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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. 23, 2020  
Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting  
Richmond, Kentucky**

**Attendees**

**CAC:** Doug Hindman, Harry Moberly, George Ridings, Tammi Hudson, David Stipes and Craig Williams

**CDCAB:** Dr. Candace Coyle, Joe Elliott (for Col. Stephen Dorris), Jamie Hall (for Lt. Col. Edward Williams), Diane Hatchett, Dustin Heiser, Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Ron Hink, Tammi Hudson, Leslie Kaylor, Tara Long, Brian Makinen, Velmar Miller (for Judy Greene-Baker), Harry Moberly, Stephanie Nelson (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell), George Ridings, Tyler Staker (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr), David Stipes, Reagan Taylor, Craig Williams and Ethan Witt.

**Media Attendees:**

*WEKU-FM:* Stu Johnson

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Remarks from Department of Defense (DOD) Guests
- CAC/CDCAB Letter of Intent (LOI) for Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO)
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Project Update
- BGCAPP Closure Planning
- 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:** Determine dates for 2021 CAC/CDCAB meetings.

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

**Timeline:** Dec. 9, 2020.

**Action Item:** Clarification of hazardous waste shipment information.

**Responsible Entity:** Dr. Candace Coyle, site project manager (SPM), BGCAPP.

**Timeline:** Dec. 9, 2020.

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

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

Marko performed a roll call, welcomed the attendees, provided virtual meeting best practices and reviewed the meeting agenda.

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

Doug Hindman welcomed attendees to the meeting and the new format and said it was good to see everyone.

Reagan Taylor welcomed everyone and said he appreciated everyone being on the call.

Craig Williams thanked everyone for joining the meeting and thanked attendees for their continued interest.

## Key Updates

### ***Remarks from DOD Guests – Dr. Charles Ball, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control, and Nick Stamatakis, Deputy Program Executive Officer, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA)***

Dr. Charles Ball said it was great to be with the group, even if just virtually. He said he and his colleagues at the Pentagon are very pleased with the progress BGCAPP has made this year and noted a few highlights, including the safe completion of the GB 8-inch projectile campaign ahead of schedule and the plant's conversion to VX processing proceeding well. Ball noted the mustard campaign has proven to be very difficult, due to the complexities of the 1940s-vintage agent. He commended everyone on their creativity in keeping the campaign moving and said good lessons are also being learned for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. He emphasized the BGCAPP accomplishments are all admirable in their own rights but being under COVID-19 pandemic conditions only magnifies those accomplishments, and the workforce and leadership deserve a tremendous amount of credit for performing so well under that constraint. Ball also noted that it is incredible to him how well the community and the ACWA program worked together on the SCWO issue. He said the CAC/CDCAB LOI has been extremely helpful and the fact that everyone is of one mind on this topic is a victory for the program. He made clear that progress on the topic will be done safely and with all environmental concerns in mind.

Nick Stamatakis gave ACWA Program Executive Officer Michael Abaie's apologies for not being able to attend due to circumstances out of his control. He noted ACWA has a simple mission: to destroy stockpiled chemical weapons. He said within that are a couple mandates: maximize safety of the workforce, community and environment and perform the task within cost constraints. He said another key part is working with program stakeholders and noted the SCWO LOI. Stamatakis said this is a continuation of one of ACWA's key tenets, soliciting input from all stakeholders to make sure a solution to the mission can be found. He said he and Abaie have confidence in the site team and he looks forward to the relationship continuing. He noted it is not an easy road ahead of the team and there is still a lot of work to do, as evidenced by the changes going on at the site. He provided background information on the SCWO issue and said the additional testing necessary to continue with SCWO would significantly impact the program's ability to use the system as it was originally intended. The LOI helped cement the decision on how to go forward and Abaie has been working with other government organizations and researching other ways for SCWO to be used. Stamatakis said the most important part was ACWA's transparency in reaching out to stakeholders trying to find a common solution that can be accepted by all, noting Abaie calls it a "win-win-win," for the community, ACWA and the DOD. He said ACWA will keep stakeholders informed throughout the process and he looks forward to continuing ACWA's relationship with stakeholders to safely complete this mission.

## ***CAC/CDCAB LOI for SCWO – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB***

Williams gave background information on the SCWO situation and said due to circumstances out of ACWA's control, Abaie had to inform the group the SCWO could not be used for BGCAPP purposes. Williams said there were very few options, but after conversations with knowledgeable people, the group came up with a proposal that would not squander the tens of millions of dollars invested in the system and would turn the engineering and testing over to a different Department of the Army division so the technology can progress independently of the ACWA program. Williams noted the official Pentagon sign-off has not yet been received but is working its way through the process and he anticipates signatures and agreement in short order. He said included in the LOI and formal recommendation that the group provided to ACWA and forwarded up the chain of command were several issues he and other CAC/CDCAB and Process Working Group (PWG) members felt important beyond ongoing testing of SCWO units themselves. He said one being a great reluctance to ship hydrolysate off-site due to their long-standing commitment to trying to treat as much as possible on site and not send to an off-site community. He said Abaie stood fast on his obligation to the group and was given the opportunity to find a way to keep using SCWO, but ultimately the word came down that that was not going to happen and left the group no choice. The group specified, 1) extensive and diligent community outreach effort at the community of reception site, 2) whatever technology is used for the treatment of hydrolysate, ACWA will work with the technology provider to incentivize modifications to equipment to reduce harmful emissions or other into the host community, 3) any waste that might be sent into Blue Grass to take advantage of one or more of the SCWO units would be presented to the community by a committee appointed by the county judge-executive, and 4) methods be devised moving forward to reduce liquid wastes that would have to be shipped offsite. He emphasized these things were important to the group and to any reception community.

Williams the theory is that all the SCWO units do not have to stay in Richmond—one could be incorporated into non-stockpile disposal methods at non-stockpile sites, one could be taken to another Army location that generates a lot of liquid waste and one could remain for Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) liquid waste treatment, all of which options are still tentative. He said as the program moves forward with shipments and operations, the group will continue to engage in discussions about future use of SCWO units. Williams said the CCDC Chemical Biological Center has extensive experience with chemical weapons. He said they were the ones who handled Operation *Swift Solution* and were also heavily engaged with the Syrian weapons disposal on the *Cape Ray*. He said he feels the group should have high confidence that they will be able to work out the issues with the SCWO units and get them operational for some future use and not lose the time and financial aspects of that system. Williams said he is working with the congressional delegation and one of the possible reception communities that had received chemical demilitarization waste previously and thinks the proposal should be able to move forward.

***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).*

Dr. Candace Coyle said she appreciated the comments from Ball and Stamatakis and said she hopes everyone is safe and healthy at home. She began the update by providing information on the COVID-19 pandemic situation and said it has been the largest unanticipated change in dynamic for the site and everyone continues to take it very seriously. She emphasized the safety of the workforce is the top priority and said everyone is being very compliant with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regulations. She provided information on workforce drawback and attempted reintegration and said after the July 4 spike and subsequent workforce drawback, they are considering a gradual reintegration again. Ron Hink said 27 members of the joint venture workforce had tested positive overall and 23 have returned to work. They have an aggressive plan of attack with masking, distancing and contact time to enhance safety and have been minimizing density at work. He said they will start to bring people back in a ramp-up the first week of October, to get ready for VX operations, and will keep a close eye on the situation.

Coyle noted the recent changes of command at BGAD and the Blue Grass Chemical Activity and welcomed Col. Stephen Dorris and Lt. Col. Edward Williams to the program's "One Team, One Mission" approach.

She said the bottom-line good news is that destruction continued during the pandemic and the GB 8-inch projectile campaign was successfully completed as the first campaign in chemical demilitarization history to do so ahead of time, even under pandemic conditions. She noted the mustard destruction campaign achieved 50% completion in early September and, with no recordable incidents, and gave her appreciation for everyone's efforts in getting that done safely.

Hink explained the change from GB rockets to VX projectiles as the next campaign as taking advantage of the main plant being ready for that set-up and the workforce already being accustomed to processing projectiles. He said the decontamination of processing areas means less stress for workers who had previously been required to enter those areas in full demilitarization gear. He explained equipment and air monitoring systems are being changed over and adapted for a different projectile and agent type. The plant is now in a 28-day baselining mode to prove out equipment, and rebricking of the Thermal Oxidizers is being completed to ensure capacity through the remainder of the mission. He noted the changing out of rocket line equipment to equipment better suited for the variables that come with the processing of the aging chemical stockpile should be done in time for the start of the VX projectile campaign. Coyle provided information on the new rocket line equipment and said it performed well during testing. She said the Rocket Warhead Containerization System (RWCS) has been installed at the new off-site training center and is being installed at the plant. She said she was extremely impressed

that one year ago the system was at 30% design and it is now installed at the training center and workers are being trained on it. Hink said the RWCS site acceptance test went very well and the warehouse housing the training center will also hold spare equipment and parts for the system. He noted some of the workers being trained on the new equipment are from the SCWO system, and no workers were displaced from the project due to the SCWO change.

Hink then provided an Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) update and said the facility is at 51.4% destruction of the mustard munitions but is having some challenges with processing the old projectiles. He said they discovered a leaking munition in the service magazine, which slowed the destruction process. He said workers overpacked it and did additional cleaning in the magazine, which has a filtration system so there was no external risk during the process. He noted the scenario of a leaking munition had been planned for and a process was in place, but this was the first time it had happened. They also changed filters in the filtration system due to this event, which was also planned for and it went very well. Coyle shifted to the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) 2000 project and said great progress is being made there, including the last main concrete placement to be completed shortly, depending on weather. She said they are starting discussions on the site preparation necessary when the EDT is done with mustard processing to get it ready for nerve agent processing.

Coyle then discussed the upcoming hazardous waste shipment that had been moved to Sept. 28 due to expected weather at the reception site on the original date. She said the plant will be shipping 0.5 Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) mustard-contaminated waste for the first time, along with the previously planned greater-than-one vapor screening level (VSL) waste containing mustard and GB contamination. She explained the stringent safety and health requirements for the shipments and said the shipments will be monitored both at the Blue Grass site and at the reception site.

Coyle gave information on the open permit modification request for additional storage for uncontaminated rocket motors and said while no public meeting will be held for this request, information on how to comment can be found at the BGCAPP Environmental Activities web page (<https://www.peoacwa.army.mil/bgcapp/environmental-activities-at-bgcapp/>). She said the comment period is open through Nov. 10 and BGCAPP personnel are available to answer questions on the topic.

Coyle informed the group of the successful completion of the August fuze removal activity. Thirty fuzes from Blue Grass rocket warheads were removed and transported to Anniston, Alabama, for evaluation of their destruction in the Anniston SDC to provide information to support BGCAPP SDC operations.

Coyle then turned to the alternate hydrolysate treatment topic and thanked the group, Ball, Stamatakis and the entire team for their expertise and input in going through the process and said there has been a lot of positive feedback on the topic in the last couple weeks. She emphasized chemical weapons and agent destruction will occur at the BGCAPP facility and said that will not change. The change is in looking at shipping

hydrolysate for off-site disposal now that the SCWO process will not be used. She thanked the CAC/CDCAB members for their recommendation to turn the SCWO system over to another Army organization and said that was another example of trust built with the community. Coyle provided information on the topic and said ACWA has already begun transportation risk assessment activities and work has also begun on the necessary environmental permitting. She reminded the group of the bypass piping already in place at SCWO and said the chemical demilitarization program has a proven record of successful hydrolysate shipment from other sites.

Williams asked if there would be a hydrolysate shipment to Port Arthur in the very near future. Coyle said no, that is the 0.5 IDLH and greater-than-one VSL waste referred to earlier. Williams asked if either of those would be considered hydrolysate. Coyle said no, plant hydrolysate is in the hydrolysate storage tank at the site. Williams said the wording of the waste shipment information ("consisting of mustard agent" and "consisting of both GB and mustard agent") could confuse constituents who might think it was liquid agent. Hink said he understood, and clarified the waste is generally the personnel protective equipment (PPE) worn by workers in contaminated areas, not liquid agent. Williams said he is concerned about this and hoped the reception community has been communicated with that they are getting waste associated with chemical weapons disposal. He said he thinks it is appropriate to start interacting with that community and the treatment, storage and disposal facility (TSDF) now and not just limit it to when hydrolysate starts getting shipped. Coyle agreed and said she would take the action to be more clear about it and provide more information at the next meeting. Stamatakis said the IDLH shipment is an unusual circumstance, that the site does its best to decontaminate equipment, PPE and tools on site, but on occasion the waste cannot be further treated and that is why the joint venture has the agreement with the TSDF to dispose of it. It is not just a site decision—it is elevated to ACWA for evaluation. He said these shipments do not happen all the time; only on occasion, and they are not just from BGCAPP.

On the topic of safety, Hink said there had been no lost-time injuries since the group's last meeting, with only three minor recordable incidents, which included a loss of consciousness during a blood draw, a bee-sting reaction and a muscle strain. They are still things he wants to eliminate entirely, but the plant is still operating at an incident level of a data-processing facility, so he feels they are doing very well. He provided employment, money spent and diversity information and said COVID-19 has made recruiting more challenging, but the plant was holding a virtual career fair at the time of the meeting. Hink noted the project is trying to recruit interns and is doing its best during the pandemic. He then provided a slide showing open project positions.

Hindman went back to the SCWO future-use topic and said he thinks the right thing is being done: "That's where we are and we're in a good spot." He wanted to remind local people that the situation is very open ended, that sooner or later the SCWO will be figured out and when it is, they will have one of the most state-of-the-art disposal facilities in the country with no real limits on what could be destroyed in it. Hindman said at that point ACWA, the CDC and the CAC/CDCAB won't be there so there will be very little safety net for the community. He said it could become "the hazardous waste

disposal facility of the U.S. and no one wants that.” He feels everyone should monitor the situation for a while.

Williams said Hindman’s expression of caution for the future are well-founded. He said if the SCWO recommendation from ACWA to the Pentagon is signed off on as-is, it will have a commitment from the DOD to interact with the community in some form or fashion prior to deciding on any imported material. Williams said his desire and hope is that a couple SCWO units will be moved to other communities as environmentally advanced technology to treat their liquid waste. He said the current community should be as vigilant as they should be to any operations in the community that deal with hazardous waste and also the permitting process associated with anything to do with the remaining SCWO units. There are tools to ensure the protection of the community and it is up to the community to be aware of them and how to use them. Williams said the LOI stipulated the DOD will be in contact with the community and a committee appointed by the Madison County judge-executive in case they want to move waste material to the county. It won’t be just carte blanche. Hindman said there was no restriction that only DOD waste can go into the SCWO. Williams said that is true right now but there will be a huge bureaucratic process to make something else happen, and unlike 35 years ago, the community now has provisions to ensure community input.

### ***BGCAPP Closure Planning – Dr. Candace Coyle, SPM, BGCAPP***

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

Coyle began by noting it was interesting to say the plant just recently started destruction and now the group is talking about closure. She provided congressional report language on the assessment of potential transfer of property, equipment and facilities from the ACWA program and said the intent is to start having these closure conversations. She is introducing the topic today and will have follow-on discussion at the December CAC/CDCAB meeting. Coyle said ACWA wants to begin these discussions and the role ACWA will play is to help facilitate discussions between the local community and the organizations responsible for government property disposition. She is providing an Oct. 14 tour for specific CAC/CDCAB members as the start of this process. Coyle then explained the historical reuse precedence for the four categories of chemical demilitarization property:

- Cat. 1) Buildings where weapons were disassembled, chemical agent and components destroyed, and contamination occurred. Cat. 1 property has never been transferred. Example: Munitions Demilitarization Building.
- Cat. 2) Buildings and equipment where chemical munitions were present and contamination occurred. Cat. Property is rarely transferred. Example: Static Detonation Chamber.

- Cat. 3) Buildings and equipment where chemical munitions were present but no contamination occurred. Cat. 3 property is sometimes transferred. Example: Container Handling Building.
- Cat. 4) Buildings and equipment never contaminated with agent, without potential to be contaminated. Cat. 4 property is most often transferred. Example: Maintenance Building.

She noted a lot of key players are involved in these decisions and the real estate will be returned to the depot and other property will go through a specific government disposition process. The timeline will be determined as the property is determined to be excess. Coyle said more detailed information will be given to the closure planning tour group, but she just wanted to start the conversation and let the larger group know what is being planned. She said the tour participant list must be very limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic and because the plant is processing. ACWA will be available to answer questions after the tour and she will provide another update in December.

### ***KDEP Permitting Update – Dale Burton, BGAD Section, KDEP***

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

Dale Burton introduced the new Kentucky Division of Waste Management director, Tammi Hudson. Hudson provided some background on herself and said she had visited the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System earlier in her career. She said she was concerned when she landed on the island, but it turned into a really good experience and she became comfortable with it. She noted the division has had a long history of supporting the CAC and CDCAB and she appreciates the public participation, as she considers it critical to the project. She is being briefed on the project and wants to assist with the safe and efficient destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile.

Burton said two modifications of the BGAD hazardous waste permit are currently in the final comment period: VX agent processing at the main plant and storage of additional mustard agent waste in the EDT Enclosure Building. He noted the recently announced changes to the final treatment of hydrolysate and permitting for rocket processing will be addressed in separate permitting actions. He provided a summary of recent BGCAPP permitting actions and information on the organization of the BGAD section, which he feels is one of the most complicated in the country due to everything that must be covered. Burton then provided schedule information for the two open permit modification requests. He said the public comment period for the modifications ends Oct. 7 and the final action is planned to be issued by the end of October and gave information on how to comment. Burton then provided an update on permitting activities since the March 4 CAC/CDCAB meeting and said there is an uncontaminated rocket motor storage application currently in a 60-day public notice period, which ends Nov. 10. He closed by

letting the group know new employee Hannah Byland is replacing Aaron Newton, who has been promoted.

Coyle thanked Burton and his team for everything they do for the project, as she knows it is a lot.

Williams also thanked the team and said he knows it is a very cumbersome and complicated project. He expressed his appreciation for their continued diligence on the project's behalf and welcomed Byland.

***Closing Remarks – Dr. Charles Ball, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Threat Reduction and Arms Control; Doug Hindman, Chair, CAC; and Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB***

Ball said he really enjoyed listening to the meeting and emphasized again how pleased everyone at the Pentagon is with the incredible progress being made at BGCAPP. He said he did not believe, when he first became involved with the program, that he would now be reasonably confident in ridding the world of these weapons within the congressional mandate. He accords it to working with partners and the community with a spirit of respect, which he said does not happen often in Washington, D.C. He said to keep up the great work and he looks forward to engaging with the group again in the near future.

Hindman thanked everyone for their indulgence and a good meeting, and for their participation.

Williams thanked ORO staff and particularly Marko for setting the meeting up and making it happen. He also thanked Ball and Stamatakis and said it was important to hear from Ball to know the oversight at the Pentagon is in synchrony with the program and the community. Williams thanked the members of the CAC/CDCAB and especially the PWG for their assistance with the SCWO recommendation, as he said it was no easy lift to come to fruition. He thanked everyone for their participation and diligence in dealing with that challenging situation. He noted everyone in the group is a volunteer and is working for the benefit of the community both now and in the future. Williams also thanked Hink, Coyle and all members of the project team, and said it will be quite a day when the end result of the project is achieved.

***Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting format has yet to be determined.

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