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**Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting
Summary of Action Items and Discussions
June 8, 2022
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky**

Attendees

CAC: Dr. Doug Hindman, Harry Moberly, Jeremy Slinker, David Stipes, April Webb (for Tammi Hudson) and Craig Williams

CDCAB: Mayor Robert Blythe, Dr. Candace Coyle, Brian Freeman (for Col. Stephen Dorris), Dr. Diane Hatchett, Dustin Heiser, Jeanne Hibberd, Dr. Doug Hindman, Ron Hink, Leslie Kaylor, Harry Moberly, Stephanie Nelson (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell), Craig Shockley (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr), Jeremy Slinker, David Stipes, Judge Executive Reagan Taylor, April Webb (for Tammi Hudson), Craig Williams and Lt. Col. Ed Williams

Media Attendees:

The Richmond Register: Blake Vickers and Delera Murray
WEKU-FM: Stu Johnson

Meeting Synopsis

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Remarks from Department of Defense (DOD) Visitors
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Project Update
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) Permitting Updates
- Economic Impact Working Group (EIWG) Updates

Meeting Summary Structure

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations; instead, it will provide an overview of the discussions and action items of government

representatives and various members of the CAC and CDCAB. Key action items identified in the meeting and a synopsis of the major questions and comments discussed during the various updates are noted below. Copies of slides and documents presented during the meeting can be obtained from the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office (ORO) at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@iem.com.

Action Items

Action Item: Provide an update on staffing reduction timeline for coming years.

Responsible Entity: Ron Hink, project manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG).

Timeline: Sept. 14, 2022.

Action Item: Assess proposed 2023 CAC/CDCAB meeting dates provided to members in attendance and provide feedback on any conflicts – otherwise, these dates will become final as of the Sept. 14, 2022, meeting.

Responsible Entity: Sarah Marko, communications manager, ORO.

Timeline: Sept. 14, 2022.

Action Item: Explore changing next CAC/CDCAB meeting date to avoid conflicting with Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) exercise on the same day.

Responsible Entity: Sarah Marko, communications manager, ORO.

Timeline: Before Sept. 14, 2022.

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Sarah Marko, Communications Manager, ORO

Marko performed a roll call, welcomed the attendees, provided live streaming information and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Opening Remarks – Doug Hindman, Chair, CAC, and Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB

Hindman welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted the successful milestone celebration that preceded the meeting to mark the completion of VX rocket destruction operations at BGCAPP and destruction of all VX weapons in the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile. He said with one munitions destruction campaign remaining, of the M55 rockets containing GB nerve agent, it's important for everyone to remain alert even as the community celebrates the achievement.

Williams also recognized the milestone and said there is one more celebration to go, noting it's hard to believe the end is in sight after years of work, but he is assured safety will continue to be the top priority. He expressed his appreciation to Michael Abaie, program executive officer, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), and Kingston Reif, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms

Control (DASD(TRAC)), for coming. He thanked Lt. Col. Edward Williams, outgoing commander, Blue Grass Chemical Activity, for his transparency and communication and for introducing his successor, Lt. Col. Tyler McKee.

Key Updates

Remarks from DOD Visitors – Kington Reif, DASD(TRAC), and Michael Abaie, Program Executive Officer, ACWA

Reif said Deborah Rosenblum, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical, and Biological Defense Programs, sends her congratulations to everyone involved in completing the VX rocket campaign. He said he continues to be impressed by the significant progress of the site and workforce in destroying the remaining chemical weapons stockpile in Kentucky and noted the process of changeover from VX to GB rockets had already begun in the main plant. He said the team is clearly committed to ensuring the site is positioned for the execution of the last and largest munitions destruction campaign at BGCAPP. Reif noted comments during the preceding special event from U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and Robert Blythe, mayor, City of Richmond, about the importance of meeting program commitments and added that was especially important amid a challenging international security climate, noting the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty commitment and his commitment to ensuring ACWA has the resources and flexibility it needs to complete the mission successfully.

Abaie praised the pre-meeting VX campaign completion celebration and thanked Marko, Mark York and their teams for the hard work. He said the program is laser-focused on safely destroying the last set of munitions and eliminating the stockpile in Kentucky, while noting an increasing focus on closure and cleanup of secondary wastes including the draining of rocket warheads and Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) use to process VX and GB warheads stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD). Abaie said the closure process will take several years and will involve working with the community to transition real estate and leverage economic development opportunities, and a working group for closure will start in earnest over the next few months. He said the surety process will continue until all drained warheads are destroyed and for six months thereafter, with CSEPP funding secured through 2025 at this point.

Marko then noted the following action items from the March 9, 2022, CAC/CDCAB meeting:

Action Item	Steps Taken	Date/Status
Provide request for public involvement opportunities for future use of the SDC units to the appropriate decision authority and report back to the CAC/CDCAB.	Abaie provided information about discussions with the Program Executive Office for Armaments and Ammunition as well as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition,	Complete.

	Logistics and Technology to figure out the path forward. He will continue to make sure everyone is aware of the SDC systems' capabilities. No decision about future use of the SDC units has yet been made.	
Provide schedule for SDC 1200 off-gas treatment system completion.	The team is tracking September 2022 completion.	Complete.
Provide information on which U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office will visit BGCAPP in March 2022.	The EPA's Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery and headquarters visited on March 23 and EPA's Research and Development Laboratory visited on April 27. Craig Williams participated in the April visit.	Complete.

BGCAPP Project Update – Dr. Candace Coyle, Site Project Manager, BGCAPP, and Ron Hink, Project Manager, BPBG

Slides of this presentation may be obtained by contacting the ORO at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@iem.com.

Coyle began by thanking everyone for their attendance, including Reif, Abaie and Nick Stamatakis, deputy program executive officer, ACWA, and for celebrating the VX milestone. She said there is good momentum following that campaign and during plant changeover for the GB rocket campaign. She noted 47% completion of agent destruction and 49% of munition destruction, saying the discrepancy is due to the rockets containing more agent and that 51% of BGCAPP's weapons remain. She said the GB rocket campaign is imminent, starting in the next month. Coyle said completing four campaigns in fewer than three years was a significant accomplishment given the number of munition types and number of different agents that needed to be destroyed.

Hink gave a main plant update, including three Class 2 permit modification requests submitted to KDEP to facilitate GB rocket processing, noting a public meeting on June 9. He said the plant is trying to seek flexibility to address gels and crystals known to exist in the agent in some rockets and those challenging conditions require planning. He said the three-month changeover to prepare the plant for GB rockets included decontamination that went well with no surprises. He said preventative and corrective maintenance was ahead of schedule and issues encountered were dealt with promptly due to maintenance

performed in the previous campaign. He said the changeover presented opportunities to optimize equipment in light of the differences between VX and GB rockets, such as the warhead wrappers requiring additional stabilization and inserting programming for automated recoveries where possible. Hink said the grip force of the robots needed to be adjusted due to suspected wall thinning in rocket warheads, to help avoid risky and lengthy cleanups. He noted this is not a redesign, but incorporating lessons learned from the VX rocket destruction campaign.

Hink said the last shipment of rocket motors generated by the VX campaign should have left the site today (June 8) and the VX hydrolysate shipments should conclude by the end of June. He said if things go as planned, the GB rocket campaign should begin in early July, noting the plant looks for opportunities to advance the schedule.

As part of changeover activities, Hink said, disassembled Cavity Access Machines from the projectile campaigns were being decontaminated through the Metal Parts Treater, calling it good business to deal with it now in that way rather than putting it off for later.

Giving an SDC 1200 update, Hink said the facility is being adapted to also process GB agent as a contingency. He said the detonation chamber cradle was refurbished to like-new condition after the mustard campaign. Electrical work remains, he said.

Coyle said the SDC 2000 facility will destroy drained GB nerve agent rocket warheads and overpacked GB rockets and munition components. Coyle and Hink thanked KDEP for allowing the plant flexibility as the team learns more. She said the first system turnover, the Electrical Distribution System, will happen by the end of the month. Automated loading station equipment installation continues along with external work on the enclosure building and completion of electrical work and equipment installation in the Entry Control Facility. She noted success in overcoming market challenges and keeping electrical work on track, with the SDC 2000 expected to be complete by the end of November.

Coyle said project personnel continue developing closure plans to submit to KDEP. She said Munitions Washout System room decontamination and equipment removal to support the VX to GB changeover is nearing completion, and the system will soon be positioned for final remediation and unventilated monitoring testing. Coyle also noted the Process Working Group met May 11 and had a productive conversation about the new Closure Working Group. That group will begin meeting in late fall, once the GB campaign ramp-up is complete.

Giving a Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO) study update, Coyle said there were two EPA visits in March and April. The April visit included a fact-finding discussion with the EPA and U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center on a waste feed source, polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) (man-made chemicals found in the environment), that could potentially be treated using the SCWO technology. Coyle stressed that there are currently no plans to bring anything to BGAD for testing or treatment, and that the EPA is currently investigating use of SCWO as part of a larger developmental testing effort to address PFAS pollution treatment to restore contaminated

waters. She called the visit informative and helpful in allowing the EPA to assess the capabilities of this SCWO, which was made for chemical demilitarization purposes. She said this is the second and final year of a two-year study ACWA is leading, which is currently focused on the cost estimations and potential funding of a SCWO transition in support of site closure planning. Coyle said they are on track to provide SCWO's potential-use courses of action in early 2023 in support of the End State Memorandum of Understanding with BGAD.

Hink then gave a safety update, highlighting low recordable injury rates. He said COVID-19 infection rates were low but steady, ranging between six and 10 active cases; noting the virus is still here and the plant is managing it reasonably well and coaching staff on expectations.

Summarizing the plant's economic impact, Hink said \$193.5 million had been spent with Kentucky companies to date, including \$113 million spent in Madison and surrounding counties. Staffing is currently at 1,455. He said the plan was to top out staffing at 1,550 but attrition and the challenges of losing the training, culture, and investments of time and money when employees leave are keeping it lower and making it necessary to encourage workers to stay. Local payroll to date was \$1.172 billion. He said available positions do not change much, with a lot of turnover of entry-level positions at Battelle, which he said was not necessarily negative as people are moving up into more trained positions and recruitment is going well. He also noted high attrition plus training and background clearance challenges with Parsons chemical demilitarization plant operators and a notable deficit in Amentum instrument and control technicians. Hink said they are looking at cross-training electricians in taking on instrumentation controls, noting this is not ideal, but necessary to focus on over the next six to 12 months in trying to figure out how to recruit for those positions. He said this is not a situation that is unique to BGCAPP or Kentucky, adding it was a national shortage and it may be necessary to recruit more candidates directly out of school and train them on the job. Recruiting events continue along with electronic or virtual recruitment that can reach a lot of people, he said.

Blythe asked what the manner of transportation for hydrolysate and rocket motors for off-site destruction will be. Hink replied they will be trucked. The rocket motors will be destroyed at ACWA'S Anniston Field Office SDC, and hydrolysate is being treated at Veolia Environmental Services near Port Arthur, Texas.

Jeanne Hibberd asked whether the public should be re-educated in the unlikely event of a chemical accident or incident. Dustin Heiser said messaging campaigns continue and sirens are being revamped. He said communication among partners was so effective that the plant's operations did not see a mission change due to the effects of COVID-19.

Harry Moberly asked if there will be any significant difference between the VX and GB nerve agent destruction processes. Hink said the biggest change the workforce will see is the logistics and movement of materials involved with SDC 1200 and SDC 2000 startup. He said going into the GB rocket destruction campaign, more off-normal rocket variables are being assumed even if they are not guaranteed with GB rockets. Coyle said the plant is not going into this assuming the best, that they are preparing for challenges. She also

emphasized this is not the first time the workforce has processed GB, noting the destruction of GB 8-inch projectiles in 2020. Hink said the workforce is being trained and given the tools and knowledge necessary to respond to challenges, so they will feel comfortable with the new process. Abaie noted the key during changeover is training the workforce, that it is not just about the equipment or monitoring changeover. He said the workforce is the tip of the spear during processing, and their training is crucial to their roles.

Moberly requested an update on the staff reduction timeline. Hink accepted this action item, and said staffing is basically set to be flat with current levels until monitoring is “clean” well into the closure process.

Moberly asked who decides which charities the project donates to and what amount is donated and if local communities could be considered. Hink said he has a budget for those donations and is able to respond to giving opportunities that arise, such as tornadoes in Kentucky. Coyle noted contributions from the workforce that increase the charitable amount provided. Moberly suggested pre-emptive contributions to offset county services that may be lost when the federal funding goes away for emergency services. Hink said that may not be impossible but would be a harder “sell” than requesting money to respond to a natural disaster. He said they could talk further about it at another time.

KDEP Permitting Updates – April Webb, Hazardous Waste Branch Manager, KDEP

Webb said 19 permit modifications had been approved since the last CAC/CDCAB meeting, noting that was a lot over three months compared to other facilities in Kentucky. She noted applications currently in review, not just for BGCAPP but also for BGAD, included open burn/open detonation, sediment control plan, controlled detonation chamber modifications and more. She said KDEP participated in the March EPA visit for the depot’s open burn/open detonation and Toxic Substances Control Act permitting issues. She said Dale Burton had been replaced by Olivia Beasley.

EIWG Updates – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB

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Williams introduced Lucas Witt, co-founder and partner, MWM Consulting, to present an update on the scope of his firm’s U.S. Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation \$400,000 grant work for the Blue Grass Area Development District (BGADD). Witt highlighted the area’s economic resiliency and infrastructure and noted the national workforce shortage, and Williams described a unique situation in the area with a highly trained workforce, security trained and drug tested, with a fairly certain end date when they will be available to outside employers looking into relocating to the area. Stephanie Nelson asked Witt when the MWM study will be completed. Witt said it is due to BGADD and Washington, D.C., in January 2023, with opportunities for

extension if needed. William Ritter added that the depot is commissioning a similar feasibility study specifically regarding what military-based industries might be able to locate there. Witt said David Anders, director of operations, BGAD, had been helpful in describing his goals and hopes for his study. Brian Freeman, director of base operations and support, BGAD, noted a depot map in the MWM presentation but Witt said the analysis could include sites and buildings that are not currently available on or off the depot footprint. Freeman also noted BGAD has many active ammunition programs that will remain years after the chemical demilitarization is complete, making compatibility and safety an issue. Blythe said he hoped for cooperative efforts in the future, noting he had toured the Anniston SDC and seen the different uses it had been put to once the project there ended.

Closing Remarks – Reagan Taylor and Craig Williams, Co-Chairs, CDCAB; Michael Abaie, Program Executive Officer, ACWA; and Kington Reif, DASD(TRAC)

Taylor thanked everyone for their attendance and Williams thanked Marko and York and their teams, as well as Reif and Abaie and the congressional delegation's representatives.

Abaie also thanked the assemblage, and Reif added his thanks and said he looks forward to working closely with everyone as the last BGCAPP munitions campaign prepares to move forward.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting format has yet to be determined.

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