



# Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board

The mission of the [Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant](#) team is to safely and efficiently destroy the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the [Blue Grass Army Depot](#) (BGAD) near Richmond, Kentucky, with meaningful opportunities for [public involvement](#) in the project. The Department of Defense (DOD), the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA) and the depot recognize that public participation in the chemical stockpile destruction effort is critical to its success. Two advisory groups in Kentucky exist to represent community and state interests.

## **Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC)**

The [CAC](#) provides a vital link between the community and the DOD by providing a forum for exchanging information about chemical weapons destruction efforts. It exists to represent community and state interests to the U.S. Army and DOD. Its mission is to provide a mechanism for the thorough and objective exchange of information among the citizens of Kentucky, the Army and other organizations involved in the chemical weapons demilitarization program.

The governor of Kentucky appoints commission members who serve an unlimited term at the governor's discretion. The commission consists of nine members — seven are members of the community at large, and two are state officials. Although the commission receives limited federal funding from the DOD, it operates independent of Army influence.

For more information, contact CAC Secretary Valerie Merlin at [kentucky.cac2016@gmail.com](mailto:kentucky.cac2016@gmail.com).

## **Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB)**

The [CDCAB](#) is an independent sub-committee of the CAC and is made up of a diverse group of community leaders who represent the local community on issues regarding Kentucky's chemical weapons destruction program. With input from many interested parties, the board's primary objective is to share information with the community and provide input to government decision-makers.

Voting members include representatives from the following organizations:

- Berea College, Eastern Kentucky University, Madison County Board of Education and Berea Community Schools
- Berea and Richmond Chambers of Commerce
- CAC
- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program/Madison County Emergency Management Agency

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Blue Grass Chemical Activity  
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- Chemical Weapons Working Group
- Civic groups
- Elected state officials
- Environmental organizations
- Kentucky Division of Emergency Management
- Local hospitals
- Madison County, Estill County, City of Berea and City of Richmond governments
- Madison County Ministerial Association
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Included as non-voting members are representatives from the following organizations:

- BGAD
- Blue Grass Chemical Activity
- Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
- PEO ACWA
- Representatives of federal elected officials

[PEO ACWA](#), the organization responsible for the destruction of the Kentucky chemical weapons stockpile, values the input and participation from the CDCAB. As the chemical weapons destruction program progresses, the CDCAB will continue to conduct open discussions and dialogue in quarterly meetings regarding issues including economic development and sustainability to permitting and environmental considerations. The board plays a vital role in the decision-making process by providing input from the community.

For more information about the CDCAB, contact Craig Williams at (859) 986-7565 or the Madison County Judge-Executive at (859) 624-4700.