



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Plant Workforce Honored for Safety Recognition

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RICHMOND, Ky. –The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) project, headed by systems contractor Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, honored its workforce today during a recognition ceremony for achieving Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Status.

VPP Star Status is one of the highest recognitions for safety practices awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

More than 600 construction workers, government officials and community leaders attended the event at the BGCAPP construction site, as OSHA Region 4 Representative Michelle Sotak presented a plaque and the prestigious VPP Star flag to the workforce.

Sotak commended the workforce and the management team for their commitment to make BGCAPP one of the nation’s safest construction projects.

“We have made a commitment to come to work each day believing that zero accidents is achievable,” said Bechtel Parsons Project Manager Tom McKinney. “This award is a testament to everyone’s commitment and ownership of our safety and health program.”

BGCAPP Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker agreed. “We should all take great pride in sharing this accomplishment, as achieving Star Status is evidence of the strong support and commitment shared by everyone to protect the workforce, the environment and the surrounding community.”

Several dignitaries also shared remarks, including Regina Crawford, field representative for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY); Judge-Executive Kent Clark, Madison County Fiscal Court; Jim Richmond, of the Army’s Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program; Col. Brian Rogers, Blue Grass Army Depot commander; and Robert Akin, Central Kentucky Building & Construction Trades Council president.

Michael Todd, a union electrician, spoke of the project’s robust safety culture. He encouraged all workers to get involved in the safety program, partner with one another and share ideas on ways to continuously improve worker safety.

Several BGCAPP workers received awards for participating in the project’s VPP Star team. The Star team is a voluntary, employee-based safety group that helped implement VPP and promotes the importance of establishing personal responsibility and ownership for a positive safety culture.

The BGCAPP project joins the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, a sister site located at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado, in obtaining this prestigious safety status. The Bechtel Pueblo Team earned VPP Star Status certification there in 2008 and was recently recertified under the program.

The BGCAPP is being built to safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons currently in storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot. 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.

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



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Construction Manager Gary Cough addresses members of the pilot plant workforce during a celebration of the team's recognition with an elite safety award. More than 500 members of the plant's workforce and several local officials attended the event.



Members of a pilot plant safety team hoist the prestigious Voluntary Protection Program banner during a ceremony at the construction site. The flag is flown at sites recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for having the most effective worker-safety programs.