



Program Executive Office
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

PEO ACWA QUARTERLY BRIEF

June 2013



It's All About Preparation – Q&A with C.T. Anderson

Starting up a chemical weapons destruction plant involves a step-by-step process called systemization. Systemization not only ensures the equipment and technical processes function properly, but also includes the hiring and training of the plant's workforce. C.T. Anderson, the ACWA program's lead for safety, security and surety, is focused on achieving operational readiness at both of the plants. Recently, he answered questions about plant start-up and how teams will work according to safe, approved processes.



[Read the Q&A session with C.T. Anderson on our website](#)

Recruiting Ramps Up in Pueblo

The Pueblo plant is now in full swing finding highly-qualified workers for start-up preparations and operations. The majority of this year's efforts will focus on recruiting and training ordnance technicians, plant operators, control room operators and munitions handlers. The Pueblo hiring team is active at several local job fairs, including those held at local universities such as Pueblo Community College and Colorado State University-Pueblo. The team is also partnering with the Pueblo Workforce Center in a concerted effort to hire veterans and military personnel.



[Find job opportunities online](#)

Pueblo Tests Processing Equipment with Simulated Munitions

Simulated munitions are referred to as ACWA Test Equipment, and are currently being used to test processing systems and train workers before actual chemical agent munitions are processed by the plant. Earlier this summer, the first simulated munitions were tested in what was the beginning of an extremely important process that will lead to the full systemization of the entire Projectile Mortar Disassembly system, pictured at right.



[Read about systemization at Pueblo on our website](#)

Blue Grass Completes Environmental Assessment; Public Comment Period Underway

PEO ACWA, in conjunction with the U.S. Army, has completed an environmental assessment to examine the proposed installation and operation of an explosive destruction technology facility to augment the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. The Blue Grass Army Depot commander has issued a draft "Finding of No Significant Impact." The public comment period on the draft "Finding of No Significant Impact" is from June 25 through July 24, 2013. Blue Grass Site Project Manager Jeff Brubaker, right, discussed the need for this action at a public meeting on July 16. A decision will be made on this proposed action following review of the public comments.



[Read about how to submit comments on our website](#)

A Cut (and a Shear) Above the Rest at the Blue Grass Plant

The Rocket Cutter and Rocket Shear Machines have been placed in the Munitions Demilitarization Building and the installation process is going strong. These systems, known as reverse-assembly equipment because they will disassemble the chemical munitions, are the first such equipment to be installed at the Blue Grass plant. The two pieces of remotely operated equipment will remove energetics and agent from M55 rockets.



[Read additional construction news on our website](#)

PLANTS AT-A-GLANCE



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Supercritical Water Oxidation**
- Construction complete: **68%**
- Systemization complete: **8%**
- Operations begin: **2020**
- Local project employment: **1,099**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$437 million**
- Spent with Kentucky companies: **\$108.5 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2023**



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Biotreatment**
- Construction complete: **100%**
- Systemization complete: **38%**
- Operations begin: **2015**
- Local project employment: **871**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$660 million**
- Spent with Colorado companies: **\$250.1 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.

www.peoacwa.army.mil

