



Doug Hindman  
Chair

Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission  
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Kent Clark  
Craig Williams  
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  
March 8, 2011  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Richmond, Kentucky**

**Attendees**

**Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC):**  
Doug Hindman, Tim Hubbard (for Valerie Hudson), Robert Miller, Charles O'Neal (for Brig. Gen. John Heltzel), Sheila Pressley and Craig Williams

**Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB):**  
Lt. Col. Steven Basso, Daniel Bayans, David Benge, Jeff Brubaker, Michael Bryant (for Carl Richards), Regina Crawford, Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Terry House, Tim Hubbard (for Valerie Hudson), Leslie Kaylor (for Steve Karcher), Robert Miller, Charles O'Neal (for Brig. Gen. John Heltzel), Rick Rife (for Mark Seely), David Rowlette, Aaron Thompson, Craig Williams and Lt. Col. Steven Young (for Col. Brian Rogers)

**Media Attendees:**

*Richmond Register:* Bill Robinson  
WEKU 88.9 Radio: Ron Smith

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Systems Contractor Update
- Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Leadership Meeting with CAC/CDCAB
- Nunn-McCurdy Breach Update

## 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:** Conduct a poll of the CAC members to name Nora Shepherd's replacement on the CAC.

**Responsible Entity:** Doug Hindman, CAC Chair.

**Timeline:** Prior to June 14, 2011.

**Action Item:** Provide a formal recommendation to BGCAPP on the path forward for the thermal oxidizer.

**Responsible Entity:** Doug Hindman, CAC Chair and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair.

**Timeline:** Prior to April 15, 2011.

**Action Item:** Add CAC/CDCAB members to the distribution for the *Connect with BGCAPP* e-newsletter.

**Responsible Entity:** Chris Higginbotham.

**Timeline:** Prior to May 2011.

**Action Item:** Craig Williams will poll the CAC/CDCAB members for interest in another BGCAPP technical presentation.

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair.

**Timeline:** June 14, 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 Dec. 14 CAC/CDCAB meeting:

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Steps Taken</b>	<b>Date/Status</b>
Craig Williams would like to set up tours of the Blue Grass Army Depot and BGCAPP for incoming Richmond and Berea elected officials in the	A tour was scheduled by the Blue Grass Chemical Activity.	March 24

spring.		
Jeanne Hibberd requested a site tour for Economic Development Working Group (EDWG) members.	To be discussed in next EDWG meeting.	TBD
Doug Hindman requested a breakdown of the manual workforce diversity information.	An email containing this information was sent to CAC/CDCAB members.	Feb. 18

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

Hindman noted the large turnout of group members and asked if there was anything else that members think should be done at the meetings. No responses were received at that time.

Williams extended the group’s sympathies to Howard Baker’s family, for his death late last year. He said Berea Mayor Steven Connelly requested Chester Powell replace Baker. Williams then said Nora Shepherd will be resigning due to her new judicial position, and Diane Kirby, Berea College employee and past CAC member, has been put forward as a replacement. Williams extended a formal greeting to Regina Crawford, who replaced Kevin Atkins as field representative at Sen. Mitch McConnell’s (R-Ky.) office, and Dan Bayans, who is the new field representative for Sen. Rand Paul’s (R-Ky.) office; and to Conrad Whyne, interim ACWA program manager and director of the U.S. Chemical Materials Agency, and Dr. Tom Hopkins, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Treaties and Threat Reduction). He noted Whyne has been very helpful behind the scenes in recent years in supporting the ACWA program. Williams then said Harry Moberly had retired as Kentucky state representative after 30 years and from his vice presidency at Eastern Kentucky University, and is interested in rejoining the CAC/CDCAB.

**Key Updates**

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

***Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@iem.com.***

Jeff Brubaker provided an update of BGCAPP activities and discussed recent construction progress. He noted all of the munitions disassembly and processing equipment was under fabrication, as is the SCWO equipment. Brubaker mentioned several project initiatives including the X-ray assessment of mustard projectiles and the new lay-down

yard for construction materials, and noted the BGCAPP project would save \$10 to \$20 million by reusing Enhanced On-site Containers from other demilitarization facilities. He briefly previewed Bechtel's report regarding the Bulk Oxidizer (BOX) testing and announced that the printed BGCAPP *Exchange* newsletter would be soon transitioned into an e-newsletter format. He also emphasized the importance of stakeholder feedback to the ACWA program.

Robert Miller asked if the CAC/CDCAB members would automatically be added to the new e-newsletter mailing list. Brubaker assured him they would be.

Williams briefly elaborated on the X-ray assessment topic for the benefit of Bayans and Crawford, including background on possible disassembly problems; Explosive Destruction Technologies to be used, if any; and what percent of the stockpile would need to be treated.

***Systems Contractor Update – Rick Rife, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, Deputy Project Manager***

***Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or [bgoutreach@iem.com](mailto:bgoutreach@iem.com).***

Rick Rife gave a project update covering safety, project staffing and small business and community involvement. Rife highlighted that the project had again surpassed 1 million consecutive work-hours without a lost-time incident. Rife gave updates on each piece of the Blue Grass-Specific Equipment currently under fabrication. He reported that overall BGCAPP construction was 30 percent complete and explained the current construction completion percentages for the various buildings.

Rife provided a summary of the issues identified during the BOX equipment testing, as well as the project's recommended path forward. He explained that the BOX is not part of the neutralization process – that it only treats the off-gasses from the neutralization process as part of the air pollution control system. It operates with heat and is designed to thermally destroy pollutants called volatile organic compounds and PCBs. He said that the BOX was designed to operate without a flame, but that the initial design failed testing. He then explained that a more commercially available flamed unit, called a thermal oxidizer, provided a safe alternative to the BOX that would meet all air pollution-control requirements and would not adversely affect the project construction schedule.

Miller asked if the community should be concerned about a release of off-gasses from the BOX. Rife said the off-gasses he was referring to were the ones entering the BOX for treatment and discussed the levels of protection involved in the pollution control system. He said that it was being designed as a redundant system with several backups to ensure environmental safety.

Leslie Kaylor asked if the stack would be continuously monitored and Rife said yes, it is an Army requirement, and personnel will monitor the pollution control system at several locations to be continuously aware of what is being released and to ensure the system is working properly.

Terry House asked if BGCAPP would know exactly what was being released. Rife said BGCAPP would know thanks to the continuous, real-time monitoring between the carbon filter beds. He said results would be shared with regulators and the public.

Jeanne Hibberd asked why the flamed unit was not part of the original design. Rife explained that the original design of the entire plant focused on avoiding the use of open flames, as desired by members of the community. Hibberd then asked if the flamed design would be more dangerous. Rife responded that it would not.

Dr. Paula Maionchi, a member of the audience, asked where the carbon filters would be sent for disposal. Rife replied the project would not know that until the subcontracts were awarded, probably around 2018 to 2020, and the facility selected would meet applicable regulatory designation.

Williams said the thermal oxidizer would result in less waste than a redesigned flameless system operating at lesser temperature. He said the most reassuring aspect of this change is that there is no significant difference in output between the systems, and it is worth the trade-off to avoid lengthening the construction phase with a redesign effort. He said a recommendation on this technology will be provided to BGCAPP leadership by the CAC/CDCAB.

Hindman said he liked the flamed option as it did not slow down the construction process.

### **ACWA Leadership Meeting with CAC/CDCAB – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair**

Williams recapped the Jan. 31 meeting held between Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Treaties and Threat Reduction) Dr. Tom Hopkins; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons) Carmen Spencer; Acting ACWA Program Manager and Director of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Conrad Whyne; and CAC/CDCAB members. He said discussion topics included the selection of the new ACWA program manager, the Nunn-McCurdy breach, technology alternatives considered under the Nunn-McCurdy recertification process (he said he felt reassured it was unlikely anything other than neutralization followed by SCWO would be used here), and progress made by the EDWG. Williams noted program funding was in the hands of Congress, and he has been in contact with the congressional delegation to keep on top of the situation.

Williams provided an EDWG update, reporting that group leadership hopes to complete a scope of work for the BGCAPP economic impact study by March 11, and it will circulate the final draft for comment. The scope is expected to include requirements for analysis

around how the BGCAPP project will affect the local economy and whether BGCAPP structures could be reused for continued area economic growth.

Hindman said he was concerned about reuse of the project's buildings after its mission is accomplished, as he did not want the area to become a dumping ground, and asked Whyne where that issue was on his priority list. Whyne replied it was very high, and said there was potential for some of the buildings to be reused for the depot's ongoing conventional munitions mission. He stated he and the depot were both not interested in becoming a reception site for waste.

Hindman said one issue he had been made aware of was that any building contaminated by chemical agent would be a liability after processing, no matter how much it was cleaned. Whyne said if there was any liability, the building would be razed down to its foundation, but CMA has been using technologies that can clean the buildings much more thoroughly than in the past.

***Nunn-McCurdy Breach Update*** – Dr. Tom Hopkins, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Treaties and Threat Reduction)

Hopkins thanked the CAC/CDCAB for the invitation to speak. He addressed the Nunn-McCurdy breach and provided background information on the law. Hopkins clarified that the primary reasons for the breach included an immature design at the time the original life cycle estimate was developed; the inability to provide for funding to address unexpected elements of risk, such as contingency plans for the Blue Grass-Specific Equipment; and the fluctuating cost of items such as material commodities and labor. He explained that five Integrated Process Teams are meeting regularly to provide recommendations to the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics by June 14. Hopkins emphasized the project budget has not and will not be affected during this process. He said the breach is actually good in that the resulting program review process will give the Department of Defense and ACWA leadership a much more realistic idea of project costs.

Miller asked if inflation had been considered in the original budget estimate. Hopkins answered yes, it was figured on cost per unit of destruction, starting from the first year (1994).

Aaron Thompson asked what options were being considered as alternatives to the current chemical weapons destruction plan. Hopkins said he'd like to maintain the integrity of the process and not go into too much detail, but pointed out that the progress already made at BGCAPP would be a consideration in discussion of alternatives.

House asked about the future of the project property and if there was a possibility of it being sold to the private sector after chemical demilitarization operations concluded. Whyne explained that Base Realignment and Closure laws would govern any such

decision. Lt. Col. Steven Young elaborated that the depot was evaluating options for future use of the property.

Hibberd said the Nunn-McCurdy process sounded very complicated and asked if the deadline would be met and what the issues would be if it were not. Hopkins indicated comfort with meeting the deadline and said the impact of not meeting it would be severe, so everyone in the chain would work to prevent that from happening.

Williams added that while the project was fully funded last year, there were problems with the fact that money was provided for different areas within the program, such as past military construction and research, design and development, and that money may have been more than adequate in some years and less than adequate in others. He said he sees a positive development at the end of this painful process, in having a clearer picture of the appropriate funding.

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

Hindman thanked the attendees and said it had been a productive meeting. He said he appreciates everyone's interest and involvement.

Williams thanked Hopkins and Whyne for their attendance and said he appreciated Whyne's diligence with regard to the ACWA program.

### ***Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for June 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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