



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Plant Receives National 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, has earned Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Status certification from the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA)—one of its highest recognitions for a worker safety program.

The national safety recognition caps a year-and-a-half-long certification process by OSHA that included an in-depth review and a rigorous construction site assessment of BGCAPP project safety procedures and processes against VPP standards.

"Our certification is a reflection of BGCAPP's core values of safety and quality, which are the cornerstone of our commitment to destroy the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile," said Jeff Brubaker, the Army's site project manager. "Our intense focus on safety while building the plant sharpens our workforce's attention to detail, which will ultimately produce a better built and more safely run plant tomorrow."

"The entire workforce, the Kentucky and Central Kentucky building trades councils and OSHA have worked together to develop an exemplary worker safety and health system here on the project," said Gary Cough, Bechtel Parsons construction manager.

"The workforce has made a pledge to working safely, and we are dedicated to providing a safe work environment," said Tom McKinney, Bechtel Parsons project manager. "When that type of teamwork exists, VPP Star Status and this continued level of success is achievable."

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 during the construction phase. The Bechtel Pueblo Team earned VPP Star Status certification there in 2008.

The BGCAPP facility 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.

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

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Structural steel installation is one of the main construction activities at the pilot plant. BGCAPP workers are encouraged to look after one another to prevent accidents. A no-fault reporting system encourages workers to report unsafe conditions without fear of consequences.



Some plant systems come to the project already assembled, meaning that construction teams have to perform numerous lift operations to install delicate and heavy equipment. Repeated safety inspections and comprehensive briefings make sure the equipment and personnel are always ready to perform difficult operations.



Construction at the pilot plant is now more than 40 percent complete. Project safety teams continue to adapt as new phases of construction bring on changes to the work environment and necessitate new work routines.