



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

Blue Grass Chemical  
Agent-Destruction  
Pilot Plant Public  
Affairs Office  
(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](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil)

## **Army construction project works nearly seven years with zero lost-time safety record**

**March 25, 2010  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

RICHMOND, Ky. – The Army project responsible for destroying a stockpile of chemical weapons containing 523 tons of nerve and mustard agents at the Blue Grass Army Depot celebrates nearly seven years of safe work performance in March. Workers at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP), which is currently under construction, recently surpassed five million job hours with zero lost-time work related injuries.

In addition to having a lost-time rate of zero, the project's recordable injury rate (a measure of less severe injuries) is 85 percent lower than the national average for the construction industry.

The BGCAPP project has not had a lost-time injury since project inception in June 2003. Since then, staffing has grown from a handful of people to more than 500 office and construction workers in Madison County. Five million job hours is approximately equal to 400 people working full-time for six years.

"Safety is paramount on the BGCAPP project and will not be compromised," said Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP site project manager. "Our safety culture extends to all areas of the project and includes the craft workforce at the construction site, who has formed employee safety groups and monitors each other during daily activities. Without their dedication, this impressive safety record would not be achievable."

The BGCAPP team has a "Zero Accidents" approach to completing all work, which is based on the belief that all accidents are preventable. On the construction site, two separate teams of workers periodically observe their colleagues performing work and note positive practices and opportunities for improvement. Additionally, all senior managers with the prime contractor, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, perform weekly site walk downs, on a rotating schedule, to look for hazards with a fresh pair of eyes, and safety professionals from the contractor and government teams jointly perform a weekly site inspection of areas that have the potential to pose a life-threatening hazard.

(MORE)

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:  
Contact the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant  
Public Affairs Office at (859) 624-6326 or visit [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil).**

“Employee involvement is a key feature of our safety commitment,” said Mark Seely, project manager for Bechtel Parsons. “It’s a significant achievement for our employees to reach this milestone while doing hazardous work like excavating deep trenches and working at elevation on structural steel.”

The BGCAPP team takes every measure possible to ensure a safe work place. Some of the measures taken include:

- For every task, a written “Activity Hazards Analysis” is developed to identify possible hazards and address protective measures.
- At the start of each activity, workers review a “STARRT” card (Safety Task Analysis Risk Reduction Talk) to review the hazards associated with the job and make sure everyone knows the potential hazards and required controls.
- All workers have authority to “pause work” if they observe activities they believe to be unsafe.

“We want our dedication to safety to be recognized in the community and within the national chemical weapons destruction programs,” said Brubaker. “To accomplish this goal, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass is applying for “Star Status” under the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), one of the highest designations an organization can achieve in the safety arena.”

VPP promotes effective worksite-based safety and health through involvement of management, labor and OSHA. Recently, the prime contractor submitted an application for the program and assigned employees to be on the Star team, which will be responsible for ensuring that the project meets all of the requirements to obtain the “Star Status” designation. The BGCAPP project has achieved several milestones over the past few months including completion of horizontal blast concrete on the Explosive Containment Rooms in the Munitions Demilitarization Building, which enables the construction team to start installing rebar on vertical walls; completion of structural steel for one of the main buildings; and significantly increased the construction work force to well over 200 skilled craft workers onsite.

For more information on the BGCAPP project, please visit the ACWA Web site at [www.pmacwa.army.mil](http://www.pmacwa.army.mil).

# # #

**Photo Thumbnails, Cut-lines and Credits: JPEG files available upon request**



**Photo 1: Management involvement with safety**

Members of the safety team inspect a ladder during a recent "Life Critical" safety inspection at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent -Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) construction site. From left are Sunday Street, safety manager; Don Sproul, safety services supervisor; and Jim Harris, quality assurance manager.

Photo by Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass



**Photo 2: Inspection of equipment**

Grover Adams, an electrician and chairman of an employee-based safety team, conducts a safety inspection at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant construction site.

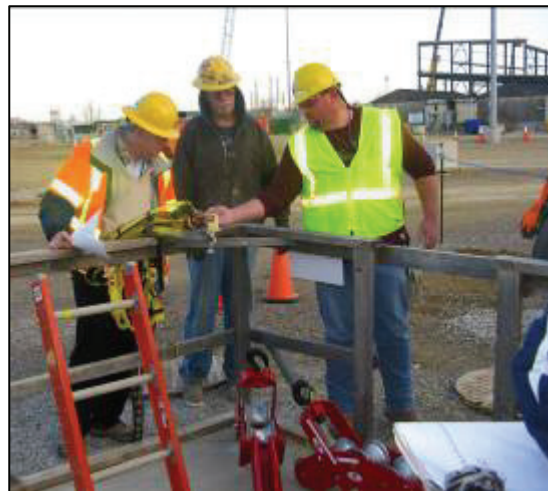
Photo by Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass



**Photo 3: Verification of site conditions**

Reviewing their findings after a recent "Life Critical" safety inspection are, from left, safety managers Sunday Street and Jeff Weldon; and craftsmen Grover Adams and Rich Scallan. Adams and Scallan are chairmen of two safety teams composed of construction workers.

Photo by Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass



**Photo 4: Integrity of fall protective gear verified**

As part of a safety inspection, Jeff Weldon (left) and Don Sproul (right) of the safety staff, inspect a harness to be worn by electrician Donald Marifjeren (center) during a confined space entry into a manhole.

Photo by Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass