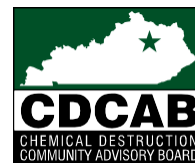




Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
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Craig Williams
Chair

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 6, 2024
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky**

Attendees

CAC:

Dustin Heiser, Leslie Kaylor, Harry Moberly, George Ridings, David Stipes, April Webb (for Tammi Hudson), and Craig Williams

CDCAB:

Col. Brett Ayvazian, Robert Blythe, Steve Bullard, Tatum Dale (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr), Jim Davis, Dustin Heiser, Jeanne Marie Hibberd, Ron Hink, Leslie Kaylor, Bryan Makinen, Lt. Col. Tyler McKee, Harry Moberly, Stephanie Nelson (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell), Shannon Pendergrass, Mica Sims (for U.S. Sen. Rand Paul), George Ridings, David Stipes, Judge Executive Reagan Taylor, April Webb (for Tammi Hudson) and Craig Williams

Media:

WEKU-FM: Shepherd Snyder

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 (KDPEP) Permitting Updates
- Economic Development Working Group (EDWG) Update

Meeting Summary Structure

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations; instead, it provides 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. 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 information on whether the Anniston Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) quench tower has experienced the same issues as the SDC 1200 quench tower.

Responsible Entity: Tami Atkins, Acting Program Executive Officer, Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA)

Timeline: By Sept. 4, 2024

Action Item: Provide information on whether the SDC 1200 off-gas treatment system was modified to be more robust than the Anniston SDC.

Responsible Entity: Tami Atkins, Acting Program Executive Officer, PEO ACWA

Timeline: By Sept. 4, 2024

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Mark York, Communications Manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG)

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

Opening Remarks – Craig Williams, Chair, CAC, and Reagan Taylor, Co-Chair, CDCAB

Williams welcomed everyone and thanked Sarah Marko, the former ORO communications manager who recently left the position, for her dedication over the years.

Status of Outstanding Action Items

York then noted the following action items from the Dec. 6, 2023, CAC/CDCAB meeting:

Action Item	Steps Taken	Date/Status
Craig Williams to draft a letter of support for the data center proposal and provide it to the Kentucky Congressional Delegation.	Williams included the update in his Economic Development Working Group report during the meeting.	Complete.
KDEP to provide notification to CAC and CDCAB members when notice of deficiency reports on environmental permitting are available.	The availability of report information was included in the KDEP update presentation.	Complete.

Key Updates

Remarks from DOD Visitors – Kingston Reif, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, and Tami Atkins, Acting Program Executive Officer, PEO ACWA

Reif introduced himself and said he was grateful for the work toward closure at BGCAPP. He praised the work of the team and stressed that the safety of the community and the environment remained the top priority.

Atkins introduced herself and thanked group members for their efforts. She also thanked Williams, Taylor, and the CAC/CDCAB members for recognizing Marko's contributions.

BGCAPP Project Update – Shannon Pendergrass, 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 bqoutreach@iem.com

Hink emphasized that safety remains the project's top priority of the project. He said BGCAPP's recordable incident rate is 0.19, putting it in the range of working at a bank in terms of injury risks. He said workers have maintained the safety standards despite the change and distractions associated with the transition from operations to the closure phase.

Pendergrass said progress is being made on the destruction of agent-contaminated drained containerized rocket warheads (CRWs), which are classified as secondary waste. As of the week of the meeting, 21% of the CRWs containing residual amounts of VX nerve agent have been destroyed in the SDC 1200, and more than 30% of the CRWs containing residual amounts of GB nerve agent have been destroyed in the SDC 2000.

Hink discussed the issue of clogged quench towers in both the SDC 1200 and the SDC 2000. He said crews have learned lessons from the SDC 2000 and are applying some of them to the SDC 1200, including regular cleaning out of the tower to stay ahead of the problem. He also said crews are preparing for emissions tests in the SDC 1200 in mid-March. The tests are an important part of the ramp-up phase, demonstrating competency in operations.

At the SDC 2000, workers have established what Hink calls a "good battle rhythm," which means they have longer periods of operation without unplanned outages. To address the quench tower clean-out issue, crews have installed equipment that filters out some of the particulates that cause the problem. Crews have also engineered a solution to address differences between the SDC 2000 and the SDC 1200.

Another challenge that has arisen is the tilt cradle in the SDC 2000, which sometimes becomes misaligned and requires workers to shut down the unit to realign it, Hink said.

He said decommissioning and decontamination work in the main plant are ahead of schedule. He said this is partly attributable to the "clean operation" of the main plant during the

chemical weapons destruction phase.

In terms of staffing, Richmond is at 1,277, workers following the planned drawdown of 57 workers in February. A planned drawdown of about 50 workers later this year is expected. The next major drawdown will be about 175 workers in March 2025, according to the presentation. BPBG is hosting a job fair April 24–25 to connect the workforce with local industries interested in skilled workers who want to continue their careers working in the area.

As for the remaining projected schedule, Pendergrass said the main plant decontamination and equipment removal are ahead of schedule and are expected to be completed in late 2025. SDC 1200 CRW processing is projected to finish by late 2024 and will be followed by decontamination and decommissioning. The SDC 2000 is projected to complete CRW destruction in early 2025 and will then move into the decontamination and decommissioning phase. The final phases of demolition will carry into 2026, Pendergrass said.

In an environmental permitting update, Pendergrass said a Class 2 permit modification request was submitted to KDEP Feb. 15 to allow the SDC 2000 to destroy CRWs containing residual amounts of VX nerve agent as a contingency after the unit completes destruction of GB nerve agent CRWs, if necessary. The 60-day public comment period on the request runs through April 15, and the permitting documents are available for review on the PEO ACWA website, she said.

A public meeting concerning the permit modification is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. ET March 7 at the ORO.

Pendergrass also announced that, after a decade of managing the ORO and facilitating public meetings, Marko has left the position. Outreach activities will continue and will be supported by Siobhan Adkins and Steve Rogers, with York assisting with media inquiries. The ORO will close April 18, and the staff will move to offices at BGCAPP and the Richmond Mall. They will still be available by email and telephone and will continue to carry out Closure Working Group (CWG) and CAC/CDCAB meetings, reply to inquiries, and provide public information.

The next CWG meeting will be 1 p.m. ET May 8 but will be held in a conference room at the Richmond Mall office. The ORO staff will provide updates and reminders.

CDCAB member Jeanne Marie Hibberd asked Hink to explain the quench tower. Hink said the quench tower is a tall structure with water cascading through it and cooling chambers that slow down and cool the hot gases generated by the CRW destruction process. He said particulates created during that process are pulled out of the gases from the detonation chamber in this system and can build up, restricting air flow.

In response to a question from Williams, Pendergrass said the SDC 1200 began processing in late October and has been in a slow ramp-up to get to the 21% destruction figure. She said the SDC 2000 began destroying CRWs in mid-July and has reached more than 30% destruction.

Williams asked Hink if the Anniston, Alabama, SDC experienced the same quench tower problems as at BGCAPP and if the off-gas treatment system on the SDC 1200 was modified to be more robust than the one in Anniston. Hink said that the SDC 1200 off-gas treatment system was modified, but he did not know if it is more robust.

Atkins said she would get answers to the questions about the Anniston quench tower.

Hink further described how the quench tower works with particulates from the detonation chamber being scrubbed by a cascading water flow, resulting in solids that accumulate in the cooling tubes and in the upper areas, which restricts air flow. When this happens, a shutdown is needed to remove the particles. The process is difficult because the quench tower has limited accessibility, Hink said.

***KDEP Permitting Updates – April Webb, Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD)
Section Supervisor, KDEP***

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

In her presentation, Webb said that since the December meeting, the KDEP team has been in contact with Williams to provide the documents he requested during that meeting. These include a recent copy of the alternative technology report and the 2023 spring groundwater monitoring report notice of deficiency. She also noted that the public comment period on the Class 2 permit modification request continues through April 15, and a public meeting is scheduled for March 7.

She also said that the department has issued seven permit modifications since the last meeting. She said the KDEP team continues to collaborate with BPBG on main plant closure permitting and with PEO ACWA on closure of and closure verification quality plans for the storage igloos.

In reference to the requested documents mentioned by Webb, Williams said he is having them reviewed by an expert for possible further information or comment. He also said that BGAD is hosting a public meeting at 2 p.m. ET April 10 to discuss its open burn/open detonation (OB/OD) operations.

EDWG Update – Craig Williams, Chair, CAC

Williams began by praising Marko's contribution and offering best wishes for her new career opportunity. He also said Adkins and Rogers would continue the office's quality work.

Williams provided an update on the data center concept discussed at the December meeting and how the Department of the Army (DOA) and DOD showed little interest in the project for any military purpose. He said the Bechtel team would like to put the data center on BGAD property and pay the depot a lease fee and have it commercially available for DOD or DOA. He said discussions were continuing, with assistance from U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's office.

Williams also said Bechtel made a proposal to install a plant at BGAD to produce TNT for 155mm projectiles, and there have been discussions about other operations in which Bechtel might be interested.

Williams reminded the group about the April 10 meeting to be hosted by BGAD on OB/OD procedures at the depot. In response to a question from Moberly, Williams said BGAD personnel had assured him there would be “plenty” of publicity to alert the community about the meeting. BGAD commander Col. Brett Ayvazian and BGAD public affairs officer William Ritter said that local news outlets and social media would be used to promote the meeting.

Closing Remarks – Craig Williams, Chair, CAC

Williams thanked congressional staff members for attending and their help on issues important to the CAC/CDCAB and the community. He told the group he sent a note to McConnell about his decision to step down as Senate Minority Leader in November. He also asked the group to keep in mind those involved in conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. ET, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024.