically on a monthly basis. If you are interested in receiving e-mail updates, there are several ways to do so. To have a PCAPP monthly status update delivered directly to your inbox, include your e-mail address on our Web site feedback form, or on comment cards available at community events, information repositories or through the *Exchange* newsletter. You may also contact the outreach office staff directly at 104 West B Street in Pueblo, at (719) 546-0400 or at pueblooutreach@bah.com.

The outreach office encourages you to tap into these electronic resources and services. If you don't have computer access at home, stop by one of several local computer labs or stations open to the public listed to the right.

Community Computer Labs

Robert Hoag Rawlings, Pueblo County Public Library
100 E. Abriendo Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004
(719) 562-5600

Lamb Branch, Pueblo County Public Library
2525 S. Pueblo Blvd, Pueblo, CO 81005
(719) 562-5670

Pueblo West Branch, Pueblo County Public Library
298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd, Pueblo West, CO 81007
(719) 562-5660

Colorado State University-Pueblo Library
2200 Bonforte Blvd, Pueblo, CO 81001
(719) 549-2361

Pueblo Community College
College Center Dining Room
900 W. Orman Avenue, Pueblo, CO 81004
(719) 549-3200

Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
104 West B Street, Pueblo, CO 81003
(719) 546-0400

Employee Corner

PCAPP Systemization Manager Appreciates Life's Challenges

By RENEE MARTINEZ
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

For the past three years, Tim Messersmith has been the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) systemization manager, as a member of the Bechtel Pueblo Team.



Photo by Bob Kennemer
Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Systemization Manager Tim Messersmith settles into his new office in the Training Annex Building.

As systemization manager, Messersmith is functionally responsible for pre-systemization, equipment commissioning and start-up, operations and maintenance. "I like the combined challenge of technical work, project management and working with people," commented Messersmith.

Having worked at the Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore., as a start-up consultant and engineer, Messersmith understands the complexity of pollution abatement systems and brine reduction systems. This experience will serve him well as he helps to launch operations at PCAPP.

Graduating from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., Messersmith earned a bachelor of science degree in technology, with a nuclear emphasis. Earning a bachelor's degree was a journey of thirty years for Messersmith, having attended numerous educational institutions. He admits that the greatest challenge of this expedition was taking calculus in his forties. "Stay focused and committed to your course of action," Messersmith advises, "particularly to those who are trying to juggle work, family and school."

This Council Bluff, Iowa, native has lived in all four corners of the United States, but now calls Pueblo West his home. Messersmith enjoys the beautiful sites that Pueblo has to offer, including the open spaces, mountain views and being only 10 minutes away from the Pueblo Reservoir. In addition, this father of four and grandfather of two takes pleasure in fishing and camping.

Environmental Manager Enjoys Family, Nature and Work

By RENEE MARTINEZ
PCAPP Community Outreach Specialist

Chris Hambric considers herself a lucky woman.

She has made a career out of her love for the outdoors, and as Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant's (PCAPP) environmental manager, she is working a job that not only allows her to play a key role in safeguarding the environment, but also in contributing to the elimination of chemical weapons in her community.



Photo by Bob Kennemer
Chris Hambric, Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant environmental manager, sits at her desk where she is surrounded by photos of her baby girl.

"It is rewarding to be involved in such an important part of history," Hambric stated. "I learn something new every day."

Prior to overseeing environmental permitting and compliance for the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons program at PCAPP, Hambric worked in remediation at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) Environmental Office. There, she worked cooperatively with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in providing supervision of construction support infrastructure projects. Having worked for PCD and being familiar with their mission, Hambric was able to make a smooth transition to the PCAPP project.

Hambric earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Alaska in Anchorage, and also holds a master of science degree in environmental policy and management from Denver University. Coursework in environmental regulations, policy, law and management have proven to be invaluable on the job, especially when dealing with the conditions of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit, a federally required permit for storing and processing hazardous waste and materials.

A Jewett City, Conn., native, Hambric now lives on the St. Charles Mesa in Pueblo County. Hambric enjoys the mountains and is happiest when she can participate in outdoor activities with her family, such as hiking and fishing.

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

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

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