



Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization
Citizens' Advisory Commission

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Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
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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 9, 2010
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky**

Meeting Synopsis

The meeting was designed to provide an update on the following:

- U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Budget Update
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Update
- BGCAPP Technology Review: Processing Destruction of Chemical Weapons
- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Update
- Explosive Destruction Technologies Working Group (EDTWG) and Monitoring Working Group (MWG) Updates

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 at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Action Items

Action Item: The CAC/CDCAB requested at least one meeting per year be held in the evening, and will distribute a questionnaire to group members to determine which date is best for this change.

Responsible Entity: CAC/CDCAB, Chairs

Timeline: By June 8, 2010

Action Item: The CAC/CDCAB requested a poll of CAC/CDCAB members to weigh interest in further technology briefings.

Responsible Entity: Craig Williams

Timeline: By April 15, 2010

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Susan Kahler, Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, Community Outreach Specialist

Susan Kahler welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the action items from the Dec. 8 CAC/CDCAB meeting, which consisted of the following: a request from the CAC/CDCAB chairs for a link to the project website employment page, a request from the CAC/CDCAB chairs for an updated schedule briefing based on the revised funding to be briefed by Jeff Brubaker later in the meeting and a request for a third technology briefing to cover the progress of a munition through the facility to be complete by the end of the meeting.

Kahler noted the link to the project website regarding employment had been distributed to CAC/CDCAB members via e-mail in addition to business card information placed on the registration table.

BGCAPP Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker introduced Stephanie Parrett as the new BGCAPP public affairs specialist and Chris Higginbotham as the new outreach office manager.

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

Doug Hindman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked participants for their time.

Williams stated that Madison County Judge-Executive Kent Clark was unable to make the meeting.

Key Updates

ACWA Budget Update – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair

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Craig Williams provided an ACWA budget update recapping funding history, legislative actions and praising the congressional delegation for their bipartisan efforts in working with Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Williams commented on his anticipation that the Fiscal Year 2011 President's Budget should reflect what everybody has agreed upon. Williams stated that the CAC/CDCAB members and the Kentucky congressional delegation must remain vigilant and engaged against shifting Pentagon priorities, international developments and congressional competition to ensure the project receives adequate funding in order to complete the mission in an accelerated fashion.

David Benge, CDCAB member, asked how much of the money had been spent on BGCAPP as of 2010. Williams answered he would research that information and respond back to him. Bob Miller, CAC member, asked if the CAC/CDCAB needed to take any actions to ensure that the BGCAPP project continues to be fully funded. Williams stated that if the budget is released and is not what was agreed upon, he will investigate and if needed, request assistance from the group. Williams added that the data provided in the briefing is basically for information purposes only, as the budget profile has not yet been released.

Williams discussed the fabrication and prototype testing of the Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO) stating that the money is now being allocated to begin operations of the SCWO testing. Williams stated that the BGCAPP project construction schedule for 2011 included construction of the SCWO Processing Building.

Jeanne Hibberd, CDCAB member, questioned the legislation mandating the 2017 deadline for destruction and the current ACWA schedule planning for destruction completion in 2021. Williams stated that the program needs to stick to the law, but, if necessary, the program will have to go back to Congress and explain the circumstances of any violation and discuss the revised schedule. Williams further stated that congress would need to at least see a good faith effort on the part of BGCAPP.

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

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Jeff Brubaker gave a project update noting BGCAPP accomplishments, starting with construction milestones such as placement of the final piece of structural steel on the Control and Support Building and the first concrete placement in the blast portion of the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB). Brubaker discussed progress of the Blue Grass-Specific Equipment noting components of the Metal Parts Treater are currently being installed in the MDB. Brubaker also noted the fully functioning traffic light to be installed outside the BGCAPP gate on Highway 52. Brubaker highlighted the significant safety milestone of reaching 5 million man-hours without a lost-time injury or accident.

Brubaker discussed the explosive destruction technology (EDT) considerations for BGCAPP by highlighting some of the problems at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah while processing H-filled 155 mm projectiles. Brubaker noted that ACWA and Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) will work together in 2010/2011, assessing mustard projectiles stored in Blue Grass. This non-destructive assessment will use X-ray technology to measure the solidification problem in the projectiles. Williams asked if the percentage of mustard projectile rejects for Tooele were known, to which Brubaker answered about 15 percent. Brubaker pointed out that ACWA has been requested to recommend safe, feasible and cost effective approaches to provide continuous destruction of U.S. chemical weapons destruction after four incineration plants complete operation in 2011/2012 and noted EDT represents the only means to achieve that goal.

During the EDT update, Terry House, CDCAB member, questioned whether the workers actually handling the weapons received specific training. Brubaker explained that these workers are classified as chemical weapons handlers, and receive extensive training.

Brubaker recapped the Feb. 24 Monitoring Working Group (MWG) meeting stating the meeting was held in response to questions raised by the group on the Storage Risk Update (September 2008) and the Blue Grass Construction Worker Update (July 2006) Quantitative Risk Assessments (QRA). Brubaker noted the MWG questions focused on monitoring procedures, upcoming QRA studies and the likelihood of specific events. He stated ACWA and Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) continue to be committed to maximizing worker and public safety and this sharing of information and open dialogue have met the objectives of the MWG.

As a follow-up action item from the Dec. 8 2009 CAC/CDCAB meeting, Brubaker briefed the BGCAPP schedule and funding. Brubaker stated that in early 2009, BGCAPP received approval for an increased funding profile and that this increased funding results in construction completing in 2016 and agent destruction in 2021. Brubaker noted that due to the size and complexity of this project, it is unlikely that the BGCAPP project will meet the 2017 deadline. He noted that the systems contractor is looking at ways to meet that schedule. Brubaker further noted that once systemization is complete, the BGCAPP facility will be able to run a 24 hours per day, seven days per week schedule. Williams commented that BGCAPP is close to 100 percent complete on design, which will have a tremendous impact on construction from here on out.

Williams used the following illustration on scheduling: assuming a year could be saved in construction; assuming the pre-operations testing goes well, another year could be saved and if all mustard projectiles were processed using EDT, an additional year could be saved. Williams pointed out that there could be areas in which the schedule could be moved to the left somewhat but mentioned that it could go the other way as well.

Brubaker covered closure stating BGCAPP is to work with the state (Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection in addition to the governor's office) and hopes to have discussions as early as possible to determine the closure plan and closure language. Brubaker noted the Blue Grass Army depot (BGAD) has shown an interest in

some of the non-agent processing units on the BGCAPP site but that the decision ultimately is with the state.

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Update – Mark Seely, Project Manager

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Mark Seely updated the group on the project, noting Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) remains focused on safety and is working toward Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Plan (VPP) Star Status and noting the formal application has been submitted for OSHA review. Seely noted the BGCAPP project has met a 5 million man-hours without a lost-time injury or accident milestone and that the recordable injury rate is 85 percent lower than the industry average and the lost-time injury rate is zero. Seely discussed employee involvement in the safety record noting the Safety Task Analysis Risk Reduction Talk Team (STARRT) and the Constructive Attitude Towards Safety (CATS) team. He informed the group that both teams perform about 1,000 safety observations per month, which helps reinforce positive behavior. Miller asked whether elevated work is the most dangerous type of work and if construction workers are specially trained for it. Seely answered the most dangerous type of work would be a life-critical event including working at elevated height, working around energized systems like power or steam, or in working in contained areas. Seely further explained the elevated workers are ironworkers, come to the BGCAPP site already experienced and receive additional training on site.

Seely addressed staffing, acquisitions, design and construction progress noting that over the next few years, non-manual staff levels will remain the same and craft workers will be increasing to around 500 workers, which will be employed through the Kentucky State Building and Construction Trades union. Seely also mentioned the upcoming BPBG Vendor Forum scheduled for March 18.

Seely covered the three recent milestones, which were completion of placement of structural steel on the Control and Support Building, the first concrete placement in the blast portion of the Munitions Demilitarization Building and the assembling of the Metal Parts Treater. Williams asked what other Blue Grass-Specific Equipment was on site other than the Metal Parts Treater, to which Seely answered the Energetics Batch Hydrolyzer is in final testing and will arrive soon.

BGCAPP Technology: Processing Destruction of Chemical Weapons – Ron Hawley, URS Corporation, Plant General Manager

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As a follow-up action item from the Dec. 8 CAC/CDCAB meeting, Ron Hawley presented a technology briefing on rocket processing. Hawley explained the separate components of

a rocket and that rockets will be transported from the igloos to the pilot plant using Enhanced On-Site Containers (EONC). House questioned whether munitions will be moved incrementally to which Hawley explained that BGCAPP would work with the BGCA to determine the number of move days and further responded that transport would not happen on bad weather days or after daylight hours for risk considerations. Hawley explained that a good stockpile needs to be maintained as a carry-over for days that no shipments occur. He stated the Container Handling Building can hold up to 50 EONCs to accommodate for non-shipment days. Hawley explained that the Unpack Area will be the first place the EONCs will be opened and the last place in the process where operators will handle munitions.

Hawley informed the group that the Explosion Containment Room will use the Rocket Shear Machine to punch through the warhead cavity and drain the agent out of the rocket head. Hawley then showed a video of the Rocket Shear Machine in process. Williams asked whether the energetic portion of the rocket would be sheared and Hawley said the warhead section would be, but the propellant section would not. Williams added that the problems in the baseline sites were in the shearing of the propellant section. Williams also asked about possible contamination of the warhead shipping and firing tube sections after the warheads had been removed. Hawley responded noting that the Motor Packing Room was monitored to ensure they were not contaminated. House also asked about workforce safety once the munitions had been moved. Hawley responded by stating the unpack room is under engineering controls and that the workers have protective gear including slung masks. Williams questioned whether air samples were pulled on a continuous basis in the unpack room, to which Hawley replied yes. House asked if it was not cost-effective to build an area inside BGCA to destroy these rockets and Hawley answered by explaining the EONCs are sealed and are the best way to safely transport the munitions, and that they have undergone thorough testing prior to their use for this application. Hawley further explained that the BGCAPP project has the shortest move distance of any other demilitarization site.

David Benge, CDCAB member asked how many rockets will be destroyed in a day and Hawley replied that by design, 20 GB or 24 VX rockets per hour would be destroyed, assuming there are no down-time issues.

Hawley discussed the Motor Shipping Room to which Charles O'Neal, representing CAC/CDCAB member Brig. Gen. John Heltzel, asked what the criteria would be for continuing operations after a potential blast or explosion. Hawley answered by stating that most all utility services would be shut off and that there has only been one explosion in the history of the program, which was at Johnston Atoll. Hawley further explained that in such an event, the investigation process would be the main hold-up of further processing. Miller asked what would happen in the event there were a catastrophic power outage and Hawley stated that there are uninterruptible power systems and back-up generators that would come into play to run critical processes such as the HVAC for ventilation.

Madison County CSEPP Update – Carl Richards, Madison County Emergency Management Agency, Director

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

Carl Richards shared a CSEPP Year in Review with the group including the following topics: exercises and training, Operation *Swift Solution*, significant weather impacts and outreach opportunities. Richards discussed that Madison County CSEPP personnel and first responders had the opportunity to learn a lot during the *Swift Solution* exercise and stated it was good practice for the upcoming BGCAPP operations. Richards further stated that Madison County is very fortunate to have the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) as it provides training and exercise opportunities as well as funding for the community.

Richards discussed the process of upgrading to 800 MHz radios stating that it is now in the testing phase. He said every volunteer responder will communicate on these radios and that it will be the best system in the state. Also being upgraded are the tone alert radios with an expanded coverage area and with delivery scheduled to begin next month. Richards described the new devices stating they will have built in radios with preset channels that cannot be changed for at least several minutes. Richards also noted CSEPP will be expanding the outdoor sirens by adding 24 sirens in 2010.

The Madison County CSEPP is also undergoing an IT transfer of around 200 documents into a new format. Richards stated this is a very large project

In discussing the "Looking Forward" section of his briefing, Richards discussed outreach opportunities at events such as the Safety Fair and speaking engagements. Miller asked about the nature of questions that the CSEPP staff receives during outreach events and whether or not there was a recurring theme or concern of the public. Richards said most people want to know when the stockpile is going to be gone and when are we going to burn it. Miller further asked whether CSEPP has received any calls regarding the *Associated Press* article related to "blowing up weapons." Richards responded that CSEPP has gotten a few calls, but most of the interaction related to the article has been face to face.

Miller asked how the communication problems exposed by the catastrophic event on Sept. 11, 2001 had been addressed. Richards explained that the emergency management community at both national and state level was in the process of continuing to address this problem. He added that on a national level things were not moving very quickly but on the local level, there was progress being made to address the problem. Miller asked if the communications problem could occur again in an emergency and Richards stated that locally the first responder community had made several positive steps to eliminate the potential problem and test this function during several exercises on a yearly basis. Williams asked about the level of communication between CSEPP, first responders and BGAD during *Swift Solution* a scale of one (worst) to 10 (best), and Richards stated that it was probably somewhere around an eight for important items

requiring response or status but for less important information requests, it is somewhere around a five.

Williams discussed the October 2009 exercise and stated it was a great learning experience for him. Williams suggested CSEPP make a video of an abbreviated version of an exercise to be placed on local government channels for more visibility to the community.

Nora Shepherd, CAC member, asked about training in local schools and if evacuations were ever practiced. Richards stated that the training focused more on sheltering in place but mock evacuation exercises have been done with children actually getting on buses even though the buses don't actually move the children due to insurance liabilities.

EDTWG and MWG Update – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair

Craig Williams recapped the EDT Working Group meetings stating they have now met on three separate occasions with those dates being May 6, 2009; June 2, 2009 and Nov. 30, 2009. Williams stated the three applications EDT is being considered for are "problem" mustard projectiles; non-contaminated rocket motors and all mustard projectiles. Williams added there may be a fourth application, which refers to the use of EDT to process weapons between the end of operations at the Pueblo site and the beginning of operations at BGCAPP. Williams discussed the four EDTs under consideration: Transportable Detonation Chamber; DAVINCH (Detonation of Ammunition in a Vacuum-Integrated Chamber); Static Detonation Chamber (Dynasafe) and the Explosive Destruction System (EDS). Williams stated the DAVINCH was recently selected for the Tooele, Utah, facility and the Dynasafe was selected for Anniston, Ala. Williams further stated that the incinerator sites are not equipped to handle these "problem" rounds without the use of EDT.

Williams noted that the EDTWG was asked to come up with recommendations for Kevin Flamm to take to Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) regarding the EDT and stated there are two CDCAB voting members who do not support the recommendations and a consensus has not been reached. Williams also discussed having time to consider technology and having lessons learned from the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility and the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility to reference as they start using EDTs. Williams stated that personally (not on behalf of the EDTWG), he felt it is a matter of risk elimination as opposed to sending workers in with tools in hand to process the problematic projectiles and that he did not want to place workers at undue risk. Williams stated the EDTWG will consider the best recommendation to make in the future.

Williams explained that EDT received a lot of national media attention and in defense of the *Associated Press* reporter, Williams stated the article the reporter had written is not the same as the article ultimately published. Williams said the reporter did a very diligent job in getting the story right but it got turned around somewhere down the line. Williams said that after receiving several calls from Gulf War Vets and several others, he launched

an intentional media campaign with local media to help people understand. He spoke of his joint interview with Brubaker on *WVTK* radio to address this issue.

Williams discussed the Colorado CAC's concerns and stated ACWA is really going the extra mile and trying to build a consensus on this issue there. He said it was a good example of transparency.

At the end of the EDT briefing, Johnnie Allen clarified projectile and rocket information, stating the nerve agent projectiles do not have explosives and that the problem mustard projectiles are in overpacks.

Williams then opened discussions to the MWG with an overview of previous meetings and focusing on the Feb. 24 meeting. Williams recapped the Storage Risk Update (September 2008) and the Blue Grass Construction Worker Update (July 2006) Quantitative Risk Assessments (QRA) and stated they are living documents that are never really complete. He further stated they are always looking at areas of risk that might be able to be mitigated further. Williams stated that the MWG members will need to meet again to determine which of their questions were answered during the last meeting and which ones still need to be answered. Williams said that none of the MWG members have a Ph.D. in risk assessment and will need to discuss how to bridge that knowledge gap.

Williams was very complimentary of Lt. Col. David Musgrave stating he was extraordinarily confident and comfortable with what BGCA is doing. Williams stated he has never met anybody more confident in what they are doing than Musgrave. Williams pointed out that the MWG discussions were not to demean or criticize what BGCA does but to determine what can be done better.

Allen suggested the MWG not wait for another quarter to submit additional questions but to communicate them quickly so they can be addressed by the next CAC/CDCAB meeting. Williams clarified that the purpose of the next meeting is for MWG members to develop those questions.

There were no questions.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8 at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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

Hindman thanked everyone for their attendance and participation with a special thanks to Hawley stating that he did a very nice job on his presentation.

Williams expressed his appreciation to Richards for his positive involvement in the local CSEPP program and recommended CSEPP create a video of an abbreviated version of the CSEPP Exercise to play on local cable channels. He then stated this has been a good meeting with a lot of good information and good progress. Williams stated that it is very rewarding to see the BGCAPP facility coming up out of the ground and finally seeing real, tangible evidence of progress. Williams noted Flamm is doing a very good job in terms of open communication and that personally, he feels as though he has complete access to him. Williams stated Brubaker is also a good local asset to assist with communication and work with stakeholders.

Williams noted that he will miss working with Parrett at the Outreach Office but feels confident that Kahler and Higginbotham will do a fantastic job as always.

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