



U.S. Army Element, Assembled  
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT:**

U.S. Army Element,  
Assembled  
Chemical Weapons  
Alternatives  
Communications  
and Congressional  
Affairs Office at  
(410) 436-3398



**A Partnership for Safe  
Chemical Weapons  
Destruction**



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

## Department of Defense approves new cost and schedule estimates for chemical weapons destruction plants

**April 17, 2012**

**CONTACT: Katherine DeWeese,  
[katherine.b.deweese.civ@mail.mil](mailto:katherine.b.deweese.civ@mail.mil)  
410-436-3398, 410-652-4009 (Cell)**

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. –Department of Defense officials have approved revised cost and schedule estimates for the final two U.S. chemical weapons destruction plants. The estimates include a more conservative and realistic assessment of potential operational issues that might occur. The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program's life-cycle costs are now estimated at \$10.6 billion, with destruction completion estimates for the chemical weapons stockpiles located at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., adjusted to 2019 and at the Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky., to 2023. This adds about \$2 billion and two years to a previous program estimate to allow additional time and resources if necessary.

"The U.S. is unwavering in its commitment to achieving 100 percent destruction of its chemical weapons as soon as possible, consistent with the Chemical Weapons Convention's (CWC) imperatives of public safety, environmental protection, and international transparency," said Conrad F. Whyne, ACWA program executive officer. "Part of that transparency is being open about the need to identify potential uncertainties in our planning. By doing so, we can acquire the appropriate resources and apply them to minimize or mitigate impact."

This action follows last year's Nunn-McCurdy review which resulted in the certification to Congress of a restructured ACWA program. The new estimates represent a conservative planning approach based on experience with earlier chemical destruction facilities and include the time necessary to resolve problems as an element of prudent management.

"Estimating costs and schedules for large, complex construction projects which will use new processes and handle aging and dangerous materials and are subject to comprehensive regulation, involves a great deal of uncertainty, which we've now taken into account," said Whyne. "This may include anything from hiring qualified personnel, testing or equipment issues, to acquiring supplies and materials. If these issues are not encountered, the schedules can be shortened and destruction operations completed sooner. It is our continuous objective to shorten the estimated schedule, consistent with safety and environmental compliance considerations."

In January, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency successfully completed the destruction of nearly 90 percent of the chemical weapons stockpile in advance of the extended CWC deadline of April 29, 2012. By applying lessons learned from this effort, the ACWA program seeks similar success in shortening its schedule estimates as it presses forward to 100 percent destruction of the remaining stockpile.

For more information about ACWA, please visit: <http://www.pmacwa.army.mil>.

-30-