



U.S. Army Element, Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

ACWA QUARTERLY BRIEF

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

September 2009



HOT TOPICS

Economic Footprint of Chemical Destruction Plants Expanding. To date, at the Blue Grass and Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plants, a combined \$124 million has been directed toward Kentucky and Colorado subcontractors and more than 400 local employees have been hired. With the recent start of hiring for Pueblo systemization and operations, job-seekers in Pueblo can look forward to a more robust local job market. At least 800 people will be needed to operate the facility and workers with heating, ventilation and air conditioning experience; electrical, mechanical, or instrumentation skills; and operations and maintenance proficiency will be heavily recruited. Although the systemization and operations hiring phase in Kentucky is a few more years out, near-term job openings for plant construction activities will ultimately reach close to 450 in the next few years.

Explosive Containment Designs Receive Seal of Approval. In August 2009, the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board, known as DDESB, approved the redesign of the explosive containment area of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Munitions Demilitarization Building. Although comprising only 11 percent of this 87,000-square-foot building, the explosive containment area is where explosive components are separated from the chemical munitions before the chemical agent is removed and neutralized. Redesign work on the explosive containment area began in 2008 after it was determined that tests required for approvals of an innovative initial design would extend the schedule. The BGCAPP team re-sequenced construction efforts to minimize delays and as a result, the facility remains on track to begin destruction operations in 2018.

Congress Welcomed at Construction Sites. Several Members of Congress who have supported chemical demilitarization efforts in Colorado and Kentucky made stops at the Blue Grass and Pueblo construction sites during the August recess. Tours enabled the senators and representatives, along with their staffs, to talk with Army and contractor managers and review construction progress firsthand.



Senator Mike Bennet (D-CO) discussed construction progress in the Agent Processing Building with Citizens' Advisory Commission Chair Irene Kornelly (left) and the Pueblo Site Project Manager Gary Anderson during his August 2009 tour.



Bechtel Pueblo Project Manager Paul Henry describes next steps for APB construction to Representative Mike Coffman (R-CO, 6th District) (left) during a PCAPP tour on Aug. 19.



BGCAPP officials hosted Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) (right) and Representative Ben Chandler (D-KY) on Aug. 25.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant - THEN AND NOW

Blue Grass Goes Vertical – Since breaking ground in 2006, much of the BGCAPP team's construction progress has been focused on site infrastructure improvements and installation of utilities, which are now underground. However, the first major concrete placement for the Munitions Demilitarization Building occurred last January. Since then, key activities have included water tank and air handling unit installation, as well as continued foundation work, which culminated in the first vertical construction in September, when structural steel was placed for the Control and Support Building.



BGCAPP 2008



BGCAPP 2009

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant - THEN AND NOW

PCAPP Structure “Topped Off” – Just one year ago, all that could be seen at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant construction site was evidence of foundation work and structural steel for the Agent Processing Building (APB). However, on Sept. 30, the PCAPP team celebrated a “topping off” for the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building, signifying the final placement of structural steel for the building where explosives will be removed from munitions. Other milestones since last fall include the topping off of the APB, which continues to receive additional equipment and is now being enclosed, as well as the construction of many new support buildings, Biotreatment Area tanks and corridors that will connect key areas of the pilot plant.



Final Piece of Structural Steel - PCAPP Enhanced Reconfiguration Building, Sept. 2009



PCAPP 2008



PCAPP 2009

NEXT 90 DAYS AT ACWA

- **Blue Grass** – Vertical construction on the Munitions Demilitarization Building, where most of the destruction process will occur will continue into 2010. Additionally, the Blue Grass team is anticipating the completion of a major contracting action – the formal award of the first of several contract awards to Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass for the remainder of construction.
- **Pueblo** – The Pueblo team’s work on first-of-a-kind equipment that is being specially built for use at PCAPP will remain a priority. Cavity access machine testing for the facility’s Munition Washout System will continue through fall. The machines will drain and collect chemical agent from munitions prior to neutralization. Systemization planning will be in full-swing, with a contract for the execution of systemization expected to be awarded in early 2010.

Connect with ACWA

U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, known as ACWA, is responsible for the safe destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado and the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

Additional information regarding chemical weapons destruction in Colorado and Kentucky can be found at www.pmacwa.army.mil and the following online resources.

 ACWA Photostream on Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/acwa

 ACWA YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/usaeacwa

 ACWA Real Simple Syndication (RSS) Feed: www.pmacwa.army.mil/connect/acwa_rss.html

For additional information, please contact the ACWA Communications and Congressional Affairs office at (410) 436-3398.