



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction



www.peoacwa.army.mil



Work begins for incorporating use of explosive destruction technology at weapons demilitarization plant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RICHMOND, Ky. — Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass announced today it has received approval from the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA) program to begin initial work supporting design, environmental permitting, construction, systemization and eventual operations and closure of an Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) system at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

The EDT system will safely resolve a significant challenge by destroying mustard projectiles deemed unsuitable for processing through the main Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) currently under construction.

“As we move forward to complete the BGCAPP main weapons neutralization plant and the Explosive Destruction Technology system, the safety of our workers, as well as the safety of the people in our neighboring communities is our most important priority,” said Doug Omichinski, Bechtel Parsons project manager. “We will continue to comply with all federal, state, local and regulatory requirements to ensure the safe and efficient destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile.”

Following a competitive procurement process, Bechtel Parsons selected the **Static Detonation Chamber (SDC)** system manufactured and supplied by UXB International, Inc. The EDT system will use thermal destruction methods to destroy munitions in a spherical, fully-contained and armored, high alloy stainless steel vessel. The SDC uses electrically-generated heat to detonate the munitions, thus destroying the mustard agent and energetics (explosives). The equipment’s fully monitored pollution abatement system includes thermal treatment and scrubbers to remove particulates, sulfur-dioxides, chlorine and any heavy metals. The equipment also contains a robust carbon filtration system to ensure air released back to the environment is clean.

ACWA’s decision to proceed with EDT comes after an Environmental Assessment concluded the system will not result in any significant environmental impact to the Depot or surrounding community. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, a formal “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) was announced in October 2013. In addition, a 2011 X-Ray assessment of the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile confirmed solidified agent in a significant number of 155mm mustard projectiles.

“The use of an EDT enhances worker safety and allows the main BGCAPP facilities’ construction and systemization to continue forward. More than 85 percent of the Blue Grass stockpile contains nerve agents that we don’t expect to exhibit solidification. That majority of the stockpile will be destroyed using the neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation process,” said Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP site project manager.

About BGCAPP: BGCAPP is being built to safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of 523 tons of nerve agent in projectiles and rockets currently in storage at the **Blue Grass Army Depot**. Currently, construction is more than 73 percent complete, systemization is more than 12 percent complete and work is progressing on a variety of facilities that will support chemical demilitarization operations.

For more information on the project, please visit the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives website at peoacwa.army.mil.

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About Explosive Destruction Technology: For more information on EDT please visit the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives website at peoacwa.army.mil/bgcapp/bgcapp-edt/.

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