



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant marks arrival of bioreactors on site

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT, Colo. -- Pueblo community leaders, including members of the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, joined managers at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) today to welcome the arrival of special equipment. The equipment, called immobilized cell bioreactors or ICBs, is designed to treat the liquid byproduct, known as hydrolysate, which will result from the neutralization of 2,611 tons of mustard agent when the plant starts operating in early 2015.

In past efforts to accelerate the destruction program, the benefits of potentially shipping the hydrolysate off site to be treated at a permitted, commercial facility were examined. After thorough technical analyses and dialogue with community stakeholders, a May 2009 decision resulted in continuing with on-site biotreatment, unless unforeseen technical issues arise.

The decision gave the Bechtel Pueblo Team the green light to award a \$28.7 million contract for the construction of the ICBs to Golder Associates Inc., of Lakewood, Colo., which in turn led to an \$8.1 million subcontract to Springs Fabrication, Inc., Colorado Springs, Colo., to produce the bioreactors and deliver them to the plant site.

Each of the 16 ICBs will be delivered in phases, to be assembled on site in the plant's Biotreatment Area, or BTA, which will continue through the remainder of the year.

Once the plant begins operations, bioreactors will process the hydrolysate that will be piped to the BTA from the Agent Processing Building. Hydrolysate consists primarily of water, salt compounds and thiodyglycol, an industrial chemical. The liquid will be pumped into the ICBs, which will contain microbes ready to digest and biodegrade the organic materials, a process similar to that used at commercial industrial waste water treatment plants.

The arrival of the ICBs at PCAPP marks another milestone in the path forward for the plant in meeting its goal to complete the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, and do so as close to the congressionally-mandated 2017 deadline as practicable.

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