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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. 11, 2019  
Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)  
Richmond, Kentucky**

**Attendees**

**CAC:** Doug Hindman, Harry Moberly, George Ridings, April Webb (for Jon Maybriar) and Craig Williams

**CDCAB:** David Benge, Robert Blythe, Chuck Cash, Candace Coyle, Jim Davis, Judy Greene-Baker, Dustin Heiser, Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Ron Hink, Diane Hatchett, Leslie Kaylor, Mark Klaas, Col. Joseph Kurz, Tara Long, Bryan Makinen, Lt. Col. Rodney McCutcheon, Harry Moberly, Stephanie Nelson (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell), George Ridings, Mica Sims (for U.S. Sen. Rand Paul), Tyler Staker (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr), Reagan Taylor, April Webb (for Jon Maybriar), Craig Williams and Ethan Witt

**Media Attendees:**

*The Richmond Register:* Taylor Six  
*WEKU-FM:* Stu Johnson

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Project Update
- Economic Impact Working Group (EIWG) 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:** Confirm 2020 CAC/CDCAB meeting dates.

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

**Timeline:** By Dec. 11, 2019.

**Action Item:** Provide CAC/CDCAB updated numbers from the EIWG Potential Future Economic Impact slide.

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair.

**Timeline:** By Dec. 11, 2019.

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

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

Marko welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted there were no action items from the June 12, 2019, CAC/CDCAB meeting.

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

Doug Hindman welcomed attendees and noted the 9/11 anniversary. He asked for a moment of silence to remember the event.

Reagan Taylor said he appreciated everyone's attendance. He thanked Lt. Col. Rodney McCutcheon for providing him a tour of the Chemical Limited Area for munitions movement operations. He said safety was the top priority and that the community would be pleased with the pride the workers take in their jobs.

Craig Williams said McCutcheon has been very communicative and Williams is impressed with the Blue Grass Chemical Activity's operations. He then welcomed Tyler Staker, who was attending on behalf of Tatum Dale of U.S. Rep. Andy Barr's office. He also noted the large attendee turnout and welcomed the attendees.

## Key Updates

### ***BGCAPP Project Update – Dr. Candace Coyle, SPM, BGCAPP, and Ron Hink, Project Manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass***

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

Coyle provided destruction graphics for BGCAPP and the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant and said the BGCAPP destruction number (0.96% of the chemical weapons stockpile destroyed as of Aug. 30, 2019) might look like a small amount but the tonnage (5 U.S. tons) is not. She said it has been a great effort by everyone working on the project. Coyle delivered a Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) operations update and said the Levinstein mustard was mostly solidified, as confirmed by an X-ray assessment, and was the reason for the decision to use an Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) for those rounds. She then discussed atypical munitions, which increase destruction time and require additional protective measures, and emphasized the project's "one team, one mission" and safety viewpoints for dealing with these munitions. Coyle said standard munitions take 12 to 15 minutes to deflagrate, while the atypical ones are taking 52 to 56 minutes. This changes the plant's throughput ability. She said they have had about 21 projectiles in this category so far and expect more. She said the operations are still in the ramp-up mode, which will take some time. They discovered a white residue coming from the exhaust stack, which turned out to be sulfur dioxide, and paused operations to make equipment and process refinements. The residue has not returned. She wants the group to realize how these atypical munitions will impact operations, but said they have the best people working together to resolve challenges. Coyle then noted the emissions test has been moved to October but that will not delay the schedule. She then shifted focus to the main plant and said it is a very busy time. The plant is preparing for lock-down and has started commissioning and calibrating the supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) system, with the first demonstration coming next week. She said SCWO is on track to support main plant processing, which is currently scheduled to start late this year. Coyle said changes are being made to the rocket-processing system, that a Finding of No Significant Impact was completed July 1 for the addition of a second SDC, the Temporary Authorization Request (TAR) was submitted to KDEP Aug. 20 and everyone is working together. She said the biggest update is that contracts have been awarded for the equipment necessary for rocket processing changes. Coyle provided information on an independent assessment of the SCWO system by the Systems Engineering Research Center, who did a step-by-step process of evaluating the system itself. They found some possible hazards related to human error and software signal failures and the project team is evaluating those hazards and working on remediating them. She then discussed a closure planning study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine that is looking at lessons learned from the closures of the baseline sites as applicable to BGCAPP closure. She said Jeff Brubaker traveled to Washington, D.C., for

the first panel, which was a very productive meeting, and she wants to be proactive on this and not wait until the last minute for closure planning.

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) Project Manager Ron Hink provided an update on safety and said they have worked more than five years without a lost-time injury, which is comparable to office work. He noted it was an incredible effort by the workforce, who have the desire to work safely, not just be told to do it by management. Hink said the project just finished the "101 Days of Summer" safety campaign, which was designed for additional safety focus during a time of greater distractions and possible heat-related issues, without any recordable injuries. He then discussed the project's economic impact and said the plant's full staff complement is 1,250, so the current number of 1,238 employees is a little short. He noted an approximately 20% attrition rate and said this will likely be an issue through the entire project, as the economy is good, there are other appealing positions available and there may be some medical disqualifications for those performing Demilitarization Protective Ensemble (DPE) entries. He said those entries are hard work, which may encourage workers to look for other employment opportunities. Hink provided forecasted personnel and payroll information and said those numbers have not yet been updated for the proposed plant changes. He discussed the diversity of the workforce. The main issue for accurate reporting is a large number of people who do not report their ethnicity as it is voluntary. He then updated the group on the project's recruiting efforts and said they prefer to hire former military members because they understand this kind of work. He said the project also makes an effort to hire locally, and there will be a job symposium at the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office Oct. 1. Hink noted they are mostly looking for waste operators, control room operators and electrical, instrumentation and mechanical technicians. BPBG provides training for incoming personnel.

David Benge asked what education qualification was necessary for those jobs and where interested parties could find out information and apply. Hink said the project will provide training for the waste operators, but they will need to be able to work in a disciplined operation and pass a background check. The technicians will need some job experience. He said they could come to the job symposium for more information, apply online at [www.bechtelparsonsbqcap.com/SitePages/Employment.aspx](http://www.bechtelparsonsbqcap.com/SitePages/Employment.aspx), or pick up an employment information card on the information table at the back of the room.

Judy Greene-Baker said she did not see any minority recruiting and asked if there was a reason the project did not attend job fairs at places like Kentucky State University. Hink said he would look into the suggestion.

Robert Blythe asked how the attrition loss translated into cost for the project. Hink said it was certainly undesirable and they perform exit interviews to learn workers' reasons for leaving. He said there is no one, set answer, that the reasons are varied. Other opportunities, aging parents with medical needs and moving to be closer to family are a few examples. Hink said the reality is the BPBG workforce is aging as many employees have worked at other baseline sites and DPE entries are difficult.

Craig Williams asked if the website would explain the detailed qualifications and salaries for each position. Hink said it would describe the qualifications but there is no salary information. He suggested contacting the human resources departments with salary questions.

Williams asked if data from the Anniston, Alabama, SDC and other places is used to make the assumption the Blue Grass emissions are in compliance until the SDC emissions test is completed and if the Blue Grass data would be made public when appropriate. Coyle said yes to both.

Williams asked if the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons now has a permanent on-site presence. Hink said yes, through the duration of the chemical weapons destruction.

Doug Hindman asked if atypical projectiles that had not broken open have caused a problem being shipped for recycling. Coyle said there were two that had to be deformed further, they have had no problems with them and the receiving plant has had no problems accepting them.

Benge asked if the plant was on schedule. Coyle said yes, they are working to find opportunities to streamline as they move forward, but safety is the absolute first and most important priority.

Jeanne Hibberd asked if the slowdown caused by the atypical mustard munitions would affect the schedule. Coyle said it has no impact and the main plant is still on schedule to start at the end of the year as well.

### ***EIWG Update – 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 said it was remarkable to him to hear the word “closure” in planning. He said there has been a heightened concern about what to do with plant workers, the future of the depot, and more, post-closure. Williams provided a 2017 Blue Grass Army Depot slide showing potential future economic impact after closure and said he would get current numbers and send to the group via email. He pointed out the significant economic impact closure will have on the depot, city/county taxes, etc. Williams said Bechtel Enterprises, a division of Bechtel Corporation, has teamed up with the EIWG locally to provide a pro-bono service to develop a post-demilitarization vision/plan on economic stability and avoidance of any significant negative impact at the end of the demilitarization mission. He provided the names and titles of the Bechtel team members and said they work to help communities after large Bechtel projects end in their areas. Williams then noted assistance from the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) that performs a similar function for the government. Application cannot be made to them until

three years before the project ends, but that time is coming up, so the group is working with the Bluegrass Area Development District to prepare the application. He said he should have a draft ready by the next meeting. Williams then noted a July 8 meeting held to learn about involving the state more meaningfully as the demilitarization project matures. He said a conference call was held Aug. 12 with local government, Bechtel and U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's staff. He said the staff has been extraordinarily helpful in networking at all levels and he appreciates Field Representative Stephanie Nelson's involvement. Williams will meet with the senator and staff Sept. 17 on this topic. He noted an Aug. 15 meeting to discuss further engagement of Kentucky's role in the planning. Williams said the collaborative is being built further up and out as they go, so when the time comes to make decisions the proper people are involved. He said Madison County Judge-Executive Reagan Taylor has been deeply involved and the group is broadening and escalating their engagement at all levels. Williams has been invited to brief the full Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs in November. For next steps, he said a draft transition analysis is being finalized and will be presented to the group when final. He is also working with the other Kentucky congressional offices on their involvement. The EIWG wants to identify industrial opportunities for the area and develop high-quality business plans to attract them. Bechtel will provide a draft plan for that going forward. Williams speculated joint-venture companies could place satellite offices in the area, as they already have skilled and trained personnel here and know the area and its conditions.

Taylor said this needs to be a top priority for the community as a whole and the region and noted the impact BGCAPP closure will have upon local governance. He would like to see a public relations campaign developed to communicate to county and regional citizens about this impact. He said the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) has created a standard in the area and those items and monies will go away, which means local leaders will have to make tough choices to offset the federal tax base with the local tax base. He feels this is the right time to start educating citizens so it will not be a negative impact to them. Taylor would like the chemical demilitarization program to leave a positive legacy.

Hibberd said this is very important, but it is also important to be sure what is invited into the community is environmentally safe, and to make sure incoming companies are made aware the community cares about the environment. Williams said this has been mentioned in every meeting and prioritized and it has been agreed upon around the table that it is a top priority.

Williams said everyone is on the same page as to what the objective is and are the closest now to having a team across all strata. He said he has been working on this for years and has never been more confident than now.

## ***KDEP Permitting Update – April Webb, Hazardous Waste Branch Manager, KDEP***

Webb welcomed Todd Powers back to the project and introduced Monica Alden as a new employee. She noted the TAR discussed in the BGCAPP update was issued and another one for container storage. Webb said they have issued five permit modifications for the Resource, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) permit and another modification to the EDT permit. KDEP is currently reviewing the requested change from the RD&D permit to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permit. They are also working on the Metal Parts Treater monitoring plan and other Class 1 modifications and have sent comments back on a variety of documents to do with main plant modifications and for the depot as well. KDEP is now in the process of implementing the organic air regulations into the permits they have already issued since the responsibility was delegated to them from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Webb mentioned some public notices will be issued later this fall. They will be combined but can be commented on individually.

### **Group Discussion**

Williams said he is interested in feedback on Taylor's public relations effort suggestion. He feels there is a sensitivity to getting too far out in front of things, that details need to be figured out before moving to the next step. He said communications right now should be that the topic is being worked on, who is working on it, and what the objectives are.

Blythe asked if post-project assessment information could be obtained from the baseline-site communities. Williams said they have been in contact with Anniston, an active depot post-demilitarization, unlike others that were closed under the Base Realignment and Closure act. He said they provided a lot of information on how they secured funding from the OEA and he will be looking into that further.

George Ridings said by the 2017 chart provided by the depot, that \$22 million in CSEPP funding will also end and he feels many people do not know about this. Williams said that is part of the information that needs to get out there and the information cannot all be positive, it has to be practical and pragmatic. He will be working with the mayors and judge-executive to make sure information is accurate and precise.

Dustin Heiser noted Sept. 18 is the annual CSEPP exercise and sirens and radios will activate around 9 a.m.

Col. Joseph Kurz said he was listening to Taylor's concern about CSEPP funding. He said the good news is the chemical stockpile will be gone in December 2023 and he is glad to hear the community is so involved in emergency preparation. He provided the numbers of people killed in the terrorist attacks on 9/11 and asked everyone to take a moment to appreciate the freedoms we all enjoy as a remembrance of that day. Kurz noted the depot is taking applicants for security guards, who will need to have a high-school diploma or equivalent and pass a physical fitness test and background check. He said

they are hiring explosive munitions handlers and administrative jobs as well. Open positions can be found on the depot website: [bluegrass.army.mil/BGAD/EmployeeOpp.aspx](http://bluegrass.army.mil/BGAD/EmployeeOpp.aspx). He emphasized chemical munitions are only five percent of what the depot stores, which are items from Air Force bombs to small-arms ammunition, and that will not go away after the BGCAPP closure.

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

Hindman said the group had just received a nice EIWG presentation, while earlier, members had received an email containing a summary from the August Process Working Group meeting. He said a lot of initiatives and discussions are happening with these two groups and if anyone wanted to be involved, they could contact Williams or him.

Williams thanked everyone for attending.

***Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019, at 1:30 p.m. at the ECU Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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