

**SUPPLEMENTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
SITING OF THE BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL
AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT
AND ASSOCIATED ACCESS ROAD,
PARKING AREAS AND UTILITIES
AT THE
BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT**

**FOR:
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT
RICHMOND, KENTUCKY**

PREPARED BY:

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 2011**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document supplements the Environmental Assessment (EA) for *Siting of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant and Associated Access Road, Parking Areas and Utilities at the Blue Grass Army Depot* which was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District in October 2004 and will replace the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which was signed September 14, 2005. That EA disclosed the potential environmental impacts for the project which proposed siting of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, an access road, parking spaces and sewer lines.

The purpose and scope of this Supplemental EA is limited to describing the changes that have been made in the design of the project since the original EA was written and detailing the potential impacts that may occur as a result of those changes. With the exception of the points described in the following sections, the original EA (attached) accurately represents; the project's purpose and need; the analyses of the project's design alternative; and the potential environmental impacts associated with each alternative.

This document will also serve as a Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed project, including the changes specified below.

2.0 BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

Public Law 99-145, subsequent related legislation and an international treaty, the chemical Weapons convention (CWC), require destruction of the U.S. stockpile of lethal unitary chemical agents and munitions, thus, the need for the destruction activities at Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD). There is a 2.7 acre area beyond the limits that was covered in the original EA that BGAD has proposed to be used for additional laydown area. The following addresses the environment and impacts to the environment as a result of this additional acreage being added to the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) area.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Terrestrial. The proposed project area's vegetation composition has been altered because of the construction of BGAD. The land required for the laydown area is being maintained as a mixture of trees interspersed with shrubs (primarily cane and blackberry) and fescue-dominated grasslands that are periodically mowed. Trees are mostly sugar maples and red cedar with a few oaks. There is almost no marketable timber on the w.7 acres. See Site Photos on following page.



Typical view of project site. Old field and scrub woodland habitats. 2/2011



Cane patch found in woodlands edge. 2/2011

3.2 Wetlands and Aquatic Resources. According to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory maps, wetlands exist approximately 1500 ft east of the proposed additional laydown area. There is an unnamed stream, a tributary of Muddy Creek, located on the opposite side of the access road from the proposed laydown area. The Environmental Protection Agency lists Muddy Creek as a 303(d) priority one impaired stream. The impairment is listed as pathogens from agriculture and sedimentation.

Common fish species found in Muddy Creek are creek chub, bluntnose minnow, silverjaw minnow, creek chub, central stoneroller, rosegin shiner, green sunfish, longear sunfish, greenside darter, faintail darter, Johnny darter, rainbow darter and Kentucky bass. Three species of freshwater mussels documented in the creek are Giant floater, Fatmucket and Creeper. The predominant crayfish is *Orconectes juvenilis*.

3.3 Cultural Resources. Pertinent technical reports and publications were consulted from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Louisville District Office (Corps), and the Bluegrass Army Depot (BGAD) in Richmond, Kentucky to provide information on significant cultural resources, environmental data, overall cultural history, and previous investigations conducted within the project area and region.

The current project area was previously examined for cultural resources by the Corps and AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc. and in relation to the Chemical-Demilitarization (Chem-Demil) project (Keeney 2003; Bader 2004). One historic property eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) was identified at this time, a historic road known as Stagner Lane. It is described as an embedded, wagon wheel roadway developed by local farmers in the mid 1800's. Though not associated with either Boone's Trace to Boonesborough or the "Wilderness Trail", Stagner Lane was an important element of the cultural landscape for Madison County, Kentucky and the BGAD. It was considered to be eligible for listing to the NRHP under Criteria A and C (Bader 2004; Schatz et al. 2007).

In order to mitigate potential impacts to Stagner Lane, a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office, the USACE Louisville District, and the Blue Grass Army Depot outlined requirements for mitigating adverse impacts. These mitigation measures included a thorough literature and documentary review, leading to the publication of a report and a public information pamphlet. This work was completed in 2007 and included the current project area.

In addition, two archaeological sites, 15MA379 and 15MA384, were recorded within the current project area (Bader 2004). Site 15MA379 is described as the remnants of a historic residence dating to the late nineteenth century. Site 15MA384 is an unknown prehistoric artifact scatter. Neither site was considered eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further work was recommended. No other cultural resources or historic properties are recorded within the current project area.

3.4 Endangered Species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has identified several Federally-listed endangered species as occurring within 30 miles of Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD): three mussel species, three bat species, and one plant species. Five Federally-listed threatened species and three candidate species for listing are also known to occur within this area.

Of these seven species, only running buffalo clover is known to occur at BGAD. Running buffalo clover occurs most commonly on rich soils in habitats with filtered light such as open woodlands, savannas, floodplains, and mesic stream terraces on well-drained sites. The clover has been positively identified as described in the original EA. The closest populations are approximately 800 ft away. Summer roost and foraging habitat for the endangered Indiana bat may exist within the proposed project area but previous surveys have not shown that the Indiana bat exists on the depot.

The bald eagle, no longer listed as threaten or endangered, remains a protected species under several other federal laws. The bald eagle probably occurs as a migrant at BGAD and is most likely to be seen around Lake Vega and other water bodies on post and in the region. No nesting has occurred on post and no resident birds exist.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Terrestrial. The proposed additional laydown area of 2.7 acres is located adjacent the BGCAPP facility, evaluated in the original EA. The area consists of fescue-dominated pastureland, trees and shrub (primarily cane and blackberry). The habitat to be affected for the proposed project is relatively common throughout BGAD. As with the original EA, the impact to the terrestrial environment would be minimal.

4.2 Wetlands and Aquatic Resources. A site investigation was conducted by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) professionals during the preparation of the original EA. Site conditions have not changed since that investigation. The proposed additional laydown area is adjacent to the BGCAPP evaluated in the original EA and was considered in that evaluation. It was determined that no jurisdictional wetlands, as jointly defined by the Corps, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service. Therefore, no regulated wetlands will be affected by the construction of the BGCAPP.

4.3 Cultural Resources. Additional consultation and evaluation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended) was conducted to account for affects to cultural resources and historic properties within the project. This included a detailed literature review, field investigation, analysis and report of findings to the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Officer and other consulting parties. This evaluation literature review was conducted IAW the Memorandum of Agreement between United States Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, Blue Grass Army Depot and Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office, regarding the remains of Stagner Lane, an abandoned historic roadway within the project area. This literature review is on

file at the Kentucky Office of State Archaeology. As mentioned in Section 3.3 above, these mitigation measures were developed to cover the current project area.

The project will be designed in such a way to have no adverse affects to cultural resources and historic properties eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. Inadvertent discoveries during construction will be addressed in accordance with project plans and specifications. This would include ceasing all work in the area of discovery and appropriate notification, assessment, and consultation.

4.4 Endangered Species. Louisville District biologists conducted several extensive field investigations during the development of the original EA in order to evaluate potential impacts to running buffalo clover. Measures were taken to avoid any impacts to running buffalo clover. No running buffalo clover was identified at the site of the BGCAPP, which encompassed the proposed 2.7 acre additional laydown area. Further , there is no suitable habitat at the proposed site to support running buffalo clover populations. Informal consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that the proposed laydown area is not likely to adversely affect the endangered running buffalo clover provided that best management practices to control storm water runoff, soil erosion and sediment transport are implemented.

To avoid potential adverse impacts to summer-roosting Indiana bats, any tree removal activities will be restricted to the period between October 15 and March 31. If winter tree removal is not possible, the project area will be re-evaluated for habitat and/or surveyed prior to or during the Indiana bat summer roosting season to determine the presence or absence of the Indiana bat and the potential impacts.

5.0 COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It is anticipated that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), based upon this EA, will fulfill the requirements of NEPA.

5.2 Clean Water Act. A storm-water permit will not be required from the Kentucky Division of Water. Construction at the laydown area is addressed by the Kentucky Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (KPDES) general permit for construction at BGAD. BGAD will insure that all conditions of this permit will be met. Additionally, any requirements of Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act will be met.

5.3 Clean Air Act. Madison County, Kentucky and the surrounding area are considered as an attainment area as defined in the Clean Air Act. Construction of the proposed project will only have a minor and temporary effect on air quality, and no additional work is required with regard to the Clean Air Act.

5.4 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA). Site development plans have incorporated the USFWS recommendations and conditions. BGAD actively works

with state and federal resource agencies and non-governmental organizations to protect biological resources on post including endangered species and their critical habitat.

5.5 Comprehensive Environmental Resource Compensation Liability Act (CERCLA) and Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). These two acts pertain to hazardous, toxic and radioactive wastes (HTRW). A site inspection was performed on the area considered in the original EA, which encompassed the proposed additional laydown area. Site conditions have not changed. There is no evidence found that would indicate a reasonable probability of HTRW contamination on the proposed project site.

5.6 Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). The FPPA directs Federal agencies to identify and take into account the adverse effects to their programs on the preservation of farmlands. Mr. Bobby Elkins of the Madison County Conservation District verified during the preparation of the original EA that no prime farmland exists within the proposed project area, including the additional proposed laydown area. Those conditions have not changed. Therefore, no land designated as prime farmland will be affected by the proposed work.

5.7 Floodplain Management E.O. 11988. The objectives of Executive Order (EO) 11988 have been considered. The following determination has been made pertaining to Floodplain Management: The considered action does not conflict with applicable state and local standards concerning Floodplain protection. The considered action will have no affect on the floodplain.

6.0 COORDINATION/INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS (E.O. 12372). The EA is being distributed to Federal, State and local government agencies having jurisdictional responsibilities, or otherwise having an interest in the project.

This EA will likewise be provided to public officials and interested individuals for their review and comment, if any.

7.0 FINDING I have reviewed and evaluated, in light of the overall public interest, the documents and factors concerning this environmental assessment and proposed project as well as the stated views of other interested agencies and concerned public.

I believe that the proposed project is environmentally sustainable. I believe that this proposed project does not constitute a major federal action that would result in any irretrievable or irreversible losses to aquatic or terrestrial resources. Additionally, it would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. This constitutes a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). As a consequence, I find that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required by the provisions of Section 102 of the

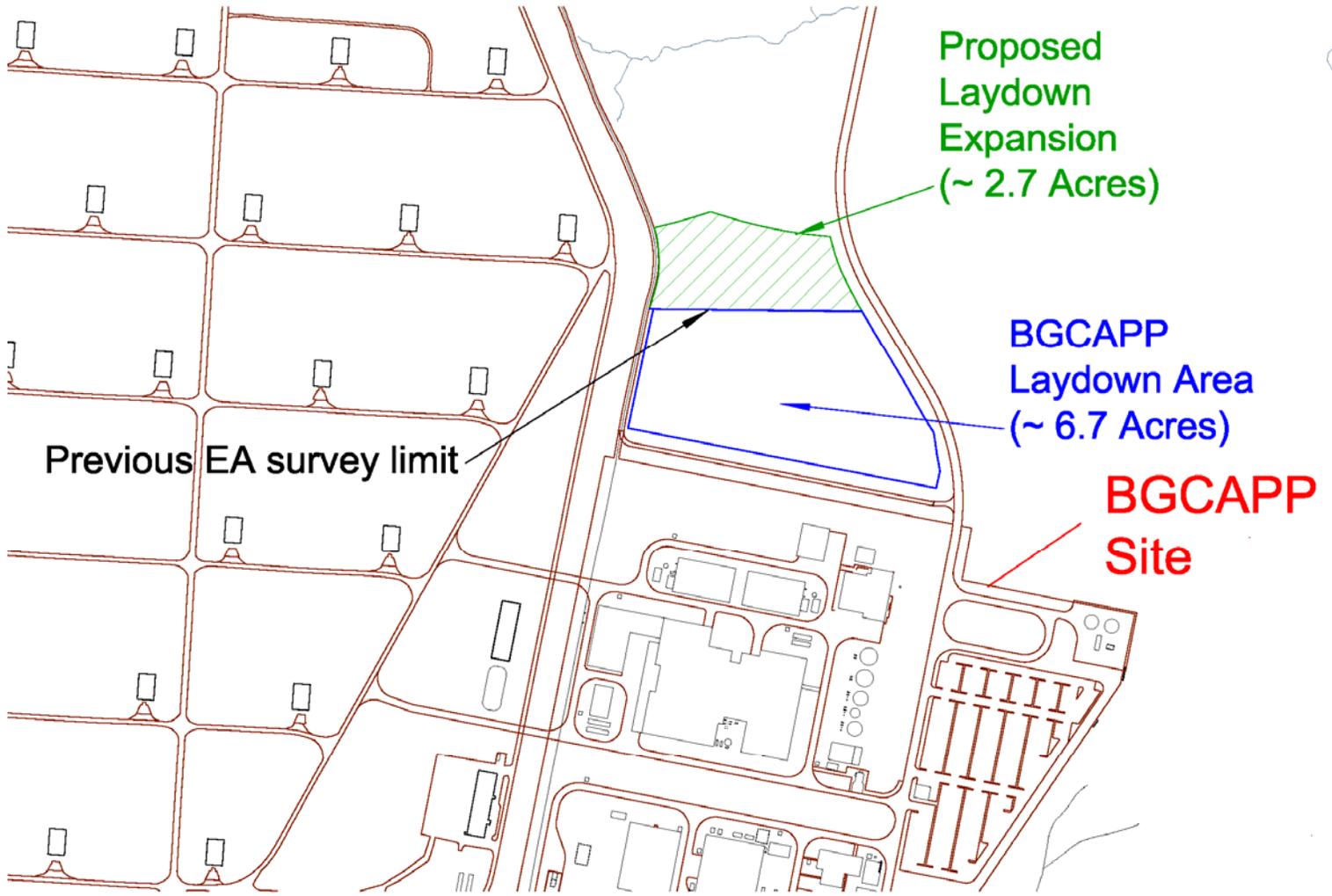
National Environmental Policy Act, or Public Law 91-190 or by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations and guidance.

Date

BRIAN L. ROGERS
Colonel, US Army
Commanding

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL LAYDOWN AREA



Proposed Laydown Expansion (~ 2.7 Acres)

BGCAPP Laydown Area (~ 6.7 Acres)

BGCAPP Site

Previous EA survey limit

APPENDIX B

**MAILING LIST
NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL GROUPS
AGENCIES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS,
AND INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS**

Mailing List

Native American Tribal Groups

Ms. Glenna J. Wallace
Chief Eastern Band of Shawnee
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Principal Chief Eastern Band of Cherokee
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Mr. Bill Anoatubby
Governor Chickasaw Nation
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Mr. John P. Froman
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Mr. Leroy Howard, Chief
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
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Mr. Bernie Parker, Chief
Tonawanda Band of Senecas
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Basom, NY 14013

Ms. Monica Jacobs, Chief
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
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Akwesasne, NY 13655

Mr. Raymond Halbritter,
Nation Representative
Oneida Indian Nation of New York
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Oneida, NY 13421

Ms. Deborah Doxtater, Chairperson
Oneida Tribal Council
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Onondaga Nation
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Nedrow, NY 13120

Mr. Leo Henry, Chief
Tuscarora Nation
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Mailing List
Agencies, Public Officials, and Interested Individuals

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Mr. Tony Wilder
Commissioner, Department for Local Government
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Ms. Valerie Hudson
Deputy Commissioner
KY Dept for Environmental Protection
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Mr. Thomas A. Perrin
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Honorable Steve Beshear
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Judge Executive
Madison County
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Honorable Jim Barnes
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Honorable Steve Connelly
Mayor of Berea
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Honorable Rita Smart
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Honorable Jared Carpenter
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Madison County Public Library
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Richmond, Kentucky 40475

Madison County Public Library
319 Chestnut Street
Berea, KY 40403

Eastern Kentucky University
Crabbe Library
103 Libraries Complex
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Richmond, KY 40475

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
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