



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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# Top Off Ceremony Marks Milestone for Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pueblo, Colo. – More than 500 employees representing iron workers, electricians, operating engineers, plumbers, sheet metal workers, managers and administrators gathered today for a Topping Off Ceremony for the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building (ERB) at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) on the grounds of the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD).

The traditional ceremony, dating back more than 1,200 years, marks the moment at which the highest structural point is reached in a building under construction.

For this event, a steel rafter carrying a pine tree (symbolizing a joint effort between manual and non-manual personnel), was signed by union representatives, management and public officials. It will be safely hoisted into place atop the 140 x 240-foot steel frame structure tomorrow when wind conditions are more favorable.

Event participants included Kevin Flamm, program manager, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) and keynote speaker, A. Neal Hall, business manager, Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council, and Pueblo County Commissioner John Cordova. PCD Commander, Lt. Col. Robert Wittig, though unable to attend, sent a congratulatory message for the event while Bechtel Deputy Project Manager Doug Omichinski assumed duties as master of ceremonies.

The ERB will be the first stop for chemical munitions currently stockpiled at the depot and scheduled for destruction. After being safely disassembled inside one of the ERB's three reinforced concrete Explosion Containment Rooms, the munitions will be transported via robotic vehicles to the Agent Processing Building where mustard agent will be removed and destroyed using a process of neutralization followed by biotreatment.

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