

U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot

Today, the Pueblo Chemical Depot's primary mission is to safely secure, store and monitor the chemical stockpile while protecting the workforce, public and the environment; set the conditions for stockpile destruction; and prepare for depot closure.



The depot was constructed in 1942 for the purpose of storing and servicing ammunition. That mission grew to include receiving and issuing general supplies in support of World War II. The depot eventually became responsible for maintaining and demilitarizing ammunition and maintaining missiles, and in later years, supported Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm by shipping contingency stocks, ammunition and materials to Southwest Asia.

Although the depot's mission has shifted and expanded throughout the years, the quality and commitment of staff—from those who received the first shipment of ammunition in 1942 to today's workers who ensure the safe storage and destruction of the chemical munitions stockpile—remains constant.



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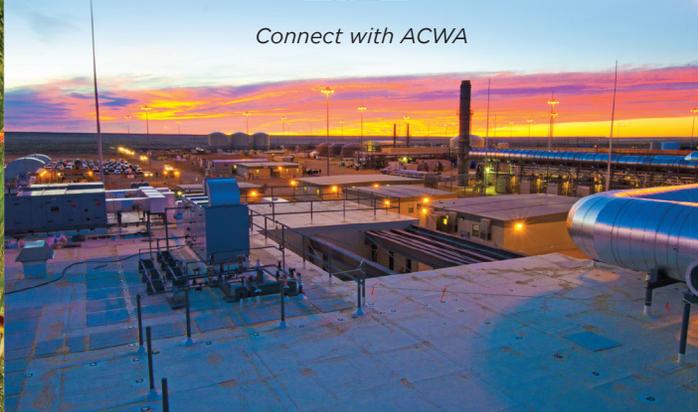


Pueblo Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

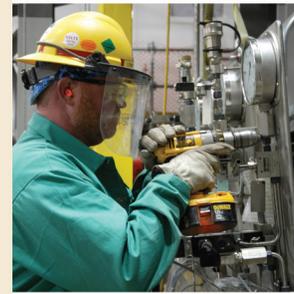
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PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT



State-of-the-Art Technology

To achieve the destruction mission, the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, or PCAPP, will perform a variety of functions including:

- chemical munitions disassembly
- energetic reconfiguration
- chemical agent processing
- biotreatment of wastewater
- control and management of hazardous wastes and materials
- laboratory analysis



Extensively trained, knowledgeable, skilled workers and state-of-the-art robotic systems will ensure the safe destruction of the stockpile. The selected technology is neutralization followed by biotreatment.

How Neutralization Followed by Biotreatment Works

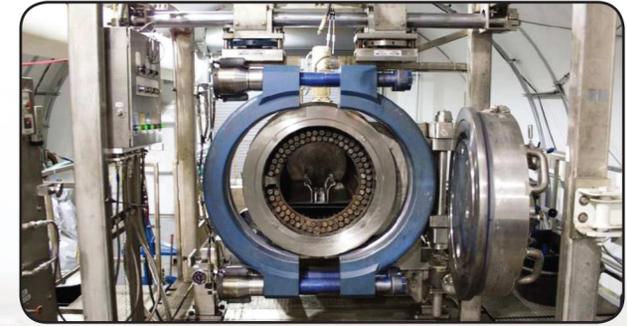
Removing the energetics - Robotic equipment removes energetics (explosives) from the weapon. The energetics will be disposed of at a permitted facility.

Removing the mustard agent - The inside of the weapon is remotely accessed and mustard agent is washed out with high-pressure water.

Neutralization of mustard agent - The mustard agent is mixed with hot water. The resulting mixture is neutralized with a caustic solution. The byproduct is called hydrolysate.

Biotreatment - The hydrolysate is treated with microbes that break down the solution into water and biosludge. Water is recycled in the plant and biosludge is shipped for disposal at a permitted facility.

Disposing of the metal parts - Metal parts are heated to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes and can then be recycled.



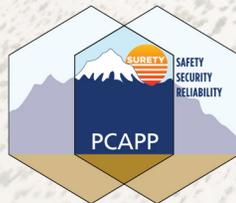
PCAPP Explosive Destruction System

PEO ACWA has selected the U.S. Army's Explosive Destruction System (EDS) to augment the pilot plant and destroy munitions that cannot go through the normal process of the plant, such as rejects or leaking munitions. The PCAPP EDS uses explosive charges to access the chemical agent inside a munition. Neutralization chemicals are then added to destroy the mustard agent. This technology has a well-documented history of safe and successful operations in the U.S.

OUR COMMITMENT TO...

Mission and Safety

PCAPP has been built to safely and efficiently destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons stored at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, or PCD, since the 1950s. The Department of Defense's Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, known as PEO ACWA, is responsible for safely destroying the depot's mustard agent-filled projectiles, thereby eliminating the risk associated with continued storage. The safety of the workforce, neighboring communities, and the environment remains the program's top priority.



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

The Future

As the systems contractor selected to design, construct, systemize, pilot test, operate and close PCAPP, the Bechtel Pueblo Team, or BPT, understands how the facility benefits Pueblo's economy and contributes to the community's growth. BPT is committed to partnering with the community to develop a sustainable future for Pueblo. PuebloPlex, the local reuse authority, also recognizes the importance of developing a future for Pueblo and is partnering with the community to lease and develop the land, igloos, warehouses, and manufacturing and office buildings.



Partnership

Partnering with the community and key stakeholders is a priority for PCAPP. Throughout the life of the project, a steady and transparent working partnership with the Colorado Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, elected officials, other oversight agencies and the community will remain a cornerstone of the program.

