

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR STATIC DETONATION CHAMBERS AT U.S. ARMY PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT PUEBLO, COLORADO

**BACKGROUND:** Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) currently stores 155mm and 105mm artillery projectiles and 4.2 inch mortar rounds filled with mustard agent (types HD and HT). The destruction of the entire U.S. stockpile of chemical weapons is required by U.S. public law, and by an international treaty known as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). The U.S. Army is in the process of destroying chemical weapons stockpile at the depots where the agents and munitions are stored. The current plan to accomplish the destruction of the stockpile at PCD consists of utilizing the Pueblo Chemical Agent- Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP). A second smaller unit, the Explosive Destruction System (EDS), is being used to destroy munitions that cannot be processed in the PCAPP Main Plant.

During PCAPP Main Plant operations, processing problems have occurred that have increased worker safety risk, and have both slowed, and even halted stockpile destruction. The proposed action is needed to increase worker safety, minimize equipment downtime, and reduce the number and complexity of chemical agent entries. The proposed action responds to the need of maintaining compliance with the CWC and U.S. law regarding destruction of the chemical stockpile while conducting the destruction activities in a safe, environmentally acceptable, and cost-effective manner. This proposed action will support meeting demilitarization goals and schedules, while utilizing an effective, tested, and available technology.


**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed action is to augment the PCAPP Main Plant with up to six Static Detonation Chambers (SDC) to eliminate current safety and schedule risks associated with the destruction of mustard munitions.

**REASON FOR PREPARING AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA):** The Army's implementation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulation, Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 651 paragraph 33 requires an EA to be prepared to help decision makers understand the potential extent of environmental impacts of a proposed action and its alternatives. This EA has been prepared to determine whether significant impacts to the environment are likely to result from the installation and operation of up to six SDCs at PCD.

**DETERMINATION:** The information and analysis presented in "*The Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) Environmental Assessment (EA)*" indicate the proposed action to augment the PCAPP Main Plant with up to six SDCs will eliminate current safety and schedule risks. The preferred action is to use up to three SDCs and continued operation of the PCAPP Main Plant.

The analysis provided in the above referenced EA prepared by subject-matter experts in accordance with the Army's implementing NEPA have determined the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on land use, air quality, surface water resources, groundwater resources, human health and safety, aquatic resources and wetlands, terrestrial ecological resources, socioeconomic resources, aesthetics, cultural resources, environmental justice, noise, waste management, transportation of waste, or resource requirements. Recommend implementation of the proposed action because no significant impacts were identified as a result of the analysis.

**APPROVED BY:**

  
Christopher A. Grice  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Commanding  
U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot

  
Date