



## Message from Program Executive Officer Conrad Whyne

Nothing is more critical to the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program than safety. That is why I am so proud that the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant and Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant were both re-awarded Star Status in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program, known as VPP. Having an accomplished safety record is nothing new to these plants, as both sites were awarded the three-year Star Status in 2011 as well. This level of safety certification requires excellence in four categories: management, leadership and employee involvement; worksite analysis; hazard prevention and control; and safety and health training. I am proud of these accomplishments, and we will be even more safety conscious as the program continues through the systemization phase in Kentucky and the operations phase in Colorado.



*Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant workforce celebrates the Star Status recertification under the Voluntary Protection Program. Star Status is the highest award issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.*

CONRAD F. WHYNE  
Program Executive Officer  
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives



Watch: PCAPP Safety: Written in the Stars



Read: Safety Culture Leads to Blue Grass Project Recertification



Read: Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Receives National Safety Recognition

## Mortar Destruction Marks Next Phase of EDS Campaign

As of June 30, the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System, or PCAPP EDS, has destroyed 234 105mm projectiles, 21 4.2-inch mortar rounds and 10 Department of Transportation bottles containing mustard agent. As the system continues to destroy the remaining 295 items in this initial campaign, you can learn more about PCAPP EDS operations on the [PEO ACWA website](#).



*A group of Army officers from Fort Carson's 4th Infantry Division view monitors to witness a shot at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System (EDS). A shot is a term used to describe the destruction of up to six munitions using the EDS.*



View: Types of Munitions Stored at Pueblo



Read: The Next Step for EDS: Destroying 'One Oh Fives'



Read: 105mm Projectile Specifications

## PLANTS-AT-A-GLANCE

AS OF JUNE 30, 2015



### PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Biotreatment**
- Construction complete: **100%**
- Systemization complete: **85%**
- Explosive Destruction Technology operations began: **2015**
- Main plant operations begin: **2016**
- Local project employment: **1,244**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$990 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2019**



### BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Supercritical Water Oxidation**
- Construction complete: **96%**
- Systemization complete: **31%**
- Explosive Destruction Technology operations begin: **2017**
- Main plant operations begin: **2020**
- Local project employment: **1,519**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$738 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2023**



## About PEO ACWA

The Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, 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 U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado.

Connect with PEO ACWA:





## IN OTHER NEWS...



*The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program draws on experience from a number of key partners across the U.S. Army and private industry.*

### Extensive Experience is Key at Blue Grass and Pueblo Plants

Experience and training are essential when it comes to chemical demilitarization, and that rings true at the Blue Grass and Pueblo plants. Through strategic partnerships and smart employee recruitment, the projects are well positioned to safely and efficiently complete systemization and operations at both plants. Many of our Army and contract employees, as well as other supporting partners, have worked on earlier chemical demilitarization projects in the United States and around the world. Taking advantage of the experiences of these individuals and organizations is leading to a safer, more reliable operation.

 [Read: 'Turnover Phil' Brings 40 Years of Mechanical Experience to Blue Grass Plant](#)

 [Read: Nobody Does it Better: Operators Show Proven Reliability and Experience](#)

 [Watch: Partnership Launches Explosive Destruction System in Pueblo](#)



*Environmental Monitoring and Occupational Health Team Lead Jeff Kiley presents several briefings on risk management at the 2015 Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation Conference in the United Kingdom.*

### ACWA Shares Progress on International Stage

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program recognizes the importance of informing the international community of the United States' chemical demilitarization efforts. Four members of the ACWA team supported the representation of the U.S. Chemical Demilitarization Program at the annual Chemical Weapons Demilitarisation Conference that was held June 3–5 in the United Kingdom. Program Executive Officer Conrad Whyne provided a progress report highlighting the start of agent operations at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Explosive Destruction System. Other members of the team presented on a variety of topics including laboratory start-up; National Environmental Policy Act review; heat injury prevention; strategic communications; and Anniston Static Detonation Chamber operations.

 [Watch: U.S. Chemical Weapons Destruction: Progress in Motion](#)



*The Biotreatment Utilization Group met for the first time on May 27, 2015. The group's purpose is to monitor the performance of the biotreatment process at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.*

### New Working Group Continues Tradition of Public Involvement

The National Research Council, known as the NRC, recently completed a study focused on contingency planning to ensure successful plant operations at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. In response to this study, the Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission assembled a working group known as the Biotreatment Utilization Group, called the BUG. The BUG will further the community's involvement in the Pueblo plant's secondary treatment process, which is biotreatment. The NRC is conducting a similar study for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant and its secondary treatment process, called supercritical water oxidation. The Blue Grass study is scheduled to be completed in September 2015.

 [Watch: Hydrolysate Tanks Fill a Need at the Blue Grass Plant](#)

 [Read: Community Group Puts Bugs Under the Microscope](#)