



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Blue Grass
Chemical Stockpile
Outreach Office
1000 Commercial
Drive, Suite 2
Richmond, KY40475
(859) 626-8944
bgoutreach@iem.com

Blue Grass Chemical
Agent-Destruction
Pilot Plant Public
Affairs
(859) 624-6326

Blue Grass Army
Depot Public Affairs
Office
(859) 779-6221

Blue Grass Chemical
Activity Public Affairs
Office
(859) 779-6897



A Partnership for Safe
Chemical Weapons
Destruction

www.pmacwa.army.mil

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Plant Receives National Safety Recognition

**November 14, 2011
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Stephanie Parrett
(859) 624-6326**

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.

-30-