



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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# No significant environmental impacts to result from installation and operation of explosive destruction technology at Blue Grass Army Depot

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact: Stephanie Parrett  
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RICHMOND, Ky. – The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), in conjunction with the Blue Grass Army Depot, has determined that the installation and operation of an explosive destruction technology (EDT) at the depot will have no significant environmental impacts. The EDT facility will augment the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP), which is currently under construction at the depot, by destroying a portion of the inventory of chemical munitions that present a problem to destroy in the main plant.

In June 2013, an environmental assessment was completed to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, and Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651, to address any potential impacts of the installation and operation of an EDT at the depot. In accordance with the NEPA process, a draft Finding of No Significant Impact was prepared and provided for an extended public comment period in the summer of 2013. Following review of the comments received, it was concluded that no additional analysis is necessary for this proposed action under NEPA.

The "Finding of No Significant Impact," as well as the record of public comments and responses from ACWA may be found on the ACWA Website at [www.peocwa.army.mil/bgcapp/bgcapp-edt/](http://www.peocwa.army.mil/bgcapp/bgcapp-edt/) and at the following local repositories:

- Richmond Branch, Madison County Public Library, 507 W. Main Street in Richmond
- Berea Branch, Madison County Public Library, 319 Chestnut Street in Berea
- Crabbe Library, Eastern Kentucky University, 521 Lancaster Avenue in Richmond
- Hutchins Library, Berea College, 100 Campus Drive in Berea
- Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 1000 Commercial Drive, Suite 2 in Richmond

A 2011 X-ray assessment of the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile confirmed the solidification of mustard agent in a significant number of 155mm mustard projectiles, rendering them unsuitable for automated processing in the main plant. These problematic munitions, together with some 200 mustard projectiles that have leaked in the past and are now overpacked, require a different technological approach for their destruction. To resolve this issue, ACWA is considering the use of an EDT to augment the neutralization/supercritical water oxidation destruction process to be employed by the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

For more information, visit [www.peocwa.army.mil](http://www.peocwa.army.mil).

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