Program Executive Office
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

MEDIA TOOLKIT

VX 155MM Projectile Campaign

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

Updated: July 22, 2021

Video Footage: Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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. Portions of this footage have been blurred in accordance with Department of Defense guidelines.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Main Plant Started VX 155mm Projectile Operations in January 2021

Main Plant: The main plant is destroying Kentucky's nerve agent stockpile contained in rockets and projectiles. On Jan. 10, 2021, the first VX 155mm projectiles were destroyed. The campaign completed on May 28, 2021.

- Loading VX 155mm Projectiles (0:00-0:10)
  - A munitions handler positions a 155mm projectile containing VX nerve agent for placement into a tray within the Unpack Area of the Munitions Demilitarization Building to begin the destruction process.
- Enhanced On-site Container (EONC) Delivery (0:10-0:15)
  - A truck pulling an EONC holding VX 155mm projectiles arrives at the entry to the Container Handling Building. The EONCs are transportation containers designed to safely transport the chemical munitions from their monitored storage on the Blue Grass Army Depot to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant for destruction.
- Agent Designation (0:15-0:18)
  - A worker places a marker designating the specific agent in the unloading operation on a sign board readily visible to operation personnel in the Container Handling Building.
- EONC Unloading (0:18-0:26)
  - A munitions handler checks the projectiles inside an EONC as the door is opened inside the Unpack Area in the main plant.
- EONC Unloading (0:27-0:37)
  - A spotter watches as a forklift driver removes a pallet of VX 155mm projectiles from an EONC inside the main plant's Unpack Area.
- Moving Projectile Pallets (0:37-0:46)
  - A sequence of clips shows workers moving a pallet of VX 155mm projectiles for staging and placement into the destruction process.

- Removing Positioning Rings (0:47-0:50)
    - A worker uses a crowbar to loosen a positioning ring on a projectile in a pallet. The rings need to be removed before the projectiles are placed into form-fitting trays for entry into the destruction process.
- Loading Projectiles into Trays (0:51-1:03)
    - A series of clips depicts workers using a lift assist to pick up projectiles from pallets and place them into trays for entry into the destruction process in the Munitions Demilitarization Building.
- Loading Projectiles into Trays (1:03-1:09)
    - A loaded tray of VX 155mm projectiles is conveyed into the automated section of the plant to begin the destruction process. Human hands will not touch these projectiles again as part of the standard destruction process.
- Munitions Washout System (1:09-2:15)
    - The Munitions Washout System robot moves nerve-agent projectiles through each element of the system. The projectile nose closure is removed. The projectile is then checked for energetics or explosives. Next, it is placed in the Cavity Access Machine to drain the liquid chemical agent. Finally, it is weighed and then placed in the projectile tray to be thermally decontaminated in the Metal Parts Treater.
- Metal Parts Treater (2:15-2:29)
    - A series of clips depicts a tray of projectiles progressing through the Metal Parts Treater, which inductively heats them to more than 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit for at least 15 minutes to thermally cleanse them.
- Cool Down Area (2:29-2:32)
    - A worker checks a pallet of projectiles after it has been thermally decontaminated and cooled to room temperature in the Cool Down Area in the Munitions Demilitarization Building. The projectile bodies are clean and will be taken off site for recycling at a permitted facility.
- Control and Support Building (2:32-2:43)
    - Control Room operators communicate with technicians and remotely operate various systems throughout the facility.
- Hydrolysate Storage Area tanks (2:44-2:54)
    - The Hydrolysate Storage Area tanks store hydrolysate, the product of the neutralization of chemical agent, as it awaits shipment to an off-site facility for processing. A portion of this footage is sped up.
- Clean-air Exhaust Stacks (2:54-3:04)
    - The Clean-air Exhaust Stacks and Filter Banks are shown at sunrise. The stacks release clean, filtered air from the chemical demilitarization facility back to the atmosphere. This footage has been sped up.