



PEO ACWA QUARTERLY BRIEF

Program Executive Office
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

September 2013



VIP Visitors Impressed with Progress

Both the Pueblo and Blue Grass project sites hosted important visitors in August, and from all reports, they were impressed. Ms. Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment visited the Pueblo plant and received an in-depth look at its state-of-the-art technology. U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) got a first-hand look at construction progress at the Blue Grass plant. PEO ACWA continues to make great progress toward meeting the milestones set last year by the Department of Defense.



[Watch Asst. Sec. Hammack's remarks](#)

[Watch Sen. McConnell's visit](#)

Pueblo Technology at Your Fingertips

The Pueblo plant is now "at your fingertips" in the form of an interactive site tour and a miniature full-scale model. PEO ACWA recently unveiled two important tools that not only help staff in planning for operational reviews, but also offer a way for stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the technology involved in destroying the stockpile. To show the complexity of the state-of-the-art Pueblo plant, model makers at Aberdeen Proving Ground constructed miniature full-scale models utilizing the advanced technology of a 3-D printer. Additionally, stakeholders are now able to virtually enter the Pueblo plant and learn about the chemical weapons destruction process using a detailed interactive site tour on the program's website.



[Watch a video about the model](#)

[View the Pueblo Site Schematic](#)

Partnerships Play a Key Role in Preparation: Q&A with C.T. Anderson – Part II

Starting up a chemical weapons destruction plant involves a step-by-step process called systemization. In an earlier Q&A, C.T. Anderson, PEO ACWA's team leader for safety, security and surety, shared the preparation the Blue Grass and Pueblo plants will undergo to get ready for chemical weapons destruction. In Part II of the Q&A, Anderson explains the important partnerships with external organizations and how the program will show that the plants are ready for operations.



[Read the full article](#)

Transporting Munitions: A Job for Mobile Robots

Equipment designed to automatically and safely transport munitions within the Pueblo plant was successfully delivered to the facility. Automated Guided Vehicles (AGV), or mobile robots, will transport energetic-free agent-filled munitions from the Enhanced Reconfiguration Building to the Agent Processing Building for processing. These vehicles perform their intended function without human intervention and are designed to operate automatically within the facility using a laser navigation guidance system. System operators receive both classroom and hands-on training to ensure they have an understanding of the vehicles, system components and material flow through the facility.



[Watch a video about the AGVs](#)

Key Processing Equipment Arrives in the Bluegrass

The Blue Grass team achieved a key milestone when the supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) processing equipment arrived and was installed by a team of highly trained and skilled workers. The team used a remote controlled, hydraulically powered jack system to set a 60,000-pound skid of first-of-a-kind equipment into place. After the neutralization of the chemical agent, the SCWO equipment will be used for secondary processing of the neutralization byproduct, known as hydrolysate.



[Read the full article](#)

[Watch the SCWO Processing Building roof placement](#)

PLANTS AT-A-GLANCE



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Supercritical Water Oxidation**
- Construction complete: **72%**
- Systemization complete: **11%**
- Operations begin: **2020**
- Local project employment: **1,321**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$472 million**
- Spent with Kentucky companies: **\$112.5 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2023**



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Biotreatment**
- Construction complete: **100%**
- Systemization complete: **49%**
- Operations begin: **2015**
- Local project employment: **944**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$709 million**
- Spent with Colorado companies: **\$253.3 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2019**

ABOUT PEO ACWA

The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., is responsible for managing the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky and the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado.

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