



Message from Program Executive Officer Conrad Whyne

To paraphrase the song made famous by Frank Sinatra, 2015 “was a very good year” for the ACWA program. In Colorado, we began destroying the Pueblo chemical weapons stockpile with the EDS — the Explosive Destruction System — which by year’s end successfully eliminated more than one and a half tons of mustard agent in munitions unsuited for main plant processing. In Kentucky, construction of our Blue Grass facility achieved its “substantially complete” benchmark and plant systemization is in high gear. However, if 2015 was a good year, 2016 will be even better as we count down to the start of operations at the main Pueblo plant. Although we know there will be challenges ahead, we remain focused on our commitment to safely eliminate these obsolete stockpiles. I invite you to share this journey through our website and social media platforms, for it is your support that has brought us to this point. Thank you for your continued interest in the ACWA program and best wishes for a safe and prosperous new year.



CONRAD F. WHYNE
Program Executive Officer
Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

Pueblo Plant 2015 Year in Review: Systemization and EDS Operations

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant experienced continued progress this year. The main plant neared the end of systemization, the final testing phase before beginning operations, while the Explosive Destruction System, or EDS, began to eliminate problematic mustard agent-filled munitions. The EDS destroyed hundreds of items, including Department of Transportation cylinders; 105 and 155mm projectiles; along with 4.2-inch mortar rounds. Under the leadership of Greg Mohrman, who took the reins as site project manager in 2015, employees honed their emergency preparedness skills and also received Star Status in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Voluntary Protection Program, their highest recognition for safety.

[Watch: Pueblo Plant 2015 Year in Review: Systemization and EDS Operations](#) [View: Pueblo Plant 2015 Year in Review Flickr Album](#)

Blue Grass Plant 2015 Year in Review: Construction to Systemization

This year, project employees officially shifted from building the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant to testing the equipment and systems designed to operate this complex facility. Key facilities and buildings were completed, such as the Medical Facility and the Munitions Demilitarization Building, the plant’s main processing building that houses equipment and systems that will disassemble munitions and neutralize the energetics and chemical agent. With construction substantially completed, the project fully transitioned to its third of six phases known as systemization, or the testing phase. This progress was achieved through a strong commitment to safety, and culminated with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Voluntary Protection Program recertifying the plant with Star Status.

[Watch: Blue Grass Plant 2015 Year in Review: Construction to Systemization](#) [View: Blue Grass Plant 2015 Year in Review Flickr Album](#)

PLANTS-AT-A-GLANCE

AS OF DEC. 18, 2015



PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Biotreatment**
- Construction complete: **100%**
- Systemization complete: **93%**
- Explosive Destruction Technology operations began: **2015**
- Main plant operations begin: **2016**
- Local project employment: **1,346**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$1.08 billion**
- Anticipated end of destruction operations: **2019**



BLUE GRASS CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT

- Destruction technology: **Neutralization/Supercritical Water Oxidation**
- Construction complete: **99%**
- Systemization complete: **39%**
- Explosive Destruction Technology operations begin: **2017**
- Main plant operations begin: **2020**
- Local project employment: **861**
- Local payroll paid to date: **\$793 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.

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