



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
ASSEMBLED CHEMICAL WEAPONS ALTERNATIVES  
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ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21010-5424

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

June 6, 2018

Program Executive Officer

Ms. Irene Kornelly  
Chair, Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission  
1602 Clemson Drive  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

Dear Ms. <sup>Irene</sup> Kornelly and Members of the Commission:

I am writing to provide an update on the ongoing evaluation of supplemental destruction technologies for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Program continues its evaluation of alternatives to address worker safety issues, the schedule delays, and fiscal implications being raised by the technical issues encountered at PCAPP. An essential element of this evaluation is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulatory process that considers potential environmental impacts from the options being explored.

One of the supplemental destruction options under consideration is use of one or more Static Detonation Chambers (SDC). In 2012, the ACWA Program evaluated four types of supplemental destruction technologies, one of which was the SDC, for certain problematic mustard-agent munitions at PCAPP. The final NEPA documents for this analysis, an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, are available at [www.peoacwa.army.mil](http://www.peoacwa.army.mil). Our current NEPA analysis will build upon this 2012 data, and we hope to have a NEPA document available for public review by the end of 2018.

The ACWA Program will not make a decision on whether or not to use one or more SDCs at PCAPP until the NEPA process has been completed. Based on our experience at the Blue Grass Army Depot, where the SDC was selected as a supplemental destruction technology in 2013, acquiring a SDC takes over a year. A SDC, however, can be used in other programs throughout DoD should a final decision be made not to use SDCs at PCAPP. For example, my office has coordinated with the following organizations who could utilize the SDCs:

- Program Executive Office for Ammunition (PEO Ammo)—the Anniston SDC has successfully destroyed conventional munitions in support of PEO Ammo. The SDCs could be utilized by PEO Ammo to destroy the backlog of conventional ammunition.

- U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA)—the SDCs could be utilized by CMA to support their non-stockpile recovered chemical weapons material mission and remediation activities.
- Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Programs) (ASD (NCB))—the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Threat Reduction and Arms Control) has been assigned as the principal advisor to the ASD (NCB) on chemical and biological weapons (CBW) elimination. The SDCs could be utilized for overseas CBW elimination.

Because the SDC is a long lead-time item that could be employed to address needs at several locations other than PCAPP, I am proceeding to order three SDCs. Let me reassure you that no action respecting the location, installation, or use of the SDCs will be taken until the NEPA process has been completed and a final decision on whether or not to use one or more SDCs at PCAPP has been made. I look forward to our continued dialogue and working collaboratively with the Citizens' Advisory Commission on this issue.



Suzanne S. Milchling  
Program Executive Officer