



Doug Hindman
Chair

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



Kent Clark
Craig Williams
Co-Chairs

**Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting
Summary of Action Items and Discussions
Sept. 8, 2009
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky**

Meeting Synopsis

The meeting was designed to provide an update on the following:

- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
- National CSEPP Conference
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP)
- Systems Contractor
- Environmental Forum
- Neutralization and Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO)
- Monitoring Working Group (MWG) and Explosive Destruction Technologies Working Group (EDTWG)

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 next steps committed to by the government 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 at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Action Items

Action Item: The EDTWG will hold a meeting before the December CAC/CDCAB meeting.

Responsible Entity: Craig Williams

Timeline: By Dec. 8, 2009

Action Item: Two risk analyses regarding the safety of the community and workforce as it relates to monitoring initiatives at the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, provided to CAC/CDCAB chairs by the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, will be provided to MWG and CAC/CDCAB members.

Responsible Entity: CAC/CDCAB Chairs

Timeline: By Dec. 8, 2009

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Stephanie Parrett, Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, Outreach Manager

Stephanie Parrett welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the action items from the June 9 CAC/CDCAB meeting, which consisted of the following: a request from the CAC/CDCAB chairs for a meeting regarding project scheduling, risk-assessment analyses to be provided to the CAC/CDCAB chairs by Greg St. Pierre and a requested tour of the BGCAPP construction site for CAC/CDCAB members.

Parrett noted the meeting regarding the BGCAPP schedule was being held Sept. 9 at 9 a.m. at the outreach office. The risk analyses have been provided to the chairs, who are reviewing them. The BGCAPP tour is scheduled for Sept. 9 at 10:30 a.m.

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

Doug Hindman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked participants for their time. He noted he and the other two chairs were more active in setting the agenda for the meeting. He encouraged CAC/CDCAB members to provide topics for the December meeting. He shared that the September meeting would include a review of the BGCAPP technology that would be expanded upon in the December meeting.

Madison County Judge-Executive Kent Clark said the project was getting farther along, and he was glad to see the majority of the CAC/CDCAB members participating in the September meeting.

Williams referenced the BGCAPP construction site tour for Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Rep. Ben Chandler (D-KY, 6th District). He noted that the event was a resounding success and both of the congressional offices appreciated the very thorough presentation and extraordinary media coverage. He stated Nora Shepherd and Terry House had joined the EDTWG. In reference to the above risk-assessment analysis action item, he said the chairs had received them and they will distribute to CAC/CDCAB members soon. He asked members to ask him at the break about the status of program funding and where each bill is in the House and Senate, and then asked Kevin Atkins, Sen. McConnell's representative, if he would like to say something about the congressional tour.

Atkins was appreciative for the tour and said the congressional group had noted the progress at the site, saying it was a morning well spent.

Key Updates

***CSEPP: Status and Activities* – Carl Richards, Madison County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Director**

Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Carl Richards gave an update on the county's emergency preparedness status and activities, covering operations, equipment and systems upgrades and training. He began by discussing the Madison County Emergency Operations Center's (EOC) activity for the Operation *Swift Solution* project, saying they basically matched hours with the EOC at the depot, and it was good for the staff to have real activation. He then reviewed the new 800MHz emergency communications radio system that is being installed due to the old system being outdated. The EMA is adding six towers for a total of nine, and the new system will accept any manufacturer's radios and has encryption capability. He said they are expanding the siren system, with a current total of 61 from last year's 29, and made clear this is an outdoor system that is not intended to be heard indoors. He shared that the program will be adding 19 sirens in 2010 and has secured funding to fill in the holes in coverage found during testing. The tone-alert radio (TAR) system and EOC are being expanded as well, with the 16,000 current TARs being replaced with 23,000 new ones by 2010 as an indoor warning system; and they have consolidated Berea and Richmond's 911 systems, opening ten additional seats at the EOC. Richards said the EOC will also be enhanced with a collective protection (filtration) system they obtained from Alabama. He covered the number of contacts from the public outreach program, 7,270 face-to-face in 2008 and 5,650 so far this year, and said the CSEPP media campaigns would continue until the chemical weapons were gone. The new Joint Information Center is now occupied and has hosted two press conferences so far, one for the ice storm and one for the May tornado. They have just finished major audio-visual upgrades there. Lastly, he referenced the training that would be held this fall, a field-decontamination exercise this Thursday and a full-scale exercise in October, and said they have seen positive results from previous training in the response to the ice storm and tornado.

Robert Miller, CAC/CDCAB member, asked about areas that were not covered by the sirens. Richards replied there were a few, rural areas miles from the depot, and noted they will be covering a few of them with this expansion. Miller then asked about the new towers not having guy wires (long wires that radiate out from a tower and are anchored in the surrounding land for support) and Richards said the self-supported towers require less maintenance and are more cost-effective and safer in the long run.

Williams asked about a legal action regarding siren locations. Richards replied the issue were regarding the infrastructure and design of the nine towers that support the

emergency communications system, not the siren system, and the issue was still in moving forward in the legal process.

Jeanne Hibberd, CDCAB member, asked about the process that determined the distribution of the TARs and what the official radio stations for emergency messages were. Richards said in the old system the radios went to the Immediate Response Zone only, but in the new system they will go to homes and businesses within nine miles of the depot. He and Judge Clark would eventually like them in every house. He specified the official emergency message stations are all the local radio and TV stations. He noted that the CSEPP program provided back-up generators for the radio stations during the 2009 ice storm, which allowed them to broadcast, and if not for this action the stations would have been off of the air.

National CSEPP Conference Report – Doug Hindman, CAC, Chair

Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Hindman, who attended this conference, gave an overview of the event. He first noted CSEPP is the cutting edge of emergency preparedness. He discussed the recurring conference theme for 2009, which included the following: celebration of 20 years of success; legacy preservation; next steps for CSEPP after federal funding ends; level of support that the Kentucky and Colorado programs would continue to experience; workshops on 9/11 developments, exercises, lessons learned; and tools to assist in working with media. Hindman also recognized a recipient of the CSEPP Program Manager's Award for Superior Service: Michael Bryant, Madison County CSEPP director. Brig. Gen. John Heltzel, Kentucky Division of Emergency Management director, noted Madison County will be hosting the next national CSEPP conference June 21-25, 2010.

Miller asked about plans for funding after the chemical weapons destruction project is complete. Judge Clark replied plans have been under way for some time, and it will be a joint effort and expensive, but he feels comfortable in maintaining a top-class system. He plans on keeping everything functional for other emergencies. Hindman asked how much money the government is putting into the program. Heltzel said \$17.9 million in 2009 and \$11 million in 2010. Heltzel also noted that the system at that point (after weapons disposal) will be a third-generation system that will be better and more efficient than the current system due to upgrades and replacements between now and then.

Williams expressed concern that CSEPP started with eight states and would be reduced to two states when the other chemical demilitarization sites completed their mission. Richards said the remaining CSEPP projects wouldn't be as big and robust, but support for exercising and training would continue. Heltzel said the Federal Emergency Management Agency and top government officials are committed to ensuring support. There will now be a state CSEPP coordinator, but it would be best to remain vigilant.

BGCAPP Update – Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP, Site Project Manager (SPM)

Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Jeff Brubaker gave his first project update as the new SPM. He noted BGCAPP accomplishments, starting with the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board approval of the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) blast-area design, and said the project re-sequenced some construction activities and kept moving forward while the design was in review. He shared information about the recent congressional tour, saying Sen. McConnell and Rep. Chandler appeared to be pleased with the transition from design to construction and the progress made at the site. He briefly went over design status and said design packages have been issued for the whole site except for four small areas, then gave focused information on his management philosophy of safety, quality, efficiency and sharing of information:

- Safety – he is committed to enhancing an already strong program by focusing on leading indicators, maximizing employee involvement and leadership and leveraging what is successful elsewhere. He noted the significance of the site's involvement in applying for the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star status in that this is usually sought after in well-established, operating facilities and for a facility in construction to apply is significant and forges new ground.
- Quality – he believes it is better to "build quality into work than to inspect it in." He feels there is a strong program in place, but one area for more opportunity is going further by building a philosophy of quality into everyone's ownership of the project. He is focused on preventing unnecessary rework, which can delay schedule and increase costs.
- Efficiency – he noted the information provided at the last CAC/CDCAB meeting, that the BGCAPP processing completion date had been moved up to 2021, and said this was a significant accomplishment, but he would always be looking for ways to improve the schedule. Risk-reduction opportunities are ongoing, within the Blue Grass-Specific Equipment program, explosive destruction technologies (EDT) studies and assessments and in defining the turn-over process (as systems are completed, turning them over from construction to systemization).
- Sharing of Information – he is looking forward to meeting with stakeholder groups and listening to their issues. He referenced the ACWA Web site and outreach office as good sources of information, and noted he is committed to the creation of an "SPM Monthly Assessment" that will be posted electronically, by the next CAC/CDCAB meeting. His focus is to encourage a two-way dialogue with program stakeholders.

Robert Blythe, CDCAB member, noted the concern he had at a previous meeting regarding minority subcontracting on the project, and said he was very pleased with the response from project leadership. He said he has been able to make contacts with minority subcontractors regarding their opportunities based on the information he was given.

Williams noted he had gone on a tour of the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) mall offices, and saw a safety briefing in progress. He was impressed and was glad to see it happening in person and not just information on a slide, and encouraged CAC/CDCAB members to tour the project site for a first-hand view for the same reason. He felt the congressional presentation was the most impressive presentation on the topic that he has heard, and he appreciates the knowledge and commitment to the community.

Systems Contractor Update – Mark Seely, BPBG, Project Manager

Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Mark Seely updated the group on the project, noting BPBG remains focused on safety and is working toward applying for the OSHA VPP Star status at the end of this year or beginning of 2010. He said they are stepping up employee involvement in the process. He discussed the ramp-up of site staffing – adding about 10 new craft positions a week, and bringing on primarily engineering and acquisitions staff in the non-manual field; the local and regional economic impact of the project (\$40 million to Kentucky businesses so far), and that they have exceeded all their small-business goals; Blue Grass-Specific Equipment – Part 1 (Metal Parts Treater, Energetics Neutralization Reactor and Energetics Batch Hydrolyzer) is 75 percent complete and Part 2 (Rocket Cutter Machine, Rocket Shear Machine, Munition Washout System and SCWO system) will be progressing; the Mock Wall, the self-consolidating concrete used and core sampling of the wall; the Fire Water Storage Tanks, which are currently being hydro-tested and having access walkways welded to their roofs; and gave an overview of current and completed construction and a look-ahead of anticipated progress.

David Bengel, CDCAB member, asked what percent of construction is complete. Seely replied 10 to 11 percent, with 30 to 35 percent to be complete in two years and construction completion anticipated in 2016.

Terry House, CDCAB member, asked if the chemical weapons were handled during construction. Lt. Col. David Musgrave, Blue Grass Chemical Activity commander, said they were only handled under emergency conditions, like taking care of a leaking round.

Hindman asked if the self-consolidating concrete used in the Mock Wall and destined for the MDB blast area was approved by the Pentagon. Seely responded yes, it is not a new concept and it has been used for decades.

Hibberd noted the long-term impact on Kentucky of the safety culture being built at this project, and thought it was good to expose the workers to this level of training. Seely said that was the aim of the trades as well, and referenced the recent visit of the president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to the construction site.

Williams asked about the new funding guidance and how it affects the site. Seely said it makes a big difference and moves construction to the left (speeds up) by five years, as well as making a big difference in intangible areas like project team morale. Williams asked if the funding guidance (submission to the presidential budgets of 2010 and beyond) could be provided to CAC/CDCAB members. Kevin Flamm, ACWA program manager, said it can be shared only after it goes through the budget review process. Heltzel said there should be some clarity in about three months after the next round of discussions at the Pentagon. Williams noted it is important for the public to see the shift in interest in and commitment to the program.

A member of the public asked about the supply of water to the site Fire Water Storage Tanks as he was concerned about the level of the depot's Lake Vega. Seely said the project worked with the depot and chemical activity to confirm they can support the site's water needs, which are calculated as a basis of design.

Environmental Forum Update – Doug Hindman, CAC, Chair

Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Hindman reported on this recent national forum, saying the CAC representatives discussed safety risks and the relation of CACs to the people and organizations around them, and gave a regulatory overview. During a safety risk breakout session, CAC attendees agreed risks were most prevalent during construction and shut-down and not while workers were doing standard jobs such as processing, when work becomes more routine. They discussed how the CACs relate to the community and the military – some CACs are committed to representing their communities while others support their contractors, bases or depots. Hindman feels this CAC represents the community. The forum also included a regulators' breakout, which included the National Research Council report on EDTs and communications between state and federal regulators and closure-specific discussions. Hindman said closure concerns would be site-specific, gave the status of current programs (incinerator sites, non-stockpile and ACWA) and noted special issues such as hydrolysate shipment, EDTs and mustard-agent heels (age-hardened residue in mustard munitions).

Benge asked what will happen to the closed chemical demilitarization sites. Flamm noted the current public law states the Army enters into discussions with each state to determine the final closure end state—some want to use some of the projects' infrastructure and others want a return to a green-field status. ACWA will work with the Commonwealth of Kentucky on final closure status. Hindman noted possible reuse of the BGCAPP support buildings.

A member of the public asked if mustard agent had previously been burned at the depot. Hindman said no. The member then asked if the program had consulted with chemists and the "boys in Aberdeen" regarding the destruction of the chemicals appropriately and efficiently. Hindman said there has been a lot of discussion and study through the years

and Flamm said the program has had a working partnership with the Aberdeen engineers and scientists.

Neutralization and SCWO – John Barton, BPBG, Chief Scientist

Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Barton gave a comprehensive presentation on the munitions slated for destruction at BGCAPP and their disposal methods. He discussed the munitions and their payloads, the chemical process of neutralization, the energetics destruction process, the four hydrolysates created from the neutralization of the agents and energetics, the SCWO process and waste disposal.

Miller asked which agent was the most challenging to process. Barton replied VX, due to its persistence.

House asked how long the processing phase will take. Seely said two to three years, followed by closure. Williams noted the systemization process between construction and operations. Barton clarified the systemization process is essential to make sure the system is working correctly once constructed.

Williams asked about an organic layer forming in the hydrolysate sitting in storage tanks awaiting the SCWO process. Barton replied the storage tanks are mixing tanks, which keep the hydrolysate agitated, so no organic layer will form.

Williams then asked about stripping heavy metals from the waste stream. Barton said they would not be, that selenium, mercury and others may be present, and said the waste would be going to a permitted facility for final disposal. Williams asked if the final disposal processes at those facilities had been decided upon yet. Barton said no, but the typical process is solidification and burial since an incinerator cannot destroy heavy metals.

Williams asked about reducing the bulk of the waste stream through an extraction process. Barton said it was possibly considered in the early design, but it is difficult and expensive to remove mercury from the liquid waste stream. Williams said he thought the 70/30 percent ratio (recovered water to concentrated brine from the water recovery unit) was a very good ratio anyway.

MWG and EDTWG Update – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair

Williams discussed problems with the mustard projectile bursters at other sites, and said an EDT might be applicable for disposal of items with similar issues here as well as non-contaminated rocket motors. He gave the reasoning behind the formation of the EDTWG,

and that ACWA is looking at an EDT as an alternate destruction method for the Blue Grass and Pueblo sites. He then covered the other sites' review of EDTs, noting Alabama has selected the DYNASAFE model for their "problem" mustard rounds and Tooele is considering their own selection, and said the group will be watching their efforts. He said the CAC/CDCAB was asked to make a recommendation to ACWA on the EDT issue late next year or in 2011.

There were no questions.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 8 at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

Closing Remarks – Doug Hindman, CAC Chair, and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair

Hindman thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Williams expressed his appreciation to Richards for his positive involvement in the local CSEPP program. He then gave a brief overview of the 2010 funding cycle, saying the House version of the funding bill has a \$542 million line item for ACWA (both sites' Research and Development and Military Construction [MILCON] budgets) and the Senate version has an additional \$5 million for MILCON. He congratulated Sen. McConnell for the "plus-up" and Rep. Chandler for keeping \$50 million from being removed from the House line item. He said new funding guidance has been provided by the Pentagon, which he feels confident about, but also feels the need to remain vigilant. He praised Kevin Flamm's involvement in the funding arena and said he is confident both current and the out-years' budgets will hold, but noted every year is a new adventure in Congress with respect to budgeting. He has never felt more optimism than at this moment. Flamm said the Department of Defense has been very supportive and shares his desire to get rid of the stockpile, and he feels it is a pleasure to champion the men and women associated with the Blue Grass project.

#