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**Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting
Summary of Action Items and Discussions
June 8, 2010
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky**

Meeting Synopsis

The meeting was designed to provide an update on the following:

- House Armed Services Committee Update
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Update
- Recent Changes in Department of Defense Responsibility for Chemical Weapons Destruction
- Farewell Address from Outgoing Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) Commander
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Relief Program Announcement

Meeting Summary Structure

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations, but instead will provide an overview of the discussions and next steps committed to by the government 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 handouts presented during the meeting can be obtained from the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office (ORO) at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Action Items

Action Item: The CAC/CDCAB chairs will distribute a memo to commission and board members regarding the interest and possibility of re-engaging the Economic Development Working Group.

Responsible Entity: Craig Williams, CDCAB, co-chair.

Timeline: Sept. 14, 2010.

Action Item: The CAC/CDCAB members will invite Dr. Tom Hopkins, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs), to the next CAC/CDCAB meeting.

Responsible Entity: Craig Williams, CDCAB, co-chair.

Timeline: Sept. 14, 2010.

Action Item: The CAC/CDCAB to receive a BGCAPP site tour prior to the September quarterly meeting.

Responsible Entity: Chris Higginbotham, Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile ORO manager.

Timeline: Sept. 14, 2010.

Action Item: The CAC/CDCAB chairs will poll commission and board members regarding their thoughts on future agenda topics.

Responsible Entity: Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair.

Timeline: Sept. 14, 2010.

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Chris Higginbotham, ORO, Outreach Manager

Chris Higginbotham welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the action items from the March 9 CAC/CDCAB meeting, which consisted of the following: a poll of the CAC/CDCAB membership to determine the need for an evening meeting, which has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Sept. 14; and a request of the group membership to determine the need for further technological briefings on the BGCAPP project. The group did not feel further technological briefings were necessary for the June 2010 quarterly meeting.

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

Doug Hindman thanked everyone for their attendance and had two requests of the group. First, he would like to again poll members regarding future technology briefings at meetings and request that members respond to the poll. Second, he encouraged members to tell their friends and colleagues about the CAC/CDCAB and the project in general, in an effort to proliferate information and answer questions.

Kent Clark also thanked attendees and said it was important to stay involved.

Craig Williams welcomed the people who were sitting in for those members who could not attend the meeting and greeted Lt. Col. Steve Basso, the incoming BGCA commander.

Key Updates

House Armed Services Committee Update – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair

Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Craig Williams discussed the language found in the House of Representatives defense authorization bill, House Armed Services Committee Mark, Sec. 2412 Modification of Authority to Carry Out Certain Fiscal Year 2000 Project that would have modified the type of contract currently in place for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) project. He said the consensus among the Kentucky and Colorado delegations was that this provision could have significant negative impact on the schedule and cost of the BGCAPP project and that Rep. Ben Chandler (D-Ky., 6th District) introduced a successful amendment to strike the language from the bill. The Senate version of this bill did not have the language introduced. Williams said the BGCAPP project would be able to continue with the current contract as it exists.

Robert Miller, CDCAB member, asked about the motivation behind the change and Williams replied that it probably came from House Armed Services Committee staff members, but can only speculate as to why.

Miller asked if this was the Pentagon's general approach to other budgets and Williams replied he didn't know, but everyone would need to remain vigilant since there are a lot of people whose actions can severely impact this project. He said it was good to have Rep. Chandler and the rest of the elected officials to help watch for these issues.

Nora Shepherd, CDCAB member, asked if the amended language was directed solely at the BGCAPP project, which Williams affirmed.

BGCAPP Update – Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP, Site Project Manager

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Jeff Brubaker introduced Jim Richmond, U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) risk manager; C.T. Anderson, ACWA Surety and Safety group; Samuel Hudson, the new Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) public affairs officer; and Lt. Col. Steven Basso, incoming BGCA commander.

Brubaker then gave an update on the BGCAPP project, beginning with a brief history. He discussed the type of munitions and chemical agents involved and the hiring of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass as the systems contractor responsible for design, construction, operations and closure of the facility. Following the brief history segment, Brubaker summarized current project information, saying contracts had recently been awarded for Blue Grass-Specific Process Equipment, the equipment that will process the chemical munitions; the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) horizontal concrete would be complete next month; an X-ray assessment of the mustard (H) stockpile would begin in the fall; and the project has received full funding (\$240 million in 2011) that will grow annually to more than \$300 million in 2015. He noted the operations phase was based on 24-hours/7-days-a-week operations.

Miller asked if the recent flooding had affected the construction site and Brubaker said no, that the drainage system had worked very well. He explained that all that was needed was area dewatering for a couple hours, where some large puddles had to be pumped out of the MDB.

Doug Hindman asked about the project schedule and Brubaker replied the project was on schedule, with some construction projects being ahead of schedule. He noted the project was working outside of the standard schedule to get ahead, to counter the possible impact of winter weather later this year.

Leslie Kaylor, representative for CDCAB member Steve Karcher, asked if there were any plans for the facility after the destruction of the chemical weapons munitions, and Brubaker answered they have not been finalized at this point. He said that some would be addressed in the closure plan of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permitting process, and that the final review, decision and approval would be through the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He noted the non-agent contaminated facilities may be retained, while the agent-exposed facilities would be removed in their entirety. Williams asked if that meant the infrastructure or equipment or both, and Brubaker said that has not yet been determined, but at the other destruction sites, the equipment and facilities had been completely removed.

Williams asked if the X-ray assessment of the H stockpile would be of selected lots or the whole H stockpile. Brubaker replied it would be a representative sampling, as it would not be effective to do the entire H stockpile. He said H munitions were stored in four igloos and they would sample from each igloo. Williams asked if there was a sampling plan yet, and Brubaker said it is in draft and not finalized. Williams asked if the CAC/CDCAB could see it when it was final and Brubaker agreed.

Kaylor asked if this destruction process is currently in use anywhere in the United States. Brubaker said not right now, but many aspects of it had been successfully used elsewhere, such as the Newport and Aberdeen chemical weapons destruction facilities, and the process has been used in different scales and/or capacities for more than 30 years.

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Update – Mark Seely, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, Project Manager

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Mark Seely began his update by saying that workers have completed more than 5.3 million hours without a lost-time accident as of May 31, and that there has been significant progress on the site since the last CAC/CDCAB meeting. More than 3,400 cubic yards of concrete, 220 tons of reinforcing steel (rebar), 31,000 pounds of steel embeds and 150 tons of structural steel (almost 400 tons since the beginning of the year) have been placed and installed on the project site since the last meeting.

Seely said there was also progress on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program Star Status submission. The application has been submitted and accepted but there is a backlog of other applications with OSHA. Employee-based safety teams have taken an active leadership role in the process.

He said the design portion of the project can now be considered 100 percent complete pending government review. He then gave information about the Blue Grass-Specific Equipment that has been completed.

Williams noted that he, CDCAB member David Bengé and others were very interested in the economic aspect of the project and were considering resurrecting the Economic Development Working Group (EDWG) to make people aware of the project's economic impact. Williams said the hope is to keep project expertise and capability in the area after the project is complete. He will send a memo to the group and noted they will need a chair, as he will not be doing it.

Williams expressed pride, saying he never thought the project would get to 100 percent design completion and that vertical walls would be coming out of the ground. He congratulated everyone involved.

Miller said the project safety record was astounding and asked if the project was past the most dangerous phase of construction. Seely said no, and referred to what he said were Kevin Flamm's thoughts that construction is more dangerous than operations. Seely said he felt the danger was not in phases, but rather in life-critical behaviors. These operations—elevated work, energized systems, and work in confined spaces—remain the most dangerous.

Richmond noted the recent Chemical Weapons Demilitarization Convention in Prague where two trade workers gave their personal views on how satisfying it was to work in the program's safety culture. He noted the change in oversight at the office of the Secretary of Defense. Following Jean Reed's retirement, Dr. Tom Hopkins has assumed the role of Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear and Chemical and

Biological Defense Programs). He also said Hopkins reinforces the ACWA program's position that safety is the number-one priority and applauds those who have made the safety program so successful.

Benge said it is important to him as a life-long resident of the area that the chemicals be destroyed safely. As a banker, he said he knows the economic impact on the area is significant. He will be speaking to the past Chamber presidents this evening and will discuss the EDWG idea. Seely noted that Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass' Public Communications and Sustainable Development Group Manager John Schlatter would like to be part of the EDWG if it re-forms.

Recent Changes in Department of Defense Responsibility for Chemical Weapons Destruction – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair

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Speaking in his capacity as Madison County Liaison, a civilian position that reports on the BGCAPP project to county government, Williams conveyed the change in the ACWA chain of command, explaining that Hopkins had assumed the demilitarization responsibilities of Reed, and said he met with Hopkins in April to discuss the ACWA program. Williams noted that several topics were discussed during the meeting, which included the RAND study, management structure, funding, Explosive Destruction Technologies and ACWA's ability to now do a detailed program life-cycle requirements/budget review. Williams noted the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency is on a sunset curve—that they will be seeking opportunities when their sites complete closure unless they maintain storage oversight at BGAD and the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, and there may be mergers and ways to share knowledge between the programs. Williams said Hopkins was receptive to an invitation to visit BGCAPP. Williams proposed that Hopkins be invited to the September CAC/CDCAB meeting, and the CAC/CDCAB members should tour the construction site beforehand to be conversant with the state of the facility.

Bill Palahunich, a local resident, asked what Williams expects from Hopkins if he visits. Williams said he would like Hopkins to see the high level of community involvement and how closely the weapons are stored to the community, so he wouldn't be susceptible to proposed budget cuts to the project. Hindman also proposed to invite Hopkins to the September meeting and no attendees voiced concerns over this proposal.

Farewell Address from Outgoing BGCA Commander– Lt. Col. David Musgrave, BGCA, Commander

Musgrave thanked the community and said none of the progress that has been made over the last two years could have happened without the public's support. He pointed out the end result of project's efforts is what matters—that the community and workers are

safe, and the program is better than it was two years ago. He said Basso would take it to the next level. Musgrave then noted BGCA has come a long way in the time he has been here, referencing improved infrastructure, funding and the new headquarters building. He discussed the lab and how its capacity has increased, and how the crews go out into the community to fairs and events to give the public information about BGCA operations. Musgrave said that BGCA came through the recent Department of the Army inspection with flying colors—the best report of any site inspected this year. Musgrave then stated that there are future operations to think about, like the H (mustard) munitions X-ray campaign, and said BGCA works every process through the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) and doesn't do anything without KDEP approval.

Musgrave brought up the Monitoring Working Group (MWG), and said it took great strides to look at the Quantitative Risk Assessment and learn about monitoring, and Musgrave feels confident BGCA is using the best technology it can today. He asked that the group look at the MWG's original goals and objectives and consider bringing it to closure, based on the completion of the majority of the objectives.

Musgrave discussed his next assignment and said he would be going to the Pentagon for two months and then on to Iraq. He plans to return to see the last munition processed.

Williams and Miller expressed their thanks to and respect for Musgrave. Williams said he feels better than he's ever felt about the security of the stockpile. Miller said Musgrave's intellect, integrity and honesty have been refreshing.

FEMA Flood Relief Program Announcement – Verdie Culpepper, FEMA, Voluntary Agency Liaison

Verdie Culpepper gave information on how to access flood relief information and resources. She said she had flyers on how FEMA works in a disaster and 800 numbers for those who need crisis counseling, legal aid or unemployment insurance, as well as other numbers for those who need volunteer help.

Culpepper said she works with local organizations and the Long-Term Recovery Committee (Un-Met Needs Committee), and they work to pool resources for people who have exhausted their federal aid.

She is working out of the Joint Field Staff office in Lexington and has been meeting with Carl Richards, Madison County Emergency Management Agency director, regarding the flood. She said disaster response begins with local people, then FEMA steps in. When FEMA's job is done, additional assistance would come from the local people again, and her group can help with those tie-ins.

Williams asked if her group had a website and Culpepper provided the following URL: <http://www.kyvoad.org/>.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14 at 6 p.m. at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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

Hindman reiterated his request for CAC/CDCAB members to make their contacts aware of information about the BGCAPP project.

Williams thanked everyone for their participation and ongoing engagement. He related an anecdote of making a pact with the previous BGCA commander to try to buy the clean metal scrap from the last chemical munition processed to create a sculpture for public enjoyment.

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