

Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission Milestones for the PCAPP Project

In October 1999 the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CO CAC) recommended to the Department of Defense (DoD) that a neutralization process followed by biodegradation be used to destroy the mustard agent weapons stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD). This recommendation received support from the community, as well as support from Colorado's Congressional Delegation and the Pentagon.

Following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Pueblo community was asked to accelerate the destruction process to the extent possible in the interests of national security. This request was supported by the community. Pueblo's citizens and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) set about determining an acceleration process that would continue to ensure the health and safety of the community. This included an accelerated contracting process and permitting that would allow construction at the site to begin while questions of design were still being answered.

In January 2005 the Pueblo community was notified that all funding for the destruction facility at PCD had been frozen and that DoD was considering transportation of these weapons to an existing weapons destruction incinerator facility. The CO CAC finds this answer to the funding crisis at DoD to be unacceptable and makes the following recommendations to put this project back on track so that the weapons can be destroyed within the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Treaty deadline.

1. DoD must cease immediately the unwarranted criticism of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program and of the Bechtel Pueblo Team (BPT). The ACWA program has worked with the community for over eight years and has built a trust level that is unprecedented within the U.S. Army. The Bechtel Pueblo Team when they were chosen as the contractor for the destruction process has continued this high level of community involvement and has earned the trust of the community. While there are times when stakeholders involved with the project have differed with BPT and ACWA, everyone has worked to resolve these differences to the satisfaction of all involved.
2. DoD must cease immediately the study of alternatives to building the facility at PCD, including the transportation study. Transportation as an alternative has been studied in the past and it has been shown that no significant savings can be gained through this method. In addition transportation proposals have been received negatively by communities across the country. Almost every U.S. Senator that represents a potentially receiving state is opposed to this option. Overcoming this negative would be virtually impossible, even if it were legal.
3. The CO CAC requests that the Mitretek report be released as soon as possible, so that the information in this report can be compared to the information already released to the public in the report of the National Research Council and the report of the Inspector General. While the CO CAC is very aware that confidential cost information cannot be made public, there appears to be no reason why the remainder of the report must be withheld from the public.

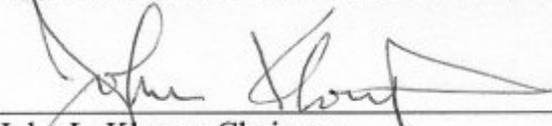
In addition to releasing the Mitretek report, the CO CAC would also like the National Research Council review of the Mitretek report released. This will provide the CO CAC with good comparative information that can be used to evaluate the project.

4. DoD must release the ACWA funds for the PCAPP project and the Defense Access Road by March 1, 2005 and authorize ACWA and BPT to proceed with Phase One construction of the PCAPP project. Even by releasing the funds by March 1st, valuable time has been lost in this project and BPT will have to reassemble their team to begin work on this project. Any further delays in releasing the funds will not only cost time but also additional money. No money is saved by delaying this project.
5. Releasing the funds for the PCAPP project is a good first step, but DoD must also provide ACWA and BPT with clear direction as to the design of the project. It is unacceptable that the design should be changed based upon unknown or continuously changing parameters. This drives up the cost of the project something that everyone is trying to avoid.
6. The Military Construction and the Research and Development budgets will be debated in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate beginning in late March. It is essential that DoD have a revised budget for the funding of the ACWA programs at Pueblo, Colorado and Blue Grass, Kentucky by this time. To change the budget after these hearings is not good public policy, but the communities will be forced to seek Congressional changes if DoD cannot revise the budget.

If the above recommendations are adhered to, Phase One construction for the PCAPP facility will be able to begin in early summer and the Phase Two permit will be well on its way to approval by CDPHE and Pueblo County.

Continuing delays in the PCAPP project will not only place the United States in potential violation of CWC Treaty, but will add costs to the project due to increased equipment and higher construction prices and general inflation. In the meantime, the Pueblo community will continue to be a potential target for terrorism due to the storage of the weapons.

Approved by the Commission on Wednesday, February 23, 2005



John L. Klomp, Chairman
Colorado Chemical Demilitarization
Citizens' Advisory Commission

RECOMMENDED PCAPP SCHEDULE

Milestones that keep the project on track to meet treaty deadlines

TARGET DATE No later than...	MILESTONE	Who
Immediately	Stop the ACWA & Bechtel bashing/no more games/no more delays	Pentagon
	Discontinue alternatives study	Pentagon
Feb 25 05	Release Mitretek report (sans confidential cost data)	Pentagon
Mar 1 05	Release all previously appropriated ACWA funds	Pentagon
	Release all access road upgrade funds	Pentagon
	Authorize Phase 1 construction	Pentagon
	Give clear direction to ACWA on design preference/Restart design process	Pentagon
Mar 15 05	Reply to outstanding state information requests (2)	Pentagon
	Release NRC review of the Mitretek report	Pentagon
Mar 30 05	Submit revised budget request to Congress with realistic R&D/MilCon funding for ACWA	Pentagon
Jun 1 05	Begin Phase 1 construction	ACWA/Bechtel
June 30 05	Obtain Phase 2 permits/CD	ACWA/Bechtel/CDPHE/County
Summer '05	Provide revised and reasonable schedule for construction/operation/completion by 2012	Pentagon
	Establish methodology for dunnage management	ACWA/Bechtel/CDPHE
Fall '05	Begin Phase 2 construction	ACWA/Bechtel
	Begin Hwy 47/William White Blvd. upgrade construction	County
Jan '06	Submit Phase 3 permit application	ACWA/Bechtel
	Establish protocol for the multi-pathway HRA	ACWA/Bechtel/CDPHE
Fall '06	Obtain Phase 3 permits/CD	ACWA/Bechtel/CDPHE/County
Summer '07	Begin Phase 3 construction	ACWA/Bechtel
Late '09	Begin surrogate testing	ACWA/Bechtel/CDPHE
Late '10	Begin operation	ACWA/Bechtel
Late '12	Complete destruction	ACWA/Bechtel