



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.peoacwa.army.mil



Environmental Assessment of Proposed Installation and Operation of an Explosive Destruction Technology Facility at the Blue Grass Army Depot

The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is currently being built to safely and efficiently destroy the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot. Although this highly-automated, state-of-the-art facility will be able to destroy most of the 523 tons of nerve and mustard agent contained in the stockpile, there are a number of munitions that will not be able to process through the plant. A 2011 X-ray assessment of the Blue Grass 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, the Program Executive Officer, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives is considering the use of an explosive destruction technology (EDT) to augment the plant's neutralization/supercritical water oxidation destruction process.

To meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations Part 651, the U.S. Army conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of installing and operating an EDT facility at the depot for the destruction of the problematic munitions as well as the overpacked chemical munitions.

The areas of environmental analysis examined in the EA include land use, air quality, water resources, human health and safety, ecological resources, socioeconomic resources, environmental justice, noise, waste management and resource consumption. The EA concluded that the installation and operation of an EDT facility will have no significant environmental impacts. In keeping with the NEPA process, a draft "Finding of No Significant Impact" has been prepared and is available for public comment.

Public Comment Period:

The public comment period on the final EA and draft "Finding of No Significant Impact" begins June 25 and concludes Aug. 23, 2013.

Interested stakeholders can access copies of the EA and draft "Finding of No Significant Impact" at the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, www.peoacwa.army.mil or at the following locations:

- **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

Public comments may be submitted to:

Mail: Program Executive Office, ACWA
5183 Blackhawk Road, ATTN: SFAE-ACW-RM
Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424

Email: osd.APG.usamc.mbx.acwa-hq-environmental@mail.mil

Fax: (410) 436-6026

Website: www.peoacwa.army.mil