



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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Officials declare Blue Grass Destruction Plant Fire Water Pump House operational

*Two-year effort comes full circle to bring system online***May 26, 2011
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RICHMOND, Ky. – Today officials at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) project construction site declared the plant's Fire Water Pump House complete and ready for operations. The pump house is the first building and the second BGCAPP system to become operational. The first system was the 138 kV Electrical Substation in June 2010.

The milestone comes after two years of meticulous work by the entire BGCAPP team from engineers to construction craft workers and from systemization to operations personnel to bring the system online. These efforts recently culminated with a successful Operational Readiness Assessment review by the BGCAPP project and the Blue Grass Army Depot to validate the system's operability.

"The Fire Water Pump House becoming operational brings us another step closer to safely destroying the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile," said Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP site project manager. "This system is a vital piece of the plant's infrastructure that provides a reliable and ready source of water from two 250,000-gallon tanks in the unlikely event that fire suppression is ever needed. In addition, the pump house provides process water for the facility."

Construction of the pump house and tanks, part of BGCAPP's support infrastructure, began in April 2009. Once construction of the pump house and tanks was complete, the system underwent a rigorous systemization phase (testing and startup) for all components before the final Operational Readiness Assessment. The assessment included the verification of operations and maintenance capabilities, availability of around-the-clock resources and passing of final acceptance testing.

"Constructing the support infrastructure in parallel with the main chemical agent neutralization processing buildings is providing great dividends in making visible progress," said Tom McKinney, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager. "With the 138 kV substation energized and operational along with the Fire Water Pump House, we are steadily building up the surrounding infrastructure to support plant operations."

BGCAPP is being built to safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons currently in storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot. Utilizing neutralization followed by Supercritical Water Oxidation, the plant will destroy 523 tons of munitions containing blister and nerve agents. Currently, the pilot plant is under construction and work is progressing on a variety of facilities to support chemical demilitarization operations. Under the current working estimate, plant operations are to begin in 2018 and destruction of the weapons completed in 2021.

For more information on the project, please visit the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program website at www.pmacwa.army.mil.

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