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Kent Clark  
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Co-Chairs

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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 14, 2011  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Richmond, Kentucky**

**Attendees**

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

Doug Hindman, Tim Hubbard, Diane Kerby, Robert Miller, Charles O'Neal (for Brig. Gen. John Heltzel), Sheila Pressley, Aaron Thompson and Craig Williams

**Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB):** Tim Barrett (for Col. Brian Rogers), Lt. Col. Steven Basso, Dan Bayens, David Bengel, Jeff Brubaker, Betsy Dexter, Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Terry House, Tim Hubbard, Steve Karcher, Diane Kerby, Tom McKinney, Robert Miller, Bill Nave, Charles O'Neal (for Brig. Gen. John Heltzel), Carl Richards and Craig Williams

**Media Attendees:**

*The Richmond Register:* Bill Robinson  
*Lexington Herald-Leader:* Greg Kocher

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Systems Contractor Update
- Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO) Briefing
- CDCAB Co-Chair Updates
- Remarks from Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) Commander
- X-Ray Assessment Progress Update
- Igloo Containment System Test

## **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@iem.com.

### **Action Items**

**Action Item:** Proposal of the 2012 meeting dates: March 13, June 12, Sept. 11 and Dec. 11, to CAC/CDCAB members for comment.

**Responsible Entity:** Chris Higginbotham, ORO manager.

**Timeline:** Prior to Sept. 13, 2011.

**Action Item:** Provide biannual updates regarding BGCAPP employment diversity numbers to the CAC/CDCAB.

**Responsible Entity:** Tom McKinney, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager.

**Timeline:** Sept. 13, 2011.

**Action Item:** Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair, to distribute his changes to language of legislative bill regarding Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) and Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) relationship to CAC/CDCAB members for their comment.

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair, and CAC/CDCAB members.

**Timeline:** Prior to Sept. 13, 2011.

**Action Item:** Poll CAC/CDCAB members for ideas for future technical briefing topics.

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

**Timeline:** Prior to Sept. 13, 2011.

### **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 following action items from the March 8 CAC/CDCAB meeting:

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Steps Taken</b>	<b>Date/Status</b>
A poll of CAC/CDCAB members to be taken to determine Nora Shepherd's replacement.	Poll taken: Diane Kerby was appointed to the position and approved by the governor.	June 14
CAC/CDCAB to make a formal recommendation on the Bulk Oxidizer replacement.	Recommendation was made and Craig Williams discussed in his briefing.	June 14
A request was made to add CAC/CDCAB members to the <i>Connect with BGCAPP</i> e-newsletter distribution.	Completed.	May 9
A poll of CAC/CDCAB members was requested to determine technical topics for future meetings.	The poll determined an interest in a briefing on the SCWO process. Dr. John Barton delivered this briefing on June 14.	June 14

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

Hindman welcomed members and attendees and noted Terry House will be attending the upcoming national convention for the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program.

Williams welcomed Tim Hubbard, who is replacing Valerie Hudson, who has retired. He extended the group's condolences to the family of Toivo (Whitey) Puro, who passed away earlier in the year. Williams noted Kent Clark would not be attending the meeting, and welcomed Tom McKinney to the group.

**Key Updates**

***BGCAPP Update – Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP, Site Project Manager (SPM)***

***Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the ORO at (859) 626-8944 or [bgoutreach@iem.com](mailto:bgoutreach@iem.com).***

Jeff Brubaker provided an update of BGCAPP activities and discussed recent construction progress. He gave updates on the progress of the major site buildings and noted the Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO) Processing Building foundation is complete and the last blast door of the Munitions Demilitarization Building had been installed. Brubaker updated the group on recent site tours and 2011 project initiatives, including the now-completed X-ray assessment of mustard projectiles at BGCA. He then gave an overview

of the education outreach program and said an outreach representative, Siobhan Keeley, had been hired for that position. Brubaker said roughly 75 percent of the Thermal Oxidizer documentation has been submitted for review and approval, with receipt of equipment still anticipated by year's end. He closed by showing the site progress made in a year with aerial photos from 2010 and 2011.

Robert Miller asked about the percentage of the sample projectiles for the X-ray assessment and how random the sampling process was. Brubaker explained that 96 projectiles were selected for a confidence level of 95 percent and the rounds were selected from particular quadrants inside the storage igloos.

***Systems Contractor Update – Tom McKinney, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, Project Manager***

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Tom McKinney shared some personal career background information and said he was glad to be back in the chemical demilitarization program. He presented a project update covering safety, project staffing and small business and community involvement. McKinney told the group his goal is to have zero accidents and he firmly believes that goal is achievable. He brought up a recent supplier information session and noted the use of local vendors is one of his top priorities. He discussed Blue Grass-Specific Equipment progress and system testing, and showed pictures of some of the assembled equipment. McKinney gave an update on the Thermal Oxidizer path forward and said equipment fabrication should commence in late summer. McKinney then presented percentage-complete updates on the major buildings and said electrical work will ramp up during the next several years.

Aaron Thompson asked about BGCAPP's employment of people of different ethnicities or diverse backgrounds, and said he would appreciate an update on those numbers at every other meeting.

Williams asked if there had been any inhibition in execution of the project based on supplies, materials, workforce issues, or other factors. McKinney replied weather had been a consideration this spring, but the project was still on schedule and is making up time in the good weather. He noted a potential concern when electricians will be needed, as their supply is short across the nation.

Robert Miller asked about the distances workers have to travel to go to work and if fatigue was a concern. McKinney said some commute up to two hours but their safety is a constant priority.

David Benge asked if the current workforce numbers were expected to grow, and McKinney said they plan to peak at around 1,000. Benge then asked what would happen

to the project team members based at other locations. McKinney said most of those personnel are working on special equipment for the BGCAPP project and will move on to other contracts when that equipment is complete. Bengé asked how many counties were included in the “local hire” information; McKinney said Madison and its surrounding counties.

House asked if the project was still ahead of schedule, and McKinney said it was on schedule.

***SCWO Briefing – Dr. John Barton, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, Chief Scientist***

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Dr. John Barton explained the scientific process of SCWO and how it would be used to process hydrolysate at BGCAPP. He then gave information about the BGCAPP SCWO equipment, explained how the SCWO process works and described the output from the process. Barton said the first SCWO processing unit is being fabricated and will be tested next year to make sure it works properly, before the two additional units are fabricated.

Miller asked how likely it would be that the system would get out of balance and what would make that happen. He asked if this was the most dangerous part of the BGCAPP process, and Barton said, to him, the nerve agents were the most dangerous. He reminded everyone of the danger of being complacent with the less-dangerous processes while focusing on the safety of the nerve agent processes.

Williams asked if the danger of chemical agent was mitigated before the SCWO process and Barton replied that the danger would only be from the extreme causticity of the hydrolysate, as the chemical agent had previously been destroyed in the neutralization process.

Sheila Pressley inquired about the final disposal of the brine solution, and Barton said the contract for that had not been let yet, but there were several options. House asked about the disposal of the titanium liners, which Barton said were standard industrial waste.

Charlie O’Neal asked if a containment breach would contain raw chemical agent, and Barton replied it would not.

***CDCAB Co-Chair Updates – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair***

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Williams told the group Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) office informed him that the Nunn-McCurdy process had resulted in recertification of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program. He then gave updates on several topics:

- Thermal Oxidizer recommendation—he anticipated the output of the Thermal Oxidizer system would be very similar to the Bulk Oxidizer system, and the data demonstrated that was the case. He thinks the switch in approach will be a good one.
- Monitoring Working Group (MWG)—Williams said the group would convene again to discuss working group closure after the Igloo Containment System evaluation.
- Economic Development Working Group (EDWG)—Williams noted the scope of work on the economic development study is now finalized and the group is seeking funding for the study. Dr. Frank O'Connor will be the lead on the project. Williams will speak on the economic development and impact of the BGCAPP project at a meeting of the Lexington Blue Grass Realtors' Association on June 22.
- Legislative—Williams, as director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group, provided a response to a House bill that struck language keeping the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) separate from ACWA. He wants to encourage cooperation but retain ACWA's independence. Williams will circulate his change to the CAC/CDCAB members. Williams said he had discussed his change with several program, county and government representatives, and they agreed with him.

Thompson asked whether Williams anticipated any issues with the legislative language change, and Williams thought it has a very good chance of moving forward.

Doug Hindman asked if the CAC/CDCAB needed to make a formal recommendation regarding the legislative language change and what the time frame would be. Williams replied he would circulate the version he will receive from Sen. Mark Udall's (D-Colo.) office to the CAC/CDCAB and there should be adequate time to make changes as it has to go through the whole legislative process.

Jeanne Hibberd asked what would happen in instances where ACWA and CMA approaches conflicted. Williams said independence would trump cooperation.

Hibberd then asked if the EDWG would be working with the Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB) on their economic study of the area. Williams replied the EDWG would integrate with the team but would not give them this study, which would be at too deep a level of detail for the SGPB's study.

**Remarks from the BGCA Commander** – Lt. Col. Steven Basso, BGCA, Commander

Lt. Col. Steven Basso said he was celebrating his one-year anniversary with BGCA and gave a brief introduction to the two BGCA presentations. He noted BGCA always looks for better ways to accomplish its mission, and the Igloo Containment System testing was born from that way of thinking.

**X-ray Assessment Progress Update** – David Velazquez, BGCA, Director of Chemical Operations

**Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the ORO at (859) 626-8944 or [bgoutreach@iem.com](mailto:bgoutreach@iem.com).**

David Velazquez informed the group that the X-ray assessment was complete as of June 14. He gave the group an overview of the assessment process, including the munitions inventory and selection, the general X-ray process, safety considerations and ongoing efforts. He noted that results would be provided to ACWA, assessed, and returned to the CAC/CDCAB in a report later this year. Velazquez said the original plan was to take three to five X-rays per munition, but that number was reduced to two to three X-rays, due to the good quality of the images. He mentioned that there was a good amount of solidification observed.

Miller asked about the safety process for the X-raying process. Velazquez explained that BGCA rotated personnel and limited the amount of time that workers spent with the munitions to the least amount possible.

Williams asked how many people were on the project on an average day. Velazquez said approximately 11 to 14, plus Emergency Operations Center staff.

Hindman asked what would happen to the assessed items afterward. Velazquez replied they would stay in the assessment igloo until they are to be destroyed, as BGCA's policy is to limit movement of the munitions.

**CDCAB Co-Chair Updates** – Todd Williams, BGCA, Director of Risk Management

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Todd Williams gave CAC/CDCAB members information about the testing of engineering controls for the chemical storage igloos at BGCA. He said similar systems are in place at Umatilla and Pueblo, but the main difference between those sites and the BGCA igloos is the more humid Kentucky climate. The humidity can cause mold growth and affect the life of carbon filters. T. Williams noted if any system were implemented, it would result in a permit change. He listed five options and an overview of each, and said the first test would be done on a conventional storage igloo outside the Chemical Limited Area. He

emphasized safety of the workforce (meaning all employees within the depot footprint), community and environment is always BGCA's top priority.

O'Neal requested the ICS (Igloo Containment System) acronym be changed to something different, so as not to be confused with the Incident Command System acronym, which is emergency-response related and recognized nationally. Basso agreed, and said he is working on that change.

House asked if the igloos in their current condition were adequate for BGCAPP's schedule, or if there were deterioration concerns. T. Williams responded that the only deterioration is water infiltration and the igloos are checked for that on a regular basis. Basso noted that BGCA has put tarps on about half of the igloos, due to water infiltration, and the tarps have been very successful. House asked if the igloos currently have vents, and T. Williams said yes.

Williams asked for a rough timeline on testing completion and the decision process. Basso said the test should be completed in early fall, with findings following probably in late fall. He will present the results to the CAC/CDCAB before making a recommendation.

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

Hindman gave thanks to the presenters, and said the briefings were of very high quality. He noted that Williams always does a great job of presenting complex material, and he appreciates Basso's sharing of information.

Williams noted Hubbard was not yet named as Hudson's permanent replacement.

***Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 13 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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