



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

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Chemical Weapons Destruction Plant Achieves 90 Percent Construction Complete Milestone at Year's End

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RICHMOND, Ky. — Today officials at the **Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant**, or BGCAPP, announced that the team has achieved 90 percent of its construction work. The plant being built to safely destroy the chemical stockpile at Blue Grass Army Depot will eliminate the obsolete nerve and mustard-agent filled weapons stored there, in compliance with public laws and the **Chemical Weapons Convention**, an international arms control treaty.

The main plant, which will handle nerve agent weapons, will be augmented by a **Static Detonation Chamber**, known as the SDC, to dispose of the older mustard-agent portion of the stockpile, which may not be suitable for automated processing in the main plant.

"With a safety mindset, our dedicated workforce rapidly marched forward in 2014, leading us to the home stretch," said **Jeffrey Brubaker**, BGCAPP site project manager. "Their commitment to this critical mission harvested a successful year and positioned the project well for the final phases of construction efforts."

In 2014, the **Munitions Demilitarization Building's clean-air exhaust stacks** were placed to support the cascading ventilation system that pulls air from the facility through a series of carbon filter banks, systems that will protect both workers and the environment. Workers also installed the **structural steel frame of the Container Handling Building** and started work on the **Entry Control Facility, Personnel Maintenance Building and Medical Facility**. To add to worker safety and ease of travel around the site, plant **roadways were paved**.

"This project has more than 336,000 feet under roof, requiring more than 5,100 tons of structural steel, more than 190,000 linear feet of piping and more than 3.2 million linear feet of electrical cable," said **Doug Omichinski**, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager. "To give you an idea of the scope, that would be an electric cable running from Richmond, Kentucky, nearly to Ocala, Florida."

Since groundbreaking in 2006, BGCAPP's systems contractor, **Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass**, has made steady progress on the complex destruction facility, finishing the main **neutralization and supercritical water oxidation** processing facilities and support infrastructure. This included installing the plant's specialized equipment that will take the munitions apart and safely remove the explosive components and chemical agent. The **Control and Support Building**, where future operations workers will remotely control the plant's specialized equipment and processes, is also complete.

(more)

"As our construction efforts moved closer to the finish line, our **systemization** efforts, or testing phase, started taking center stage as the project's main area of focus this fall," said Brubaker.

The systemization team took beneficial occupancy of the Control and Support Building, which enabled substantial testing of systems and procedures that will occur during operations to take place. In addition, the Laboratory team demonstrated its readiness to handle diluted chemical agent to test monitoring equipment. The team is now using those test standards to calibrate and test equipment in preparation for the project's operational phase.

Additionally, BGCAPP continued permitting activities with the **Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection** and began initial site preparation work for the SDC.

"This progress is not possible without a highly-skilled, trained workforce and their safety and well-being is our number one priority," said Omichinski. "I'm pleased to say that as of December 1, the project has completed more than 2 million hours without a lost time accident."

The project also worked closely with community members and organizations throughout the year.

"In addition to having a skilled team, our project relies heavily on partnership and an open and transparent relationship with the community," said Brubaker. "The tireless dedication and focus of the **Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission** and **Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board** (CDCAB) has been critical to our success."

"The progress made and continuing to be made is no small way a direct result of the cooperative framework within which the military, their contractors and the community operate," said Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair. "This, along with the continued support of Congress and the Administration show a strong commitment to reaching our common objective of safe disposal as we move forward."

For more information on the project, please visit the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives website at peocwa.army.mil.

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To see BGCAPP progress throughout 2014, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXhApRB6E7w&feature=youtu.be>.

To learn more about BGCAPP's public involvement efforts, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRajj_SjqRM&index=10&list=PL-TC5I9SvK1VeFgXpr1_bxn8joBSQhxBq.



These photos show construction progress at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant from January to November 2014. This year, the project achieved 90 percent construction complete and shifted focus to systemization efforts.