OVERVIEW

The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA) is overseeing the safe and environmentally compliant destruction of the remaining U.S. chemical weapons stockpile. Headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, the ACWA program is a U.S. Department of Defense-managed Major Defense Acquisition Program. Located respectively at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot in Pueblo, Colorado and the Blue Grass Army Depot near Richmond, Kentucky, PEO ACWA’s destruction facilities are the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) and Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP). Both sites are actively destroying chemical weapons and current destruction data can be found on the PEO ACWA website. Additionally, PEO ACWA maintains a supporting field office on the Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Alabama. Stockpile destruction operations will be completed by Dec. 31, 2023, the Congressionally-mandated deadline.

CONNECT WITH ACWA

For PEO ACWA news and information, visit our website at www.peoacwa.army.mil. For an overview of the program, watch the U.S. Chemical Weapons Destruction 2019 video on the ACWA YouTube channel.

For more information, contact Katherine DeWeese at (410) 306-4024 or katherine.b.deweese.civ@mail.mil.

Subscribe to PEO ACWA’s YouTube channel for notifications of live streaming Citizens’ Advisory Commission public meetings.

PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT

Original Stockpile
2,613 U.S. Tons of Mustard Agent in Projectiles and Mortar Rounds

Location: U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado
Technologies: Neutralization/Biotreatment
Static Detonation Chamber
Explosive Destruction System

BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT

Original Stockpile
523 U.S. Tons of Mustard and Nerve Agent in Projectiles and Rockets

Location: Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky
Technologies: Neutralization
Static Detonation Chamber

PEO ACWA HEADQUARTERS

Location: Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland
Technologies: Static Detonation Chamber

ANNISTON FIELD OFFICE

Location: Anniston Army Depot, Alabama
Technologies: Static Detonation Chamber
PCAPP OVERVIEW

PCAPP is destroying 2,613 U.S. tons of mustard agent stored in artillery projectiles and mortar rounds using neutralization followed by biotreatment or an Explosive Destruction Technology. In 2002, PEO ACWA selected the Bechtel Pueblo Team as the systems contractor responsible for the design, construction, systemization, pilot testing, operations and closure of the pilot plant. As of July 17, 2019, PCAPP is considered a fully operational facility after reaching milestones that mark the end of pilot testing. Operations will conclude by Dec. 31, 2023.

PCAPP EXPLOSIVE DESTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

The Static Detonation Chamber was selected and is being permitted to destroy the more than 97,000 mortar rounds and problematic munitions unsuited for processing by the main plant’s automated disassembly systems. In 2019, assembly of three Static Detonation Chamber units began at the plant and are scheduled to begin operations in 2020. The Explosive Destruction System, another form of explosive destruction technology, destroyed problematic munitions in Pueblo from 2015 to 2018.

BGCAPP OVERVIEW

BGCAPP is destroying 523 U.S. tons of the nerve agents VX and GB, or Sarin, and mustard agent stored in rockets and projectiles using neutralization or an Explosive Destruction Technology. In 2003, the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team was awarded a systems contract responsible for the design, construction, systemization, operations and closure of the facility. The main plant, where nerve agent munitions are being destroyed, began operations on Jan. 17, 2020. Operations will conclude by Dec. 31, 2023.

BGCAPP EXPLOSIVE DESTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

An X-ray assessment of the Blue Grass mustard stockpile confirmed the solidification of agent in a number of projectiles, rendering them unsuitable for automated processing in the main plant. Static Detonation Chamber technology was selected to destroy all of the mustard projectiles, as well as two 3-gallon Department of Transportation bottles containing mustard agent. Static Detonation Chamber units are being permitted to process drained rocket warheads and overpacked rockets from the nerve agent stockpile to augment main plant destruction in Kentucky. Destruction of chemical munitions by the Static Detonation Chamber began on June 7, 2019.

www.peoacwa.army.mil