



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE
ASSEMBLED CHEMICAL WEAPONS ALTERNATIVES
5183 BLACKHAWK ROAD
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, MARYLAND 21010-5424

April 18, 2017

Ms. Irene Kornelly
Chair, Colorado Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission
1602 Clemson Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

Dear Ms. Kornelly and Members of the Commission:

Following my last official visit to Colorado, I again express my sincere appreciation for the work you do, your dedication to the public stakeholders, and your personal commitment and support to the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). I enjoyed the opportunity we had during lunch and at the Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) meeting that evening to openly discuss issues of mutual concern.

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) program and the CAC have agreed from the beginning that our goal is the safe and environmentally protective elimination of the stockpile stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot. To that end, PCAPP has now destroyed more than 20,000 rounds -- munitions that will no longer require security, monitoring or handling, thereby reducing the risk to our workers and the surrounding community. They made a one-way trip to the plant, never to return or pose any threat in the future. You, as members of the Commission, should take great satisfaction in the role you have played in the start of operations at PCAPP, the culmination of many years of interaction with ACWA. That partnership will continue, as this is just the beginning of the mission completion.

As you heard at the CAC meeting on March 2017, we continue to push forward with repairs to the Brine Concentrator Feed Tank containment area. Despite some initial weather delays, we began application of the new coating system on April 6 and the primary spraying was completed on April 10. We began seeding the bio-reactors yesterday, and we estimate approval for use of the feed tanks by the end of the month.

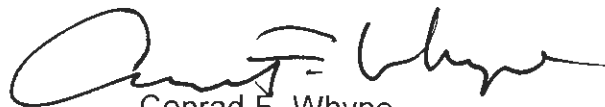
During our discussions in March 2017, I reaffirmed our commitment to on-site treatment, but also stated the need to provide the capability for off-site shipment as a contingency. PCAPP is moving forward with the construction of the loading terminal that will enable us to exercise such a contingency. No decision has been made to ship hydrolysate off-site but all the steps necessary in order to do so are underway. I have committed to being up front with you; therefore, I must let you know that it is becoming more probable we will need to make such a shipment to re-establish plant liquid equilibrium. Liquid management is critical with this plant, and as we

explained the liquid in 30-day storage tank #301, a combination of the surrogate from early testing and agent hydrolysate, cannot be used for pilot testing. Critical storage space is lacking, which is impeding destruction operations. Should the decision be made to ship the contents of Tank 301, I can assure you this course of action enacts no precedent with respect to the final disposition of hydrolysate generated by PCAPP. PEO ACWA is still fully committed to making the bio-treatment system work as the method to process the agent hydrolysate.

I will also clearly state the potential for contingency shipments of hydrolysate will exist through the life of the project due to unknown circumstances that could arise during the operations phase of the project. During the March 2017 CAC meeting, it was stated that as PCAPP enters into closure following operations, the quality of the spent decontamination water will be such that it will not be suitable for biotreatment, necessitating off-site shipment and treatment. As the project proceeds, ACWA remains committed to continuing effective dialogue with the CAC including discussion of any contemplated contingency shipments, asking for special sessions with the CAC if necessary.

I have benefitted professionally and personally from my relationship with the CAC over the years. Together we have made great strides and demonstrated that open dialogue can produce results that are in the best interest of our nation. You have my sincere appreciation for your support to ACWA and the PCAPP project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Conrad F. Whyne', with a large, stylized initial 'C' and 'W'.

Conrad F. Whyne
Program Executive Officer