



Doug Hindman  
Chair

Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission  
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board  
105 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 206  
Richmond, KY 40475  
859.624.4700 / 859.986.7565



Kent Clark  
Craig Williams  
Co-Chairs

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**Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and  
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting  
Summary of Action Items and Discussions  
Sept. 10, 2013  
Eastern Kentucky University  
Richmond, Ky.**

**Attendees**

**Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC):**  
Doug Hindman, Diane Kerby, Mark Klaas, Robert Miller, Sheila Pressley and Craig Williams

**Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB):** David Benge, Robert Blythe, Jeff Brubaker, Kent Clark, Joe Elliott (for Col. Lee Hudson), Lt. Col. Christopher Grice, Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Leslie Kaylor, Diane Kerby, Mark Klaas, David McFadden, Robert Miller, Harry Moberly, Doug Omichinski, Sheila Pressley, Carl Richards, Regina Stivers (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) office), April Webb, Tyler White (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr's (R-Ky.) office) and Craig Williams

**Media Attendees:**

WTVQ-ABC: Melanie Kendall  
*The Richmond Register*: Seth Littrell

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Economic Development Phase I Study
- Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) Environmental Assessment (EA) Comments
- U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) Visit Recap
- Updates from CDCAB Co-Chair

## Meeting Summary Structure

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations, but instead will provide an overview of the discussions and action items of government representatives and various members of the CAC and CDCAB. Key action items identified in the meeting and a synopsis of the major questions and comments discussed during the various updates are noted below. Copies of slides and handouts presented during the meeting can be obtained from the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office (ORO) at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@iem.com.

## Action Items

**Action Item:** Poll the group for 2014 CAC/CDCAB meeting dates.

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair.

**Timeline:** By Dec. 11, 2013.

**Action Item:** Write a letter of appreciation for McConnell's involvement with the project and forward it to the group for consensus.

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair.

**Timeline:** TBA.

**Action Item:** Create a Gantt chart (a bar chart showing project scheduling) for BGCAPP systemization and operations for emergency preparedness planning decision-making.

**Responsible Entity:** Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP site project manager (SPM).

**Timeline:** By Dec. 11, 2013.

## Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

### *Welcome and Introductions – Sarah Parke, ORO, Manager*

Parke welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the following action items from the June 4 CAC/CDCAB meeting:

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Steps Taken</b>	<b>Date/Status</b>
Hold Economic Development Working Group Meeting to discuss draft Phase I job-loss aversion study.	Meeting was held, which culminated in the Sept. 4 public release of the Phase I study.	Complete
Schedule CAC/CDCAB tour.	Tour held Aug. 15.	Complete

***Opening Remarks – Doug Hindman, CAC Chair and Craig Williams and Kent Clark, CDCAB Co-Chairs***

Hindman welcomed attendees, noted it was a busy time for the group and said he appreciated members' attendance.

Williams also welcomed everyone and said Darcy Maupin and Mike Hogg were not able to attend the meeting.

Clark thanked members for taking time to be at the meeting.

**Key Updates**

***BGCAPP Update – Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP, SPM, and Doug Omichinski, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG), Project Manager***

***Slides of this presentation may be obtained by contacting the ORO at (859) 626-8944 or [bgoutreach@iem.com](mailto:bgoutreach@iem.com).***

Brubaker recapped the recent U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) site visit and noted McConnell reflected on the amount of change and the tremendous amount of progress since his last visit in 2009. Brubaker then gave a construction progress update and discussed the status of key buildings. He noted progress made and highlighted the hydrostatic testing beginning on the Hydrolysate Storage Area tanks; the expansion of the ducting and pipe rack in the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) filter bank area; and the rapidly changing interior of the MDB with piping, wiring and other commodity installation. Brubaker said construction was more than 72 percent complete. and systemization was 10 percent complete. He also highlighted finishing the roofing on the Supercritical Water Oxidation Processing Building; completion of the refractory brick liners in the Thermal Oxidizer units; and the upcoming placement of the Clean-Air Exhaust stacks, standby diesel generators factory acceptance testing and early 2014 turnover of the Facility Control System, Control and Support Building (CSB) and Utility Building (UB) systems to systemization. He said comments have been received on the EDT EA, responses are being prepared and a findings determination should be released by the end of 2013.

BPBG Project Manager Doug Omichinski continued the presentation with a focus on safety. He said the site has had 15 recordable injuries to date, an unacceptable number. Project personnel have been working to re-energize and engage the workforce in the safety arena. He then said the workforce is transitioning from civil and structural to more commodity-based – electricians, pipefitters, instrumentation and equipment personnel. He noted that change would skew the local-hire numbers downward for a while, because the project has depleted the local pool of specialized workers and would have to hire from surrounding states. He also stated systemization personnel would be coming from

some of the baseline sites, but the local hiring should pick up again next year. Omichinski then briefly updated the group on site buildings and equipment. He said getting the CSB construction completed and turned over to systemization will allow the project to start remotely testing equipment, which is important. He also noted the UB boilers should be operational within the next six months.

Robert Miller noted the systemization 10 percent complete mark and asked for an explanation of systemization activities. Brubaker replied that systemization consists of several phases that involve the turnover of systems or facilities from construction to the start-up team and the subsequent start-up and commissioning of each of those systems.

***Economic Development Phase I Study – David Benge, CDCAB, Member and Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair***

***Slides of this presentation may be obtained by contacting the ORO at (859) 626-8944 or [bgoutreach@iem.com](mailto:bgoutreach@iem.com).***

Benge began by giving some background on the whole study and said the first phase of this study was recently completed. He turned the discussion over to Williams, who noted that the Phase I study will be an incredibly useful tool when incorporated into the entire study and that it involved a massive amount of data. He said hard copies and CDs of the study are available and the study can be accessed on the Bluegrass Area Development District's (BGADD) website at [www.bgadd.org/pdf/DepotLayoffAversionStudyFinal.pdf](http://www.bgadd.org/pdf/DepotLayoffAversionStudyFinal.pdf). Williams stressed that a significant portion of the operational project workforce will all fall under Personnel Reliability Program requirements – having to pass security background checks, possessing specific teamwork and leadership skills and more. Williams added that the workforce would be impressive not only for their training, but for their level of acceptability to be hired. He then briefly discussed the different phases of the study and said after all three phases are integrated, the group should have a clear vision forward with a package that can be brought to industry to show the opportunity in this area from this project after closure. Williams noted the release of the first phase was very well received, had good media coverage and was supported by McConnell and U.S. Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky., 6<sup>th</sup> District). He said the next step is to expand the distribution of the Phase I study to local, regional and state offices associated with economic development. He noted that there is a meeting scheduled for Sept. 11 at the BGADD office to refine the Phase II and III proposals. Williams plans to submit the proposal to the Office of Economic Adjustment to try to gain funding and hopes to coordinate with the congressional delegation in identifying possible funding sources. He thinks Phase II can be launched in the fall.

Benge commented that BGCAPP's impact to the local economy is big and that the project dollars multiply in the community. He added that trying to find a way to replace these jobs and their economic impact is the whole emphasis of the study.

Miller asked about the decision-making process for facility reuse and whether advances in technology could increase future use of the facility than is now anticipated. Williams explained the current position on reuse, saying that there is talk of the possible application of advances in decontamination technologies that could open up portions of the MDB for reuse. He stressed that nothing has been finalized and any approvals or decisions would be a long way down the road. He hopes some of those details can be worked out with this study.

Joe Elliott asked if the study would consider non-BGCAPP project personnel who would be affected by closure, such as project-related depot and chemical activity personnel. Williams said the chemical security area will be incorporated into the next phase of the study. Elliott would like to see where the above-mentioned categories fit into the study vision.

### ***EDT EA Comments – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair***

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Williams recapped the group's Aug. 8 EDT vendor meeting. He reviewed the EDT EA comment process and said CAC/CDCAB comments were submitted Aug. 23. He noted in addition to the technology comments, the group also submitted comments regarding their desire for a specific level of engagement with the selection process and mentioned their involvement with the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment dialogue years ago. Williams said this situation is different because, while the government would be responsible for making the EDT usage decision, BPBG will be responsible for the selection and operation of the EDT. He questioned where the group would fall in the dynamic and complicated process in order to feel comfortable that their input was given weight and consideration. He noted the EDT Working Group will engage the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) in informal communications on the topic.

Miller asked Williams for his sense of why the group has not been involved in the development of EDT selection criteria. Williams responded that although the group has been involved in numerous discussions regarding the possible use of an EDT, it has been advised not to provide advice or recommendations on specific technology due to the selection being the responsibility of the systems contractor, BPBG. He said the group had the opportunity to review components of the systems, such as secondary waste details, but could not comment on how much weight they would want to give to those factors. He referenced again the involvement with ACWA in the early days and said the group has not been asked to do that in this situation given that this EDT vendor procurement is the responsibility of BPBG.

Harry Moberly asked what criteria BPBG would use to select a specific EDT. Williams replied efficacy, performance, environmental, cost and safety. Omichinski said it is very

specialized equipment and the selection would be approached the same way as the first-of-a-kind equipment in meeting the technological, permit, cost and other requirements. Brubaker said one way to look at the situation is a two-step process: 1) evaluate the most appropriate way to treat a very specific subset of the Blue Grass Army Depot stockpile – approximately 15,000 mustard (H) weapons, and 2) provided ACWA endorses EDT as an alternative to the neutralization/supercritical water oxidation process for those H-filled weapons, BPBG would then evaluate the differences and nuances between the technologies. He asked everyone to keep in mind that ACWA's two top priorities are safety and environmental compliance. He noted that each of the three commercial technologies, as well as the Army's Explosive Destruction System, have received individual approvals from the Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board (DDESB) and have been reviewed by several states for environmental compliance.

Moberly asked if the selection would be a matter of cost and questioned who would realize the benefits of a lower-cost system. Williams said the overall project would realize the benefits, but went on to say that with the differences between the systems, worker risk and efficiency may be the determining factors in some people's minds. The member then stated Brubaker basically said they were all acceptable and asked Williams if he disagreed. Williams noted in the early days, some people said incineration was fine, whereas the group did not think so. He also noted there had been some talk about using EDT for the non-contaminated rocket motors but to consider that, a separate environmental review process would be needed.

George Partridge asked, from an economic standpoint, if one of the EDT systems would be more beneficial for depot reuse after BGCAPP closure than the others. Williams said it had been mentioned as a point in the group's recommendations, but it was not an appropriate comment in the context of the EA. Brubaker noted the EA was done specifically for the mission at hand – the safe and timely destruction of mustard munitions – but mentioned the conventional testing of the EDT used at Anniston, Ala. Brubaker further stated that while certified by the DDESB, the chambers in general have a smaller net weight of explosives that can be destroyed in them and because of that, may not lend themselves well to destruction of conventional weapons. Partridge noted the depot's open detonation is rated for 100 pounds of explosives, while the DAVINCH technology is rated for 132 pounds.

Hindman asked if the depot already has or is constructing an EDT. Joe Elliott answered that the depot already has a detonation chamber.

### ***McConnell Visit Recap – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair***

***Slides of this presentation may be obtained by contacting the ORO at (859) 626-8944 or [bgoutreach@iem.com](mailto:bgoutreach@iem.com).***

Williams discussed McConnell's recent visit and praised him for his efforts on behalf of the project. He proposed sending a letter of appreciation to the senator for his

involvement. Some discussion ensued regarding whether that could be seen as a political endorsement so close to an election year. The group ultimately decided Williams would write the letter and forward it to the group for consensus.

Carl Richards asked for a Gantt chart showing systemization and operations so emergency preparedness planning decisions could be made. Brubaker said response would be made in December.

Williams discussed a request from *The Richmond Register* to move meetings from the second Tuesday of the month to the first or third Tuesday, as there are other city meetings they cover on the second Tuesday. He said he had previously sent out a memo, but needed to ask again if a change would be feasible. Diane Kerby noted there were other city meetings on the Tuesdays requested but it was still feasible to move this meeting to either of those days. The meeting did not yield a group consensus on this matter.

### ***Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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