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Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
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Kent Clark
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Co-Chairs

**Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting
Summary of Action Items and Discussions
March 12, 2013
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Ky.**

Attendees

Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC):

Doug Hindman, Diane Kerby, Mark Klaas (for John Heltzel), Robert Miller, Harry Moberly, April Webb (for Tony Hatton) and Craig Williams

Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB): David Benge, Robert Blythe, Richard Boyle, Jeff Brubaker, Kent Clark, Jeanne Hibberd, Andy Hightower (for Rep. Andy Barr's (R-Ky.) office), Doug Hindman, Terry House, Sheila Johnson (for Lt. Col. Christopher Grice), Steve Karcher, Diane Kerby, Mark Klaas (for John Heltzel), Darcy Maupin, Tom McKinney, Robert Miller, Harry Moberly, David Rowlette, George Shuplinkov (for Col. Brian Rogers), Mica Sims (for Sen. Rand Paul's (R-Ky.) office), Regina Crawford Stivers (for Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) office), April Webb (for Tony Hatton), Tyler White (for Rep. Barr's office) and Craig Williams

Media Attendees:

WTVQ-ABC: Heather Loy

Lexington *Herald-Leader*: Greg Kocher

The Richmond Register: Sarah Hogsed

Meeting Synopsis

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Update
- Showing of BGCAPP Process Video
- Updates from CDCAB Co-Chair

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 interested members with copies of the BGCAPP Process Video.

Responsible Entity: ORO staff.

Timeline: As requested.

Action Item: Economic Development Working Group (EDWG) to be briefed on a draft phase-one economic study.

Responsible Entity: Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair.

Timeline: June 4, 2013.

Action Item: Schedule and conduct a site tour for CAC/CDCAB members.

Responsible Entity: Doug Hindman, CAC chair.

Timeline: Before June 4, 2013.

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Debbie Hogan, ORO, Administrative Professional

Hogan welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the following action items from the Dec. 11 CAC/CDCAB meeting:

Action Item	Steps Taken	Date/Status
Provide jobs forecast chart to David Benge.	Addressed by Tom McKinney in his update.	Complete
Provide Rocket Motor Separation Operation recommendation to the Blue Grass Chemical Activity.	The Secondary Waste Working Group delivered their recommendation on March 5, 2013.	Complete
Call a meeting of the full EDWG.	Craig Williams to plan for this in 2013.	TBD

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

Hindman welcomed attendees and thanked them for their attendance.

Williams also welcomed everyone and noted new member Rich Boyle, and attendees Tyler White and Andy Hightower from Rep. Barr's office.

Clark said he appreciated everyone taking the time to attend and he was glad to be able to be at the meeting.

Key Updates

BGCAPP Update – Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP, Site Project Manager, and Tom McKinney, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, Project Manager

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

Brubaker gave a construction progress update, stating project construction is 65 percent and systemization activities are 9 percent complete, and discussed the status of key buildings and systems around the construction site. He noted the project has taken delivery of the final munitions processing equipment, installation of which will begin later this year, and talked about the ongoing work on the Munitions Demilitarization Building filtration system and the Hydrolysate Storage Area (HSA). Brubaker then gave focus to the sequestration issue, saying the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) is tracking it closely and is committed to maximizing 2013 construction progress while operating within whatever funding levels are established. He said once the project has a clear idea of the year's funding, the impact on the project progress and completion schedule could be more accurately predicted.

Brubaker then said the National Research Council is studying the supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) and the reverse osmosis systems for possible risk mitigation during systemization. Craig Williams asked Brubaker what he meant by "risk," and Brubaker said there has not been an analogous system operated on the scale that will be used at the BGCAPP project and that testing has relied primarily on the processing of surrogate or simulated agent in smaller systems. He touched on the disposal of the separated rocket motors and said the project would be asking the Secondary Waste Working Group to consider options for that disposal. On the topic of Explosive Destruction Technology, Brubaker said the environmental assessment (EA) process is continuing and project representatives meet regularly with Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection personnel on various permitting processes. He indicated an upcoming 30-day public comment period for the EA process is scheduled to begin in June, possibly before the

next CAC/CDCAB meeting. He said the Pueblo project continues working toward a decision for the processing of their problematic munitions.

Williams asked if the risks of the SCWO system were related to the efficacy of the process and not from potential agent contamination or risk to the community. Brubaker confirmed this, and said the chemical agent would be destroyed in the prior neutralization process and no chemical agent would be present in the SCWO process. He said the risks to the SCWO process could include liner corrosion or problems with the transport of the salts (both have been tested and had very good results), and the mechanical reliability of the support systems, particularly the high-pressure ones.

Williams then asked how many SCWO modules will be at the site and when they were scheduled to arrive. Brubaker explained there will be three, with plans calling for two to operate at the same time while one was down for routine maintenance, but all three could operate together for short periods. He said SCWO testing was completed Feb. 1, and presuming success with a mid-April technical review, the equipment could start arriving at the site in the June time frame.

Williams wondered if PEO ACWA personnel would be subject to sequestration, and how many staff would be affected if that were the case. Brubaker said yes, all Department of the Army personnel would be subject to furlough: starting April 22 and continuing for up to 22 consecutive weeks, each affected staff member would work eight fewer hours a week, for a 20 percent reduction in pay. Consideration has already been given on how to handle that situation, should it arise. There is also a hiring freeze mandated for all Department of the Army (DA) civilian positions that could have impact upon the project at a later date.

CAC and CDCAB member Robert Miller said members of the community are interested in project completion and are asking questions about when the facility would be ready and what 65-percent complete means. Brubaker replied construction is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2015, with systemization beginning this year and ramping up over the next few years. Some of the systemization cannot begin until construction is complete, as it is verification of "people, paper and plant." He explained systemization is a demonstration of the different plant systems, with an integrated demonstration at the end. More than 600 plant operators will be hired and trained, and there will be an optimization phase toward the end of systemization to demonstrate to regulatory agencies the plant's readiness to begin chemical-agent operations.

CDCAB member David Bengé asked how many project employees would be affected by the sequester. Brubaker said 28 DA civilians would be affected, including PEO ACWA staff and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Army Contracting Command - Rock Island personnel.

CDCAB member Terry House said a hiring freeze was mentioned about two years ago in one of the meetings, and it was stated then that there would be no money or budget problems. Are there problems now? Brubaker said yes, there has been some impact from

the first continuing resolution, and there would probably be more from the upcoming decisions.

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Update – Tom McKinney, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, Project Manager

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Tom McKinney acknowledged the project's safety record was still better than industry averages; however, more improvement is needed. He will not be completely happy until there are zero accidents, which he feels is doable. He discussed the "Brother's Keeper" safety culture that is being encouraged at the site, noting there is no retribution for workers who speak up about safety, and passed out BGCAPP Stop Work/Pause Work Cards carried by all workers. He said the "Brother's Keeper" program has been very well received. McKinney explained project staffing numbers, saying the project is shifting toward systemization, and piping and wiring; and away from structural work, and the local workforce numbers are expected to grow as the project goes through systemization, and said the project is working 20 percent selective overtime. He noted the diversity numbers were a little down this time over last fall's numbers, and anticipated that proportion changing for the better as the craft focus changes. The project is dependent on the unions to staff the manual workforce. McKinney said that project acquisitions were slowing down, partly due to funding and partly from the acquisitions phase slowing down. He discussed corporate stewardship and the grants Bechtel has made to science, technology, engineering and math teachers, and then showed a video of the Munitions Washout System (MWS) processing a simulated projectile during testing. McKinney gave construction updates on several buildings and the HSA and said he was hoping to be able to turn some processes over to systemization early, to try to take some of the risk out of the workload schedule in the future. He then informed the group that he was moving to another Bechtel project in London, England, and Doug Omichinski, Pueblo's project manager, would be taking his place.

Miller asked if an anomaly in projectile weight on the MWS would cause a shut-down. Brubaker said yes, if the weight was out of range, the process would stop and prompt the control room operator to begin an investigative process.

Williams asked if McKinney would be here for the next CAC/CDCAB meeting. McKinney said he would not be. Williams thanked McKinney for his work and his engagement and accessibility to the group.

Robert Blythe, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People representative, expressed his appreciation at McKinney's immediate address of a concern he had raised at the last meeting.

Showing of BGCAPP Process Video: A member asked how the video would be used and if copies could be made available. Brubaker explained it would be used in project

communications and public outreach activities. ORO staff provided copies to those who were interested and shared information on how the video could be viewed on the PEO ACWA YouTube page.

CDCAB Working Group Updates – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair

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

Williams began by discussing project funding, saying 2013's budget request was the highest amount of funding that has been or probably will be requested for this project. He explained the continuing resolution and sequestration situation and said an amazing collaborative effort secured \$36.434 million in reprogrammed funds for the first half of 2013, and then said it is possible the money could be appropriated for the second half to bring the project budget back to 2013 requested levels. Williams said the originally requested amount is in the appropriation bill that is moving through the House and Senate, and if the bill survives the process, the project would receive the full requested 2013 budget. If the process does not work as hoped, the project can request more appropriated funds. There are a lot of balls in the air and a lot of people involved in this whole effort. He said one big driver for the appropriations process was the fact that the project is under the international treaty and that brought a lot of focus to the project. Williams said he has been invited back to The Hague this year, and he will thank Ambassador Robert Mikulak for his support of the project. He noted an Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons contingent will be visiting the site on May 22.

Economic Development Working Group: Williams said the group was working on phase one of the economic development study, on understanding project employment and how to keep workers local when the project is complete, noting there would be a \$1.4 billion infrastructure and more than 1,000 highly trained personnel here at the end of the project. Having something in place for those people to do to continue the positive economic impact to the area is important. He would like to have a draft of this phase of the study done before he calls a meeting of the full group, which he hopes will be before the next CAC/CDCAB meeting.

Secondary Waste Working Group: Williams explained this group has been focused on the rocket motor separation operation and a public meeting on the subject was held in January, with public comments due in February. The Chemical Weapons Working Group submitted comments on the operation. He explained the separation process using a diagram and said 25 motors would go to Picatinny Arsenal for testing and the remaining 19 would stay here for PEO ACWA's future study.

Monitoring Working Group: Williams said this group has met several times and Lt. Col. Christopher Grice has been very accommodating and available to them. He discussed the Igloo Filtration Study and the findings of mold when igloo vents were closed. Williams said the group's earlier recommendation was to close all igloo vents, but based on the

mold findings, they have reconsidered and now recommend the vents be left open, with the exception of the three GB igloos closest to the BGCAPP site. The group also recommended that methods of mold growth mitigation should continue to be pursued, and any increase in inspection deemed appropriate to the vent closures should be continued. Williams said if mold continues to be an issue, there are several things that could be done to take care of it, including tarpaulins, spray or portable dehumidifiers. He noted a problem with the spray is that it can trigger alarms in the air monitoring platforms utilized by BGCA.

Miller asked what kind of opposition could derail project funding and if the cuts do come, what contingencies could be taken. Williams answered that difficulties in Washington could derail the funding, not project-related issues. Money could possibly be reprogrammed again but it would be more difficult this time as sequestration would complicate the process. Williams is optimistic because of the treaty, past success and all of the players working toward the end goal.

CAC and CDCAB member Harry Moberly asked what the funding would be called if it is approved. Williams said it would be an amendment to the continuing resolution in the 2013 defense appropriations bill.

CDCAB member Jeanne Hibberd wished Williams a happy birthday and thanked him for the time he has put into this project.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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