



Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
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Doug Hindman
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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
March 1, 2023
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky**

Attendees

CAC: Harry Moberly, George Ridings (online), David Stipes, Olivia Beasley (for Tammi Hudson) and Craig Williams

CDCAB: Robert Blythe, Dr. Candace Coyle, Tatum Dale (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr), Joe Elliott (for Col. Brett Ayvazian), Dr. Diane Hatchett, Jeanne Marie Hibberd, Ron Hink, Leslie Kaylor, Tara Long, Darcy Maupin, Lt. Col. Tyler McKee, Harry Moberly, Randy Neeley, Stephanie Nelson (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell), George Ridings (online), Stacey Shane (for Steve Bullard), David Stipes, Olivia Beasley (for Tammi Hudson) and Craig Williams

Media: *WEKU-FM*: Stan Ingold (online)

Meeting Synopsis

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Remarks from the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA) Program Executive Officer
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Project Update
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) Permitting Updates
- Economic Development Working Group Update

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 Item

Action Item: Report the approximate number of hydrolysate shipments remaining to be transported to Texas.

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

Timeline: By June 7, 2023

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Sarah Marko, Communications Manager, ORO

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

Opening Remarks – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB

Williams welcomed everyone and provided an update on the health of CAC Chair Doug Hindman, saying that during a recent visit, Hindman asked Williams to tell the group hello. Williams also expressed appreciation to representatives from BGCAPP for meeting with him to discuss the intricacies of the closure process. He also said that as the date when the destruction of the last chemical weapons at the plant gets closer, he occasionally becomes anxious, but then he remembers the confidence he has in the management and workers operating BGCAPP.

Status of Outstanding Action Items

Marko then noted the following action item from the Dec. 14, 2022, CAC/CDCAB meeting:

Action Item	Steps Taken	Date/Status
Investigate if the supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) system has been offered to private sector organizations. Consider the possibility of delaying the start of the SCWO disposition process in March 2023, such	Michael Abaie, program executive officer, PEO ACWA, provided information to CDCAB co-chair Craig Williams via email Jan. 19, 2023, and additional information is included in	Complete.

<p>that if there is no interest from government organizations, it may afford private sector organizations the opportunity to acquire the SCWO system if interested and allowed by regulations.</p>	<p>the BGCAPP update presentation below.</p>	
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Key Updates

Remarks from the Program Executive Officer – Michael Abaie, Program Executive Officer, PEO ACWA

Abaie said it was a pleasure to be back in Kentucky and BGCAPP is doing extremely well. He said the end of chemical weapons destruction is in sight and the focus is on closure. He also expressed appreciation to the community for working with PEO ACWA and the BGCAPP team for years to make the operation succeed.

He said the daily throughput of rockets continues to climb and stressed that workers are not rushing through their jobs but rather, through their experience and lessons learned, have found ways to make the operation more efficient, even with problematic rockets. He also said the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) 2000 was doing well as its ramp-up continues from the Jan. 27, 2023, start. He also provided a brief update on the SCWO system. He said one company has shown an interest in the equipment and will visit the site within two weeks. After that, the company will decide within six to eight weeks if they would like to obtain the system, he said.

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 announced the plant reached the destruction of 75% of all chemical agent in the stockpile at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) on Feb. 24, 2023. In addition, as of the meeting, nearly 55% of the GB nerve agent M55 rockets are destroyed. She also said the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant has destroyed more than 93% of its total stockpile and is targeting being finished this summer.

Hink said workers continue to learn from working with rockets in different conditions and using those lessons to increase efficiency in terms of the number of hours the plant processes rockets each day. While the work currently is 25 days ahead of schedule, he reminded the group that an outage could push the schedule back. As of the meeting, workers are reaching average daily destruction numbers that have exceeded most expectations, he said.

Hink said hydrolysate shipments continue and overall, the plant has shipped 146 truckloads of the secondary waste to the treatment, storage and disposal facility in Texas. In response to a question from Williams, Hink said he will have to obtain an estimate of how many more shipments will be made to Texas. Hink also said shipments of non-contaminated rocket motors continue to Anniston, Alabama, for destruction in the SDC unit there. He said about 70 truckloads have been sent there and Anniston is ahead of its plan for rocket motor destruction.

In an update on the SDC 2000, Hink said the start-up process is continuing, with the unit's efficiency and workers' abilities getting better each day. He called the unit's performance very good and said workers are learning about the system the same way they did with the start of the GB nerve agent rocket campaign in the main plant.

He said workers are continuing to increase the number of containerized, drained rocket warheads processed to measure the unit's capabilities. He said the next step will start as early as March 2 when workers feed overpacked rocket warheads still containing GB nerve agent into the system. He said it will take about two weeks to destroy these overpacks.

In an SDC 1200 update, Hink said while some labor has been shifted to support the SDC 2000 Earth-Covered Magazine (ECM) Rocket Operations Contingency project, a full electrical crew and some pipefitters continue to work on the changeover of the SDC 1200 to get it operational by later this year. Hink said the work includes installation of instruments in the off-gas treatment system, torquing fiberglass pipe in the off-gas treatment system, insulating potable water system lines, continuing installation and testing of piping and continuing to pull electrical and control cable.

In a follow to the initial discussion at the December 2022 CAC/CDCAB meeting, Coyle updated the group on the ECM Rocket Operations Contingency work. She explained as the GB nerve agent rocket campaign progresses, workers have gotten through most of the designated "green or good" lots of rockets and now are handling rockets suspected as problematic (such as leakers and/or gels and crystals in the agent). She said those rockets often bring surprises. Fortunately, experience in the main plant in recent months has helped workers learn how to deal with those rockets and how to develop alternative processing methods, she said.

That experience has illustrated the need for operational flexibility with a potential alternative handling method, she said, adding that is when the contingency was developed. If approved by KDEP and put into operation, it will use three pieces of equipment already used in the main plant: the Rocket Non-Destructive Evaluation (RNDE) equipment, the Vertical Rocket Cutting Machine and the Rocket Warhead Containerization System.

The system will de-mate and containerize GB warheads for SDC processing. The rocket warheads will not be drained in the ECM, she said. The system will also package the

rocket motors for SDC processing in Anniston, Alabama. The upper shipping and firing tubes will be containerized and transferred for proper disposal, she said.

The ECM will only operate five days and nights a week with a maximum of 60 munitions per day, according to her report.

She said the RNDE system has proved invaluable identifying the different problems workers can encounter with rockets. Williams pointed out the RNDE is used on every rocket and not just a sample of rockets.

In an environmental permitting update, Coyle outlined the status of an environmental permit modification request application related to the SDC 2000 ECM Rocket Contingency Operation. The comment period runs through March 27. She said the first four weeks of operation in the SDC 2000 has provided promising results related to the requests included in the permits.

Coyle and Hink also updated the group on the first two meetings of the Closure Working Group (CWG) and some of the ongoing activities related to the closure process, especially those related to keeping the highly trained workforce in the region and helping them find jobs as closure occurs during the next three to four years.

They said the CWG met Jan. 11 and Feb. 8 and the next meeting is April 12. Hink pointed out BPBG launched a workforce planning web page and survey. That effort includes employee resources to assist with planning for future job opportunities; an internal web page for employees to learn about training opportunities, county and state resources, local job fairs and other assistance; an employee training-needs survey to determine interest in receiving assistance with developing or enhancing skills; and working with state and local agencies to coordinate training opportunities, they explained.

Coyle also provided an update on the study on other potential uses for the SCWO system. She said the study completed by the U.S. Army Chemical Biological Center (CBC) team is undergoing peer review and will be provided and briefed to the SCWO Study Group (SSG) no later than March 2023. The SSG will then provide PEO ACWA with its recommendation. If no government or commercial entity initiates action regarding transfer for use or the SSG does not provide a use, PEO ACWA will dispose of the SCWO through the regulated disposition process, she said.

In a safety update, Hink said the plant's record remains well below industry and national standards. Among other things, he said the project's recordable incident rate for the last 12 months as of January 2023 was 0.31 and as of Jan. 31, 2023, the project has completed 10,356,956 hours and 1,236 days without a lost-time accident.

Hink said BGCAPP continues to have a significant impact on the region's economy with \$199 million spent with Kentucky companies, \$116 million spent in Madison and surrounding counties, 1,487 people employed with 56% of those hired locally, and a \$1.235 billion local payroll to date. He said the project is close to being fully staffed. He

also said attrition always occurs and they always are looking for employees. He went through a list of job categories each joint-venture company often needs. He also pointed out job recruitment fairs and events scheduled for the next two months.

In response to a question from CAC/CDCAB Member Harry Moberly, Hink said if the SCWO system had been in use, the number of hydrolysate shipments would have been higher because the system would have produced more volume.

In closing, Coyle summed up by saying as the “light at the end of the tunnel becomes brighter” in terms of reaching the end of chemical weapons destruction in Kentucky, a community celebration is being planned for Oct. 11 to mark the milestone.

KDEP Permitting Updates – Olivia Beasley, BGAD Section, KDEP

The handout referenced during this presentation may be obtained by contacting the ORO at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@iem.com.

Beasley covered some highlights from a handout included in the meeting packet. She said the KDEP team has issued approximately 24 Class 1 permit modifications since the December 2022 CAC/CDCAB meeting. She said another one is expected to be signed March 2. She said eight permit applications are under review, including the Blue Grass Chemical Activity Closure Plan and the BGCAPP Closure Plan.

She also said KDEP is in the process of hiring an additional environmental engineer consultant. In addition, the department is collaborating with external sources, in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense on alternative technologies for the Open Burn/Open Detonation (OBOD) site at BGAD. KDEP is drafting its responses concerning the OBOD site pending receipt of groundwater sampling results, Beasley said. That process likely will continue into the fall, she said.

Economic Development Working Group Update – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB

Addressing the workforce transition actions and the ongoing efforts to retain the existing workforce now and after closure begins, Williams said BPBG has hired two transition staff members and Battelle Labs and Amentum each have hired a staff member to work with employees on employment goals.

He also said all the BGCAPP team partners have established incentives to retain workers through the end of their contract roles and the incentives appear to be keeping workers on board.

He also said a joint study by the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation and the Bluegrass Area Development District is nearing completion. That information will be shared and integrated with efforts developed by BGAD, local economic development groups and the state.

In another update, Williams said as of the previous week, the feasibility study ordered by Congress had not yet begun. Williams noted the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 included language for the Secretary of Defense to conduct a feasibility study on potential mission, plant or industrial feasibility at the BGCAPP site and BGAD following the demolition and remediation of the destruction facility. He said the remediation impacts future uses and potential industrial options of military and civilian value inside and outside the base boundaries.

He said a major corporation that is interested in the area visited Madison County recently and met with the secretary of the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet.

Along those lines, Moberly asked CDCAB Member David Stipes, who is executive director of the Richmond Industrial Development Corporation, and Richmond Mayor Robert Blythe, who also is a CDCAB member, to provide information on the city's recently optioning 600 acres for future development.

Stipes and Blythe said the city has optioned the land located off exit 83 on Interstate 75 behind Buc-ee's. The property already has utilities in place, has good interstate access and has been talked about as an industrial megasite for several years. Having the option gives the city another economic development tool.

Williams closed out his update by saying it all added up to a "very positive economic climate" developing for the closure portion of the BGCAPP operation.

Closing Remarks – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB, and Michael Abaie, Program Executive Officer, PEO ACWA

Abaie said he is looking forward to the end of the chemical weapons destruction campaign and celebrating in October with a community that has had chemical weapons in its back yard for a very long time.

Williams expressed similar sentiments and added that during his recent visit he told Hindman he needed to be making plans to attend the Oct. 11 event. Williams said Hindman said he would do his best. In the interim, Hindman said he plans to step down temporarily as chair of the CAC because of his health. Williams said he will send a memo to CAC members about how to proceed based on CAC bylaws.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.