



Program Executive Office  
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

# MEDIA TOOLKIT

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-  
Destruction Pilot Plant

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## **Video Footage: Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Operations**

The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, known as BGCAPP, is safely destroying the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot near Richmond, Kentucky. The following video clips show the main plant facility where nerve agent is being neutralized.

### **Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Main Plant Started Operations in January 2020**

Main Plant: The main plant is destroying Kentucky's nerve agent stockpile contained in rockets and projectiles. Operations began January 2020. Editor's Note: Portions of the following video clips are blurred in accordance with Department of Defense guidelines.

- Workers move pallets of 8-inch projectiles (0:00 - 0:12)
  - Workers use forklifts to place and move pallets of 8-inch projectiles through the plant as spotters help guide them through the process.
- Unpacking and loading of a pallet of 8-inch projectiles (0:12 – 0:18)
  - Munitions are shown being moved down a conveyor system.
- Munitions Washout System (MWS) processes 8-inch projectiles (0:18 – 0:28)
  - The robot removes an 8-inch projectile from the tray on the conveyor and places it at the Nose Closure Removal Station.
- Control and Support Building (0:28 – 0:31)
  - Control Room operators communicate with technicians and remotely operate various systems throughout the facility.
- Hydrolysate Storage Area tanks (0:31 – 0:39)
  - The Hydrolysate Storage Area tanks will store hydrolysate, the product of the neutralization of chemical agent, until it is ready to be shipped to a permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility. A portion of this footage is sped up.
- Clean-air Exhaust Stacks (0:39 – 0:45)
  - The Clean-air Exhaust Stacks and Filter Banks are shown at sunrise. This footage has been sped up.
- Enhanced On-site Container (EONC) delivery and storage (0:45 – 1:17)
  - An EONC holding 8-inch projectiles containing GB nerve agent is delivered to the Container Handling Building (CHB).
  - A sideloader is shown coming out of the CHB, lifting the EONC off the delivery truck and bringing it into the CHB.
  - A sideloader then places the EONC next to another EONC inside the CHB.
- EONC movement from the CHB to the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) (1:17 – 3:09)
  - The sideloader picks up an EONC out of a row of EONCs, moves it through a series of large blast doors and unloads it in the Unpack Area in the MDB.
- Workers open and unload 8-inch projectiles from the EONC (3:09 - 4:04)
  - Workers open, inspect and unload two pallets of 8-inch projectiles from an EONC.

- Workers move pallets of 8-inch projectiles (4:04 - 4:59)
  - Workers use forklifts to place and move pallets of 8-inch projectiles through the plant as spotters help guide them through the process.
- Unpacking and loading of a pallet of 8-inch projectiles (4:59 – 5:40)
  - Workers unstrap a pallet of 8-inch projectiles and use a hand crane to lift and lower them onto a conveyor. This is the last time human hands will touch the projectiles.
  - The munitions are then conveyed through a blast door.
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) footage of 8-inch projectiles passing through the conveyor room (5:40 - 6:53)
  - A tray of 8-inch projectiles passes through the blast doors along a conveyor system on their way to the MWS room.
- MWS processes 8-inch projectiles (6:53 – 8:33)
  - The robot removes an 8-inch projectile from the tray on the conveyor and places it at the Nose Closure Removal Station.
  - Automated equipment removes the lifting lug from the 8-inch projectile and is weighed on a scale.
  - The munition is transferred to a Cavity Access Machine to be drained of the GB nerve agent.
  - A robot lifts the 8-inch projectile showing the final drops of GB nerve agent draining into the MWS and is weighed again before being returned to the tray on the conveyor.
- 8-inch projectiles enter the Metal Parts Treater (MPT) (8:33 – 9:11)
  - The tray of 8-inch projectiles on a conveyor enter the MPT.
  - The projectile bodies are heated to 2000 degrees Fahrenheit for a minimum of 15 minutes to destroy any residual GB nerve agent before proceeding to the cooldown area.
- Clean-air Exhaust Stacks (9:11 – 9:16)
  - The Clean-air Exhaust Stacks are shown at sunrise. The stacks release clean, filtered air from the chemical demilitarization facility back to the atmosphere.
- MDB Filter Banks (9:16 - 9:55)
  - Carbon filters are installed in the MDB Filter Banks. The filters scrub the air of contaminants from the building before being released to the atmosphere. Continuous air-monitoring systems installed in the filter banks and air stacks monitor to ensure there is no residual agent released.
- Control and Support Building (9:55 – 10:01)
  - Control Room operators communicate with technicians and remotely operate various systems throughout the facility.
- Hydrolysate Storage Area tanks (10:01 – 10:12)
  - The Hydrolysate Storage Area tanks will store hydrolysate, the product of the neutralization of chemical agent, until it is ready to be shipped to a permitted

hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facility. A portion of this footage is sped up.

- Clean-air Exhaust Stacks (10:12 – 10:21)
  - The Clean-air Exhaust Stacks and Filter Banks are shown at sunrise. This footage has been sped up.