



Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization  
Citizens' Advisory Commission

Doug Hindman  
Chair

Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission  
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board  
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Reagan Taylor  
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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 17, 2015  
Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)  
Richmond, Kentucky**

**Attendees**

**CAC:** Tonita Goodwin, Doug Hindman, Mark Klaas, Sheila Pressley, Aaron Thompson and Craig Williams

**CDCAB:** Robert Blythe, Jeff Brubaker, Dale Burton, Colleen Chaney (for Reagan Taylor), Tonita Goodwin, Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Terry House, Sheila Johnson (for Lt. Col. Andrew Morgan), Leslie Kaylor, Mark Klaas, Tara Long, Brian Makinen, Kelley McBride (for Michael Bryant), Doug Omichinski, Sheila Pressley, David Rowlette, George Shuplinkov (for Col. Lee Hudson), Regina Stivers (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) office), Aaron Thompson, Craig Williams and Ethan Witt (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr's (R-Ky.) office)

**Media Attendees:**

*Lexington Herald-Leader:* Greg Kocher

*The Richmond Register:* Jonathan Greene

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Treaty Sampling Update
- M55 Rocket Motor Separation
- Discussion on Waste Code Amendment

## **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 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 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:** Provide larger format of the Rocket Handling System/Munitions Washout System and cyanide mitigation schedules.

**Responsible Entity:** Doug Omichinski, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager.

**Timeline:** By Sept. 9, 2015.

**Action Item:** Schedule a Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) tour around the date of the next meeting.

**Responsible Entity:** Sarah Parke, Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office manager.

**Timeline:** By Sept. 9, 2015.

**Action Item:** Hold Design Working Group meeting to discuss design modifications.

**Responsible Entity:** Jeff Brubaker, Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant site project manager.

**Timeline:** By Sept. 9, 2015.

**Action Item:** Finalize 2016 CAC/CDCAB meeting dates.

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

**Timeline:** By Sept. 9, 2015.

**Action Item:** Process the Explosive Destruction Technology Working Group recommendation on the treaty sampling process back through the larger CAC/CDCAB body.

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

**Timeline:** By Sept. 9, 2015.

**Action Item:** Convene meetings as necessary with the Secondary Waste Working Group on the waste-code modifications in order to process that through the CAC/CDCAB within the suggested schedule.

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

**Timeline:** By Sept. 9, 2015.

## **Outline of Key Issues and Discussions**

### ***Welcome and Introductions – Sarah Parke, Manager, ORO***

Parke welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the following action items from the March 18, 2015, CAC/CDCAB meeting:

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Steps Taken</b>	<b>Date/Status</b>
Rocket Handling System/ Munitions Washout System design-change schedule charts to be provided to Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) chairs in a larger format.	Delivered to CAC/CDCAB members on April 23, 2015.	Complete
Information about and scope of work for each of the Explosive Destruction Technology subcontractors.	Delivered to CAC/CDCAB members on April 23, 2015.	Complete

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

Hindman welcomed everyone. Williams thanked everyone for their participation and apologized for the film-support solicitation made by the Kentucky Environmental Federation board member at the last meeting, saying it was not the proper format for that request. He then said the third phase of the Economic Development Working Group's economic study will be modified to focus more on the reuse of the infrastructure and facilities that will remain, and the group will work more closely with the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) on its reuse of the facility instead of trying to attract outside entities. He said the group all agrees they would like to keep the depot active and viable for the community. Williams listed several commission and board members who were unable to attend the meeting.

## Key Updates

***BGCAPP Project Update – Jeff Brubaker, Site Project Manager (SPM), BGCAPP, and Doug Omichinski, Project Manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG)***

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

Brubaker showed the June site aerial photograph and noted the progress made at the site since the winter. He said several facilities – the Entry Control Facility, Medical Facility, Personnel Maintenance Building and Container Handling Building – were scheduled to be completed in the next two months, along with the electrical installation in the Supercritical Water Oxidation Processing Building. The focus is the substantial construction completion milestone of July 31, 2015. Brubaker said BPBG has started ramping down the numbers of craft workers and will continue to do so through September. BPBG will continue to work construction punch-list items between July 31 and October, and there will be some small items such as roadwork, paving and fencing that will continue. Installation of the physical security systems will come later. Omichinski said systemization is at almost 34 percent complete, 81 percent of the plant now belongs to the systemization team and systemization staffing will remain around 290 through the systemization phase. He noted the Rocket Handling System (RHS)/Munitions Washout System (MWS) design change has been issued to procurement to order materials. He said some coating and pipe fabrication work has started on that project, with the completion being pushed to October due to the wait for receipt of long lead-time components. The modifications being implemented for cyanide destruction are scheduled to complete in July. Omichinski will provide the calendar schedules for the RHS/MWS and cyanide projects to CAC/CDCAB members. Brubaker discussed the successful completion of the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) Factory Acceptance Testing at the Dynasafe workshop in Kristinehamn, Sweden and the SDC's arrival at the site in the late August/early September time frame. He noted demolition work has already started to prepare the SDC Enclosure Building area and structure construction will begin later this year. Omichinski said safety performance continues to be very good, with the project achieving the lowest rates in its history even though it is one of the most involved times for the project right now. He said the first-aid rate is the lowest since 2011. He focused on the personnel shift as the construction team starts to leave. He said as more specialized people are being brought in for the testing period, the local-hire numbers may fall, but will rise again as operations personnel are hired.

Terry House asked if there had been any serious glitches with the project so far. Brubaker said the glitches had been the RHS/MWS issues and the facility blast plenums, which had to have a lot more fabrication work on site than originally expected.

Robert Blythe asked about the next opportunity for a site tour. Brubaker said perhaps around the next meeting date in September.

Leslie Kaylor asked Brubaker to share the latest Explosive Destruction Technology schedule. He said that project is expected to begin destruction operations in early 2017 and conclude by end of 2017. The startup of the main plant will follow, most likely in 2018 at this point.

Williams asked when there would be closure on the MWS issue. Brubaker said he hopes to present information about the MWS to the Design Working Group within the next 30 days and at the next CAC/CDCAB meeting in September.

Williams reminded the group that members had gone to visit the Anniston, Alabama, SDC during its operations to destroy conventional munitions now that its chemical-munitions destruction mission is complete. He noted the Japanese had also visited that project, as they plan to use an SDC as well. He said the CAC/CDCAB's confidence is very high in the SDC.

***Treaty Sampling Update – Eddie Whitworth, Deputy SPM, BGCAPP***

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

Whitworth explained how the sampling of the mustard agent for the munitions that will be destroyed using the EDT process will be different from the main plant munitions. He said project personnel had considered several non-invasive sampling methods and the treaty personnel were not in agreement with a non-invasive approach. Whitworth said the project assembled a team to comply with the treaty regulations – a working group that determined a path forward on this project. The EDT process does not access the munitions, so they will be sampled through a contained glove-box drilling process approved by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in 2014. This will occur four to six weeks prior to the end of EDT operations, likely around early to late fall 2017. He discussed the process and operational approach, showed the planned location and layout of the mobile-laboratory-based sampling operation and explained the transport of the munitions. Whitworth said the personnel performing this activity have prior experience with this process.

Williams noted the EDT Working Group has met several times on this topic and appreciates being brought in early. He said his confidence is high in the transport system and the working group's confidence in the whole process is very high. He will make a recommendation to the CAC/CDCAB and produce a formal recommendation for this process for the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA).

***M55 Rocket Motor Separation— John Trosper, Quality Assurance Specialist (Ammunition Surveillance), Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA)***

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

Trosper recapped this project by saying, "We took apart some rockets in a very safe manner and got back a great report." He discussed the background and an overview of the project, which was to test Blue Grass M55 rocket propellant in order to validate best practices for storage, handling and transportation, and described the separation process and gear worn by the workers. Trosper said it was also important to test rockets that had been in the water-watch igloos, where water had leaked into the structures in the past. He said direction from the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity changed the test sample size to 42 from 44 due to the fact that the first two rockets came from a "wet" igloo and were troublesome to open. Of the 42 rockets, 23 were sent to Picatinny, New Jersey, for testing. Trosper said the final report summary was excellent, that there was very minimal depletion of stabilizer, no difference between water-watch igloo rockets and regular rockets, compositional testing showed everything that was manufactured into the propellant is still there, they are within the range of thermal stability and there is no nitroglycerin migration into the shipping and firing tubes. The remaining propellant was shipped to Anniston, Alabama, for testing in their SDC. The majority of the propellant was destroyed and a few oversized pieces remain there for future testing. BGCA received a certificate of demilitarization for the destroyed motors. The remaining 19 rocket motors are being held in the Chemical Limited Area for future PEO ACWA testing.

House asked what Trosper's confidence level was with the total process and if he had any concerns. Trosper said he had total comfort and no concerns.

Williams said the group has been waiting anxiously on this report, as any other outcome would have made a significant impact on how they will handle this topic, and that this is absolutely the best news they could get. He said he is trying to emphasize just how important the results of this study are.

***Discussion on Waste Code Amendment – Scott Rowden, Environmental Permitting Manager, BPBG***

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

Rowden presented a proposed plan to change the waste codes on some materials generated from the chemical agent process but that are not composed of or contain chemical agent. The three chemical agents, GB, VX and mustard, are listed as acute hazardous wastes, which require a very high level of handling. Right now, anything related to the agent process, such as energetics hydrolysate, reverse osmosis reject fluid

or Metal Parts Treater residues and ash, must also be classified with this designation and handled as such. Changing the waste codes on these secondary materials will allow for enhanced management in the facility, negate triple-rinsing of containers holding these materials and provide for more proper markings for transport. This will keep first-responders from having to react as if an accident involving these materials requires a full chemical-agent response. Rowden explained this amendment is in its preliminary stages and will be a long process; possibly next year before it comes to fruition. There will be ample time for discussion with the CAC/CDCAB and other stakeholders. He said PEO ACWA and BGAD support this effort. The project has had preliminary discussions with the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) and has incorporated some informal suggestions from them. The next steps will be to bring the plan back to the CAC/CDCAB probably at the September meeting and legislation has to be drafted and pre-filed this fall to meet action by the General Assembly in early 2016. Promulgation by KDEP will probably happen in spring 2016.

Kaylor asked if there would be certain levels of detection to show the materials no longer meet the higher waste codes. Rowden explained that testing is built into the main plant and EDT processes.

Aaron Thompson asked for clarification of the legislative part of the plan. Rowden said the legislation is to change the statute to provide the authority to change waste codes, not to specifically change the waste codes themselves.

On a non-related topic, a member of the public from an area fire department asked about changes in Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) leadership. Madison County Deputy Judge-Executive Colleen Chaney said the EMA director position has closed and they have received a significant amount of national and local applicants. They will do a panel interview process and hope to have a selection for the fiscal court at the beginning of July. Williams asked if CSEPP Director Michael Bryant was the acting EMA director. Chaney said he is remaining in his CSEPP position but he and the previous EMA director worked hand-in-hand, so the team is ready in the event of an incident.

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

Hindman thanked everyone for their attention.

Williams said he thought it important to give the waste-code issue careful consideration, as transport labeling is important, and he feels waste materials incorrectly labeled as chemical agent could be a very big problem. He said he has already spoken to some legislators about it and they are very interested in the CAC/CDCAB's response to it.

***Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the ECU Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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