



Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
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Doug Hindman
Chair

Reagan Taylor
Craig Williams
Co-Chairs

**Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting
Summary of Action Items and Discussions
March 9, 2022
Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)
with Microsoft Teams Option
Richmond, Kentucky**

Attendees

CAC: Doug Hindman, Harry Moberly, George Ridings, David Stipes, April Webb (for Tammi Hudson) and Craig Williams

CDCAB: Robert Blythe, Chuck Cash, Dr. Candace Coyle, Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Ron Hink, Jennifer Hitch (for Dustin Heiser), Leslie Kaylor, Louise Locke, Tara Long, Bryan Makinen, Darcy Maupin, Harry Moberly, Stephanie Nelson (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell), George Ridings, Stacey Shane (for Steven Bullard), Craig Shockley (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr), David Stipes, Judge-Executive Reagan Taylor, April Webb (for Tammi Hudson), Craig Williams and Lt. Col. Ed Williams

Media Attendees:

The Eastern Progress: Christen Gibson and Jess Wilson
The Richmond Register: Taylor Six
WEKU-FM: Stan Ingold

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 schedule for when the new Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) 1200 off-gas treatment system will be complete.

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

Timeline: June 8, 2022.

Action Item: Provide information on what U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office will visit BGCAPP March 23.

Responsible Entity: Dr. Candace Coyle, site project manager, BGCAPP.

Timeline: Information provided in BGCAPP update, below.

Action Item: 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.

Responsible Entity: Michael Abaie, program executive officer, Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA).

Timeline: June 8, 2022.

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Sarah Marko, Communications Manager, ORO

Marko performed a roll call, welcomed the attendees, provided virtual meeting best practices and reviewed the meeting agenda.

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

Hindman welcomed attendees to the meeting and to spring in Kentucky. He noted those attending the meeting remotely and expressed his wish for the opportunity for everyone to be together in person.

Williams agreed with Hindman and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He extended his appreciation to Mike Abaie and Nick Stamatakis for traveling in from PEO ACWA headquarters and welcomed Kington Reif, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for

Threat Reduction and Arms Control (DASD(TRAC)), to his first CAC/CDCAB meeting in Kentucky.

Marko then noted the following action items from the Dec. 8, 2021, CAC/CDCAB meeting:

Action Item	Steps Taken	Date/Status
Distribute rocket motor monitoring process flow chart to CAC/CDCAB members.	The chart was distributed with the December meeting summary to CAC/CDCAB members Jan. 18.	Complete.
Discussion with Process Working Group (PWG) members regarding the formation of a Closure Working Group (CWG).	This topic will be discussed in this meeting. A list of members has been obtained and the group will start meeting later this year.	Complete.

Key Updates

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

Reif said it was a pleasure to be in Kentucky and thanked the attendees for the opportunity to address the group. He said he was grateful for their participation on the project and the group's volunteerism has achieved a true partnership between this community and the DOD. He provided [his background](#) and said there has been a bit of a change for him in being at DOD versus his non-government positions. Reif noted he has been "drinking very heavily from the fire hose" on the entire chemical demilitarization program, especially PEO ACWA. He said overseeing the destruction of the remainder of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile safely and in an environmentally sound manner by the treaty commitment date of September 2023 and no later than the congressional deadline of December 2023 is his highest priority and he assured the group he will be doing everything within his power to support the PEO ACWA team and its contractors to meet the Chemical Weapons Convention destruction deadline. Reif reinforced that the safety of the workforce, public and environment is priority number one for this program as well as achieving completion of destruction operations by Sept. 30, 2023. He said the program is extremely fortunate to have had the dedicated community involvement through the CAC from the beginning of the project at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD). Reif commended the Blue Grass workforce, who have made significant progress, namely to include destroying nearly 43% of the chemical agent and working vigorously to destroy the remaining stockpile in Kentucky. He said this is his second trip to Kentucky, specifically to BGCAPP, and said he conveyed the message to the workforce at both sites that he is there to listen and learn. He said he is impressed with the progress that has been made, especially during the pandemic, and he is committed to close

collaboration to ensure the treaty deadline is met. Reif said he is also moved by the tremendous amount of pride that the workforce at each site has for the vital work that they are doing.

Reif said meeting the treaty commitment is essential to demonstrating U.S. credibility to the world, as well as its moral and diplomatic leadership, which is especially important in the face of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. He said destroying the remainder of the U.S. stockpile will put the U.S. in a stronger position to push for universalization of the Chemical Weapons Convention in combat. Reif said he looks forward to listening to and participating in the discussions in the meeting and thanked the group for having him.

Abaie said it was great to be with the group, especially now he can see everyone's smiling faces without masks. He said the COVID-19 numbers are dropping across the nation and he hopes the pandemic will now be behind everyone. He thanked Reif and said Reif's attendance shows his personal commitment and the DOD's commitment to the PEO ACWA program, noting it is vital to make sure everyone is on the same page, and recognized the community's commitment to the program.

Abaie informed the group of a virtual transparency event with BGCAPP March 21 by Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Executive Council members and thanked the CAC and CDCAB chairs for providing their insights to the council, as he feels that is valuable to them. He noted when the group last visited the Pueblo project they got a lot out of meeting the CAC there. He said the CACs are unique in endeavoring the local communities have a say in how the government goes about destroying the stockpiled chemical agents, and thanked the Blue Grass group for their input.

Abaie then praised the work being done at the plant and said the VX rocket campaign, the fourth of five campaigns, is more than 75% complete. He said the equipment is working well, the facility is doing well and he hopes in a short amount of time the campaign change-over will be completed and final campaign started to see the project to its completion date. Abaie said everyone will celebrate together when the last munition is destroyed, noting he is looking very forward to that and he appreciates everyone's support to get to that state. He commended the workforce for their great work under COVID-19 conditions and noted they completed three campaigns during the pandemic, with one more at 75% complete. Abaie thanked the workforce, Dr. Candace Coyle and Ron Hink for their leadership, and project partners, including Col. Stephen Dorris and Lt. Col. Ed Williams, as well as the CAC/CDCAB for providing their support.

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 and thanked Abaie, Stamatakis and Reif for traveling to the meeting and for their support. She said there have been a

lot of changes to the project over the almost three years she has been here and they could not have been done without everyone's support—the community, regulators, and especially KDEP—and thanked everyone for that support. She then congratulated the Pueblo plant for their Feb. 19 SDC start-up and noted discussions held with them on the SDC units during the BGCAPP mustard-agent destruction campaign, saying there were a lot of lessons learned that were leveraged for their support.

Coyle said the Blue Grass plant has processed 43.34% of the chemical weapons stockpile in Kentucky so far. The current VX rocket campaign is 78% complete. When that campaign is complete, the destruction of the stockpile in Kentucky will be at 49% complete. The GB rocket campaign will comprise the last 51% of the stockpile. Hink said he expects to complete the current VX rocket campaign in April, as there has been a delay. They will shorten the changeover period from six months to three months to balance that delay. He said it is well planned and they are confident in their execution to make up the time and get back on track. Hink said the VX rocket emissions test report was submitted to KDEP and it is under their review, rocket motor shipments continue to Anniston for destruction in their SDC with eight truckloads to date delivered there, and hydrolysate shipments continue to Texas with 39 truckloads of GB hydrolysate from the previous projectile campaign and 22 truckloads of VX hydrolysate delivered so far. He said they continue to prepare the Munitions Washout System area for closure. This part of the plant supported projectile processing and is no longer needed, so they are working ahead on getting it cleaned up.

Coyle reminded the group of the elevated vapor emission reading seen in one of the containerized drained rocket warhead process storage igloos and thanked everyone involved in the operation to isolate a potential leaker. She said the operation was conducted slowly and deliberately as this was the first event with VX as well as agent-drained containerized warheads, and the team successfully demonstrated their capability. She detailed how the operation was conducted, including implementing the filtration system on the igloo, shrouding and monitoring stacks, and then shrouding and monitoring the skirts of any of the stacks identified as the possible source of the elevated reading. One stack had an elevated reading, but when they shrouded the skirts from that stack no reading was detected above the reportable limit. They removed the filtration system from the igloo and monitored the igloo for three days and found no elevated readings, so the operation was closed out Jan. 28 with all permits and procedures followed and a report provided to KDEP. She emphasized the team was very well prepared and at no time was there a risk to the community.

Hink provided an update on the SDC 1200 and said decontamination activities are largely complete and they have turned off all mustard monitoring activities, with KDEP's approval. He said the team removed the old off-gas treatment system buffer tank and they are preparing to lower the new, larger tank in through the roof, probably this weekend. The plan is to open the roof, place the tank inside the building, replace the roof panel and permanently seal it, within the span of three or four days. Hink then said the new off-gas treatment system building structure is up and the wall panels are largely complete, and they still have some roof work to do. Coyle said at the SDC 2000 site, some large equipment has been delivered, like the Stand-by Diesel Generator, Monitoring

Shack for the Earth-Covered Magazine and the top half of the Monitoring House stack, and the team is busy with electrical, Entry Control Facility and conduit work. She noted some supply-chain challenges, especially with electrical components, but said the team has been able to re-sequence some activities and stay on schedule as much as possible given the situation.

Coyle moved to the closure topic and said the phase 1 contract was awarded to BPBG in December and project personnel are developing closure plans to submit to KDEP. She then said she received the list of the proposed CWG members and is working to make sure of the scope of it does not overlap with the PWG. Coyle noted the intent is to not start meetings of this group until after the ramp-up and battle rhythm of the GB rocket campaign is established later this year. She said they are continuing to work the details out with Williams and she appreciates those who have volunteered to be in the group. Coyle then provided a supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) system update and said it is nearing the end of the first year of the two-year study PEO ACWA is conducting on this system. She said the focus of the study is determining credible options that may exist for future use of the system and if the technology can be leveraged elsewhere or if it will become a part of BGCAPP closure. She emphasized it has been planned for the system to be removed during closure, just so everyone understands that funding for that has not been removed. Coyle said data gathering, data review and market research are being conducted and courses of action are being identified or defined. The path forward includes identifying the possible costs and schedules associated with those courses of action and conducting outreach to potential industry and government partners. She noted the EPA (Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, U.S. EPA Headquarters) will visit the site March 23 for a first look at the system and another group from the EPA (EPA Research & Development Laboratory, Cincinnati, OH) will conduct another visit on April 27 for a tour, briefing on the capability, and to better understand the tenets of the capability for other uses. The beginning of 2023 is when the date is set for BGAD to make a decision on if they would like to do anything with the SDC units and other items, and is also the date for the phase 1 of the study to end. Coyle said she will continue to provide the group updates through this forum and the PWG.

Hink spoke on safety and said the project continues to do very well, with more than eight million safe work hours, which equal 871 safe work days without a lost-time injury. He said this is remarkable considering the hazardous work being done, not just chemical weapons destruction operations but the ongoing construction as well, and the workforce stays focused on safety and they do quite well. He noted the workforce is no longer required to wear COVID-19 masks but they are encouraged to continue social distancing and they do continue to control occupancy in conference rooms and follow other protocols. On economic impact, he said \$192.6 million has been spent with Kentucky companies and almost \$113 million in Madison and surrounding counties. He said staffing is at 1,436 employees. He noted it should optimally be around 1,500, so they are trying to hire more workers, but he feels that will be an ongoing challenge as the pandemic has impacted their ability to hire and the interest in project positions is still lagging. Project payroll is \$1.151 billion to date. Hink then said when the tornadoes hit western Kentucky the project was able to get a \$50,000 donation from the Bechtel Foundation to help and the employees donated \$9,500, which was matched by Bechtel Corporate.

A point of focus for Hink was the need for project personnel, especially systems engineers who specialize in operations such as the rocket lines. He said the rocket lines are a new system, so there are not people who know how to run it who can just be hired in—people with the fundamental skills need to learn the system and then help the project with it. Hink noted it was similar to a new car coming off the assembly line: it should be ready to go, but it has not been driven. Once it is driven, there may be things that need to be worked through. He said they are not being surprised by anything in the rocket lines, just working through items that come up, such as some rockets being out of the close tolerances the equipment operates at in the plant. The system is set up to stop if it encounters something unusual, and a lot of the time the systems engineers are the ones who recover the system safely and get the plant back to running, so they are aggressively looking for people with this background. He said there are also other positions where the people work in them for a few years then want to move on to something else, which is understandable. Hink provided information on several local job fairs and asked the group to encourage anyone they know who might be interested to attend.

Williams asked how the flow of waste materials to Anniston and Port Arthur has been going and if there were any log jams. Coyle said it has been going well and Anniston has been conducting testing to get ready to start processing the rocket motors.

Williams asked when Hink expected the SDC 1200 off-gas treatment system to be completed. Hink will provide that information to Williams.

Williams asked if he heard right that someone said the SCWO units were already planned to be moved. Coyle said two different groups from the EPA are coming only to tour and better understand the SCWO capability right now. She will provide Williams the information on which EPA offices are coming on what dates (information contained within this message).

Lastly, Williams asked how wide of a search is being conducted for the critical positions needed for the project. Hink said they were posted nationally on Bechtel's website and are being placed on other platforms as well. They are not trying to hire internationally because of the security requirements.

Harry Moberly asked Coyle to explain the decision-making process for the dispositioning of the SCWO and the SDC units again. Coyle said there are independent evaluations being done by the Army regarding other purposes for the SDC units, at Blue Grass or elsewhere, and they are looking at whether or not they will be used in the End State Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Coyle said BGAD has until the end of January 2023 to let PEO ACWA know their decision regarding the SDC units. Abaie said multiple government organizations are interested in what the SDC units could do for processing conventional munitions and PEO ACWA has been providing them a lot of data on the subject. The Joint Program Executive Office for Armaments and Ammunition is doing a study based on this information and will make a recommendation to the Army as to the utility and the business case associated with the SDC units. He said to his knowledge,

that report is not yet complete. Moberly asked if the opportunity for public input on the process could be provided through the CWG or otherwise. Abaie said he does not know and that decision is above his level. Moberly said that question has been asked of the program several times and has not received a good answer and it is important to the group from an economic development standpoint that they know what is going on with the SDC units and have public input on that. Abaie said he would take the request back and see if there is any input the community can provide. He noted the current administration is new and Douglas Bush, the new Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, just came into his position less than four weeks ago and Abaie has not yet had the chance to meet with him. Abaie said he will provide the request to Bush when he has the opportunity. Williams said Reif and Abaie have met with representatives from the U.S. Joint Munitions Command (JMC). He said it is outside Abaie's lane and JMC is being encouraged to discuss things with the group. Abaie noted he had met with JMC representatives this morning and had that conversation.

Reagan Taylor asked if Hink could provide more information on the condensing of the main-plant changeover from six months to three. Hink said initially it was expected the plant would need significant clean-up and they were planning for the worst condition, but they have found the plant is remaining very clean and there will not be a lot of decontamination to do to prepare for the next campaign. They have streamlined the air monitoring systems and are able to fast-track some things because there is a lot of knowledge in the program and they know the plant. Coyle noted the changeover from the projectile campaign included changing equipment because of the different munitions type and that is not the case this time, plus GB agent has been processed in the plant before during a previous campaign. Hink added they will be tuning existing equipment, not retooling for a different munition type. He said since they know how GB acts in the plant, they can optimize for it, but they will not be taking any shortcuts, just being targeted in their approach. He said he feels the changeover can be done in three months based on their planning and current conditions.

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

Webb began by saying the KDEP approval process has been busy with the SDC units, with one permit modification request on public notice until March 16. She said KDEP did receive some comments on that request and provided information on where to find the documentation for the public notice. She said they have approved the mustard-to-VX agent changeover plan and the GB rocket changeover plan. Additionally, they approved the health-based risk assessment for the SDC 1200 and the temporary authorization requests for both SDC units to allow construction to continue while the draft permits are sent for public notice and finalized. Lastly, they approved two modifications to the PEO ACWA storage permit, for three additional igloos in the Chemical Limited Area that will be used for the storage of containerized drained rocket warheads. Webb noted a total of 14 permit modifications since the last CAC/CDCAB meeting. On other things KDEP is working on, she said they sent a Notice of Deficiency for the SDC 2000 surrogate demonstration test plan and are working the Class 2 modification for the treatment of GB rockets. Not related to BGCAPP, they are working on modifications to the depot's open burn/open

detonation (OB/OD) and controlled destruction chamber permits and the OB/OD sediment control plan and fall 2021 groundwater sampling. Webb said they have a Class 2 permit modification request to begin the GB rocket campaign in the main plant, the pilot demonstration test plan volume B for the GB rockets, the pilot test demonstration reports and emission sampling and analysis report from the VX rockets demonstration tests and then the annual reports. As to other items of note, she said KDEP staff visited the site March 2 to see the SDC units and conduct the inspection in support of the facility construction certification for both units, and they continue to coordinate with the EPA on the task approval request for the treatment of the rocket shipping and firing tubes in the SDC units. She thinks that modification was sent to the EPA Feb. 10. To finalize, she said they are working on the response to the comments from the current public notice period and they hope for a mid-April finalization of those permits.

EIWG Updates – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB

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

Williams began by following up on the mention of the CWG and expressed his appreciation to the people who have volunteered to be a part of that group. He said he thinks everyone wants to be there for the final working group of this effort so they can all celebrate when the work is done.

Williams then said the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation has granted the Bluegrass Area Development District (BGADD) an award of \$453,000. A local match of 10% is required under the grant conditions and the group is working through the details on where that will come from. He said the group will be heading the effort to analyze and formulate a baseline for both federal and local governments to ensure suitable transition occurs during the ramp-down of the chemical weapons destruction activities at the depot. He noted this is the same thing they have been talking about for a long time, but now they have the funding to do an in-depth study to try to integrate the workforce interested in staying in the area. BGADD has also put together a technical advisory committee that has met several times. The BGADD director indicated the need for legal representation and volunteered their attorney and the advisory committee agreed. Williams said they also discussed the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) situation once the destruction project is over, and said he, Taylor and Dustin Heiser met on the topic about a week ago. Some of the questions regarded how the community will cope at the end of the extensive emergency preparedness they have become used to due to the millions of dollars funneled into the community based on the chemical weapons destruction project, and what equipment should be kept and how it will be maintained. He said he, Taylor and Heiser are all working on that. Williams then said one of his primary objectives in that context is to approach the Federal Emergency Management Agency or a member of the Kentucky congressional delegation to ask about grant money in the federal budget that could be applied for to soften the blow of this deteriorating capability to fund the community's emergency preparedness situation and try to get something similar to what the OLDCC did for the workforce. He said as part of the grant management, BGADD needed to hire a consultant to assist them with the

execution of the grant money, and they hired Lucas Witt of MWM Consulting, LLC, who is also the economic development consultant for the City of Berea. He noted a couple of people associated with the group are attending the national conference of the Association of Defense Communities, an organization that focuses on situations like this one. Back to the OLDCC grant, Williams said it is provided in monthly increments that have to be accomplished according to the stipulations of the grant. They have established the technical advisory committee and are asking questions about how to let the community know what and how they are doing and how to gather information from them. They are also working to identify existing applicable studies so as to not have to do that work again. He said one item they need to find out is how much tax revenue will disappear from the area when the project is done, so he has reached out to BPBG and PEO ACWA for that information.

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

Williams thanked Reif, Abaie and Stamatakis for their attendance and also Craig Shockley from U.S. Rep. Andy Barr’s office and Stephanie Nelson from U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell’s office, and said he appreciates their ongoing interest, participation and support. He said everyone has been supportive in the grant process, with good result.

Abaie thanked everyone and said he appreciates the opportunity to come here and provide an update on what is going on at the sites.

Reif said it was great to be in attendance and he looks forward to continuing the unique and vital partnership between the DOD and this group as they all work toward the mutual objective of destroying the remainder of the stockpile in Kentucky.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting format has yet to be determined.

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