



## ACWA Values at the Forefront of Success

As I look back on the past year, I am proud to recognize the progress we have made towards completing our mission to destroy the chemical weapons stockpiles stored in Kentucky and Colorado. Construction and systemization continue to make strides at our Blue Grass plant, while our Pueblo team will soon be positioned to begin destruction operations using the Explosive Destruction System in early 2015. Our commitment, as a program and as individuals, to organizational values – such as safety, involvement and overcoming challenges – will continue in earnest as we build upon the progress we have achieved in the past year. Thank you for your support in 2014, and best wishes for a happy, healthy and productive new year.



CONRAD F. WHYNE  
Program Executive Officer  
Program Executive Office, Assembled  
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

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## Promoting Safety from Head to Toe

At the Pueblo and Blue Grass plants, workers are addressing safety from head to toe. In Pueblo, workers are training to make toxic area entries dressed in the Demilitarization Protective Ensemble that encapsulates the worker in a chemical protective outer garment that operates at a positive pressure to ensure total protection. The Blue Grass plant is focused on a “20-20-20” safety vision, which encourages workers to take 20 seconds every 20 minutes to look 20 feet around them for safety issues. This safety awareness initiative was adopted based on a suggestion by a plant pipefitter.



[Watch: Suiting Up for Safety at the Pueblo Plant](#)

[Read: Blue Grass Project's Safety Vision is 20-20-20](#)

## 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 Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado.

## PLANTS-AT-A-GLANCE

as of Dec. 31, 2014



### Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Biotreatment**
- Construction complete: **100%**
- Systemization complete: **69%**
- Operations begin: **2015**
- Explosive Destruction Technology operations begin: **2015**
- Local project employment: **1,150**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$902 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2019**



### Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Supercritical Water Oxidation**
- Construction complete: **90%**
- Systemization complete: **25%**
- Operations begin: **2020**
- Explosive Destruction Technology operations begin: **2017**
- Local project employment: **1,554**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$660 million**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2023**



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A Pueblo plant start-up specialist hands over the “key” to the Fuel Oil system to a plant operator as start-up and operations team members look on.

### Systemization Keeps Steady Pace at PCAPP

At the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, system turnovers not only accomplish key milestones within the program, but are also welcomed as a success among plant employees. The systemization process is occurring at a steady pace, with over 18 systems being turned over to the operations group this past fall. Systems are turned over once the equipment has been tested and demonstrated to meet the performance specifications and all operating and maintenance procedures are in place. Before this happens, personnel conduct a “walk down” to verify equipment and conditions meet the standards necessary for safe operations.

[Read: Walking Down the Path to Operations](#)

[Watch: Systemization at the Pueblo and Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plants](#)

### Anniston’s Experience is ACWA’s Gain

ACWA is leveraging the more than 60 years of hands-on chemical demilitarization experience of employees that make up ACWA’s new Anniston Field Office. Their goal is to support the Blue Grass and Pueblo plants by lending their high level of expertise in operating the facility’s Static Detonation Chamber. The establishment of ACWA’s Anniston Field Office adds experiential and technical depth to the ACWA program, saves taxpayers dollars, and permits Anniston to continue its contribution towards the United States’ commitment to 100 percent destruction of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile.

[Read: Anniston’s Experience is ACWA’s Gain](#)



Static Detonation Chamber, or SDC, Plant Shift Manager Charlie Diggs, right, discusses the SDC with Explosive Destruction Technology Working Group members, from left, Leslie Kaylor, Robert Blythe and Anniston Field Office Site Project Manager Tim Garrett. Group members were impressed with the functionality, safety and environmental protection of the equipment.

### Two Unique Sites, One Unified Mission

Since the inception of the ACWA program, there have been complex challenges unique to each site in eliminating obsolete chemical weapons. Our highly qualified team has designed and engineered cutting-edge technologies to support the safe and environmentally sound destruction of these weapons. This year, the Pueblo project became fully focused on the systemization phase with its sights on pilot testing, with 26 of 61 systems turned over from the start-up group to the operations group. The physical characteristics of the Blue Grass plant changed considerably from last year at this time, as the plant has reached 90 percent construction completion.



#### Related Media

[Read: 2014 – PCAPP Year in Review Timeline](#)

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