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Reagan Taylor  
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**Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and  
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting  
Summary of Action Items and Discussions  
Sept. 12, 2018  
Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)  
Richmond, Kentucky**

**Attendees**

**CAC:** Doug Hindman, Mark Klaas (for Michael Dossett), Harry Moberly, George Ridings, Aaron Thompson, April Webb (for Jon Maybriar) and Craig Williams

**CDCAB:** David Benge, Jeff Brubaker, Colleen Chaney (for Reagan Taylor), Tatum Dale (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr's office), Joe Elliott (for Col. Joseph Kurz), Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Ron Hink, Leslie Kaylor, Mark Klaas (for Michael Dossett), Bryan Makinen, Darcy Maupin, Lt. Col. Rodney McCutcheon, Harry Moberly, Randy Neeley, Stephanie Nelson (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's office), George Ridings, Aaron Thompson, April Webb (for Jon Maybriar) and Craig Williams

**Media Attendees:**

*Richmond Register:* Kaitlyn Skovran  
*WEKU-FM:* Stu Johnson  
*WBON-TV:* Austin Tanks

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Remarks from Department of Defense (DOD) Visitors
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Process Working Group (PWG) Update
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) Permitting Updates

## **Meeting Summary Structure**

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations; instead, it 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:** Subject matter expert (SME) to present about the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) and improvements learned from Anniston.

**Responsible Entity:** Terry Staggs, SDC SME.

**Timeline:** Dec. 12, 2018.

**Action Item:** Confirm 2019 meeting dates in packet.

**Responsible Entity:** Sarah Marko, ORO manager.

**Timeline:** By Dec. 12, 2018.

## **Outline of Key Issues and Discussions**

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

Marko welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the following action items from the June 13, 2018, CAC/CDCAB meeting:

<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Steps Taken</b>	<b>Date/Status</b>
Provide information on how BGCAPP classifies workforce minority status.	Information provided at the Sept. 12, 2018, CAC/CDCAB meeting (below).	Complete.
Provide list of materials that will be used in testing the Metal Parts Treater (MPT) and its off-gas treatment system.	Information provided at the Sept. 12, 2018, CAC/CDCAB meeting (below).	Complete.
Establish process for disseminating PWG information to CAC/CDCAB members.	Process established and working.	Complete.

## ***Opening Remarks – Doug Hindman, Chair, CAC, and Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB***

Hindman said he was glad to see everyone and noted Sarah (Parke) Marko's new name, as she was recently married.

Williams welcomed attendees and said Colleen Chaney was sitting in for Reagan Taylor. He said it was good to see Lt. Col. Rodney McCutcheon, who visited Williams and continued the transparency dialogue. Williams listed members who were unable to attend the meeting, noted Magistrate Tom Botkin's attendance as Williams appreciates county involvement with the group, and said Chester Powell is unable to attend meetings due to his work so a replacement may be forthcoming. He then said he and Hindman met with Michael Abaie, new Program Executive Officer (PEO), Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA); Dr. Charles Ball, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, DOD; and Craig Campbell, principal director, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs, before the CAC/CDCAB meeting and had a discussion about the program, participants, past history and its evolution to everyone working toward a common objective. Williams said everyone is focused on open transparency and engagement and all agree on the leadership, transparency and communication Jeff Brubaker has shown as the lead on the government side.

### **Key Updates**

#### ***Remarks from Department of Defense Visitors – Dr. Charles Ball, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, DOD, and Michael Abaie, PEO, ACWA***

Ball said he appreciated the opportunity to attend the meeting and is eager to hear any concerns. He said he is tasked with providing Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Ellen Lord with ACWA updates twice weekly for her meetings with Secretary of Defense James Mattis. He noted the desire within the department is to eliminate chemical weapons by 2023, he does not doubt the program will be funded to its objective, and he is very mindful of Mattis' directive to be good stewards of public money. Ball emphasized ACWA is part of a much larger cause as part of DOD and finishing the Blue Grass project on time is a way of keeping the faith with the military men and women who need resources to have the best chance of achieving their mission out in the field. He introduced the new PEO, Michael Abaie, and said he is a leader with an accomplished record of solving problems who has a focus on safety. Ball said he is focused on two things right now: 1) the proposed use of the SDC to process overpacked and main-plant reject nerve-agent munitions; he feels this issue needs to be discussed for the safety of the workers who would have to handle these munitions for processing should they not go to the SDC, and 2) the supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) system, an incredibly complex system. He said Abaie will ask for another review to assure the

safety of this system. Ball said he is committed to working with the Blue Grass community and his door is always open for concerns.

Abaie said he was very interested in the community's thoughts and concerns and that building and ensuring trust continues is absolutely vital. He provided some background on himself and said safety and completion on time is his focus for ACWA. Abaie said his door is also always open for concerns.

Craig Williams said workforce safety is a top priority for the group and he appreciates the push toward 2023, but noted the destruction deadline has slipped many times over the years. He said if things do not work as expected, the group will not disavow safety for deadline. He understands the current deadline was set by Congress and wants everyone to be protected. Ball and Abaie both committed to this.

***BGCAPP Project Update – Jeff Brubaker, Site Project Manager (SPM), BGCAPP, and Ron Hink, Project Manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPG)***

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

Brubaker opened with a reiteration of the ACWA mission and vision and said Ball and Abaie have fully committed to moving forward with the destruction of the stockpile. Hink discussed safety and said there have been no lost-time accidents for more than ten million work hours. He said recordable incidents have risen a bit, but they are usually minor and the project is focused on reducing these. Brubaker discussed the roadmap, calling it a living document for forecasting the initiation of plant operations. Speaking on the SDC, he said construction on the remaining facilities was completed in June and that facility had a very clean transition to the systemization phase. Six analytical platforms are being added to the Laboratory to support SDC. He said hiring is about 90 percent complete and an integrated operations demonstration will lead to the start of operations between June and August of 2019. On the topic of oversight, Brubaker said Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons personnel will visit the site in the second week of October, will come back about 60 days prior to start-up for a final engineering review, and will take up permanent residence two-to-three weeks before start-up. Brubaker shifted to the main plant's roadmap schedule and discussed systems turned over to operations, training, and environmental activities, saying the draft air permit from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in its public comment period until Oct. 1 and he forecasts it will be approved in January. He then discussed the SDC project and its primary facilities and noted progress made. Brubaker said the project is working with Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) personnel on training and developing standard operating procedures for the transfer of munitions and he appreciates BGCA's support as activities ramp up. Hink updated the group on main-plant progress, such as the turn-over of the Munitions Washout System and Steam System to operations; completion of Munitions Demilitarization Building heating, ventilation and air conditioning balancing; and training due to the large amount of new personnel. He said at peak, the plant will

employ around 1,300 people. Brubaker discussed the economic forecast for personnel and payroll. Hink provided information on workforce diversity and said the plant has switched from comparing its numbers from Kentucky construction to Kentucky manufacturing, since the plant is no longer under construction. Hink noted the plant's schedule could affect the female workforce percentage, as the [Dupont schedule](#) can be difficult for families. He then provided the plant's minority statistics requested at the last meeting. Hink noted Kentucky has a higher percentage of minorities than the plant does, the plant has put more focus on recruiting minorities, and asked for suggestions for places to recruit. Brubaker gave information on recent plant visits, which included the Colorado CAC. Williams said he thought that was a very worthwhile trip and said he had received feedback on how positive it was for them to come here, as the Kentucky CAC did in Anniston several years ago. Brubaker then provided a Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant update.

Williams asked Brubaker to reiterate the percentage of hires for the SDC and if he had any problems finding qualified people. Brubaker said the SDC project is approximately 90 percent hired, and they are experiencing challenges in a couple areas, which also apply to the main plant. Hink said the challenge areas are Control Room operators and Instrumentation and Controls technicians, noting that when the market gets good, qualified and experienced people often migrate back to their homes.

Aaron Thompson offered his assistance with hiring and said he is the executive vice president and chief academic officer for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

Williams asked the length of the closure phase. Brubaker said he felt the project would reach unventilated monitoring, which would allow for mass demolition of facilities, in approximately 24 to 30 months. The demolition should then take three to four months. The close-out of permits will take a little longer, so closure may go a little past three years. Williams asked if demolition meant the parts of the plant exposed to agent and not other parts of the infrastructure. Brubaker said yes, depending on reuse determination. Williams noted the Economic Impact Working Group is focusing on the reuse of the infrastructure with the depot, for both the depot and the community.

***PWG Update – Jeff Brubaker, SPM, BGCAPP, and Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB***

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

Williams explained the background of the PWG and said they meet monthly or more often, as they did recently on the topic of SDC testing of nerve agent. He then explained the recent change in the flow of information from the PWG to the rest of the group. Brubaker said the PWG and ACWA have been very busy since the last CAC/CDCAB meeting, covering SCWO hydrolysate contingency planning, a shift in GB munitions

processing to place non-energetics containing projectiles ahead of M55 rockets, and contingency planning for nerve-agent overpacks and reject munitions to be processed through the SDC. BGCAPP is in dialogue with the PWG and KDEP on the last point. He listed the hydrolysate contingency criteria and said the plant has met with the PWG several times to develop them. Brubaker said all the criteria have as basis that nerve-agent destruction continues in the main plant so as not to have zero production days due to SCWO issues and noted cost is considered the least important of the criteria. Williams said he discussed the cost criteria with Reagan Taylor and Taylor is comfortable with either Taylor or Williams signing off on that criteria if necessary. Brubaker then discussed the stockpile and agent campaigns. Williams said he had sent a memo to the CDCAB about the change of GB processing and does not recall receiving any feedback. He feels having workers start with munitions with no explosives will give confidence and experience before processing the rockets. Based on this and some other considerations, they recommend this change. Doug Hindman said if there were no objections from the group, they will send the recommendation to Brubaker. There were no objections. Brubaker thanked the group for their involvement with the testing the SDC for nerve agent processing discussions. He feels there is no reason for workers to take the weapons out of overpacks when they could be processed directly in the SDC. Brubaker then said the SDC is not large enough to destroy full rockets but can do rocket motors, rocket warheads in overpacks and projectiles. He emphasized worker safety and thanked KDEP for supporting this effort, and said there will be more meetings and discussions on this topic in the future.

Jeanne Hibberd asked Brubaker to explain the difference between SDC technology and incineration to the group. Brubaker said the SDC is a pyrolysis-type destruction: thermal treatment without excess oxygen and without a flame being present. The detonation chamber will be heated electrically. Hindman clarified this is not considered incineration.

David Bengé said the most dangerous munitions are the GB rockets, which comprise a big part of the Blue Grass stockpile, and asked when they will be processed. Brubaker said the GB projectiles are expected to have about a 3 ½-month campaign with a two-month changeover process following. With the main plant scheduled to begin operations in October 2019, the rockets will start probably around the February-March time frame in 2020.

Williams said SDC SME Terry Staggs gave him a good briefing on the SDC and modifications made from lessons learned from the use of the Anniston SDC and requested Staggs provide the briefing at the December CAC/CDCAB meeting. He pointed out the addition of an expansion chamber for a steady feed of gases into the Thermal Oxidizer as one modification significant to him.

Williams emphasized both the off-site shipment of hydrolysate and SDC nerve agent processing are contingency plans to ensure the number-one priority is worker and community safety. He said contingency plans are necessary to keep from shutting the plant down in the middle of destruction or sending people in to deal with a problem. Hindman said testing will need to be done to provide data to KDEP for their approval to

run nerve agent through the SDC. Williams said the material tested during data collection will be surrogate material to provide KDEP with adequate information that the SDC is capable of meeting destruction and environmental protection. Hibberd asked if the surrogate was monochlorobenzene. Brubaker said yes, one action item from the last PWG meeting was to provide information on the applicability of surrogate material and he will provide that information to the full CAC/CDCAB. Williams said KDEP has to approve it and it is a pleasure to have a good relationship with KDEP.

### ***KDEP Permitting Update – Dale Burton, Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) Section, KDEP***

Burton said since the last CAC/CDCAB meeting KDEP has reviewed and issued three class one permit modifications for the main plant under the Research, Development and Demonstration permit: Call-down instructions, MPT surrogate plan and secondary waste certification. They also processed a class one permit modification for SDC secondary waste certification and approved the SCWO weld report. KDEP also sent comments on the rocket motor storage application for non-contaminated rocket motors in up to 16 igloos on BGAD and on a container storage facility for greater-than-one Vapor Screening Level waste. Burton said they recently received a lot of submittals, and continue to review the VX campaign permit information and the controlled destruction facility for rocket motors. He said they are also reviewing the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act operations plan, resubmittal of the inspection schedule, the MPT monitoring plan, the SDC surrogate test plan, protocol for the human health risk assessment for the main plant and the SCWO bypass piping and truck loading spur plans, which have all come in since the middle of August. Burton said there will always be class-one permit modifications they will continue to try to process on an ongoing basis and reiterated the public comment period is open for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's organic air permit for the main plant. He said KDEP personnel are planning to go to Colorado next week to discuss lessons learned, challenges to be expected at BGCAPP and SDC information. Burton noted the department is two people short right now but is hoping to have the new staff on board by Oct. 1. He then mentioned the BGAD open burn/open detonation permit application is ongoing and they have received a number of comments. They plan to respond and issue their final determination by the end of September.

Williams asked if the two new-hires were enough for the department to handle the workload as the plants move toward operations. Burton said he believes so, as both have experience with these topics and are both good engineers. He said hiring additional people as necessary is always a possibility and funds are available. Ball said he would support that, that ACWA has recently completed the signature for the state's new fiscal year agreements on staffing, but if that should need to be amended, he would look forward to doing so. Abaie agreed. Williams noted the quantity as well as quality of project personnel was important to him. Burton said he is very mindful of keeping pace with project needs.

***Closing Remarks – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB; Michael Abaie, PEO, ACWA; and Dr. Charles Ball, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, DOD***

Williams welcomed Stephanie Nelson to her first meeting as U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's representative and asked her to convey the group's appreciation to him.

Abaie thanked the group and said the meeting was very informative as to getting insights into where the group is and what it needs. He said his attendance on the third day in his new position should show the importance of this and the Pueblo project to him.

Ball echoed Abaie and said he appreciates the spirit of cooperation and is looking forward to the next meeting.

***Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. at the ECU Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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