



Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
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Doug Hindman
Chair

Reagan Taylor
Craig Williams
Co-Chairs

**Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting
Summary of Action Items and Discussions
Sept. 8, 2021
Microsoft Teams Online Meeting
Richmond, Kentucky**

Attendees

CAC: Doug Hindman, Harry Moberly, George Ridings, David Stipes, April Webb (for Tammi Hudson) and Craig Williams

CDCAB: Robert Blythe, Dr. Candace Coyle, Jim Davis, Jeanne Hibberd, Doug Hindman, Ron Hink, Leslie Kaylor, Louise Locke (for Judy Greene-Baker), Tara Long, Darcy Maupin, Ramesh Melarkode (for Col. Steve Dorris), Harry Moberly, Stephanie Nelson (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell), George Ridings, David Stipes, Reagan Taylor, Craig Williams, Lt. Col. Ed Williams and Ethan Witt

Media Attendees:

WTVQ-TV: Hagan Wells

Meeting Synopsis

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Remarks from Department of Defense (DOD) Guests
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Project Update
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) Permitting Updates
- Economic Impact Working Group (EIWG) 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 documents 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: Approve the 2022 CAC/CDCAB meeting dates.

Responsible Entity: Sarah Marko, communications manager, ORO.

Timeline: Dec. 8, 2021.

Action Item: Provide Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) application letter for distribution to group.

Responsible Entities: Craig Williams, co-chair, CDCAB, and Sarah Marko, communications manager, ORO.

Timeline: By Dec. 8, 2021.

Action Item: Provide a step-by-step schematic of rocket-motor process post-agent monitoring.

Responsible Entities: Dr. Candace Coyle, SPM, BGCAPP, and Ron Hink, project manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG).

Timeline: By Dec. 8, 2021.

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, and Reagan Taylor and Craig Williams Co-Chairs, CDCAB.

Hindman welcomed everyone and said he appreciates the group staying up to date on the situation. He welcomed Michael Abaie, program executive officer, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), and Craig Campbell, performing the duties of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Threat Reduction and Arms Control (DASD TRAC). He congratulated BGCAPP personnel on finishing the mustard campaign and starting the M55 rocket campaign.

Taylor provided his congratulations on the completion of the mustard campaign and said it was an awesome accomplishment and a step further toward closure. He said it was good to see everyone. He wishes the meeting could be in person but likes seeing the smiling faces on the Teams platform.

Williams echoed the congratulations for the project. He said he wanted to compliment the workforce for doing such a great job and sticking to it through a pandemic—probably the first demilitarization workforce to do so—and to the management for having everyone do the work safely. He said they are now working on the destruction of the M55 rockets and he thinks it will go well.

Marko noted the following action item from the June 9, 2021, CAC/CDCAB meeting:

Action Item	Steps Taken	Date/Status
Provide CDCAB members the link to the KDEP website for permit documentation regarding BGCAPP and the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD).	Links to this information were provided to the members Sept. 8 via email.	Complete.

Key Updates

Remarks from DOD Guests – Craig Campbell, Performing the Duties of DASD TRAC, and Michael Abaie, program executive officer, ACWA

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

Campbell thanked the group and the local communities, saying with the progress that has been made, the team is not just ACWA and the BGCAPP site personnel, but the communities are heavily involved and it would be disingenuous to not provide a thank-you to them. He said it took close coordination with community members to put the Static Detonation Chamber units on site, which will allow the Blue Grass project to be safely completed. Campbell then said the new Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Programs, Deborah Rosenblum, has been confirmed and he has been meeting with her several times a week about the chemical demilitarization program. He said her feedback is very straightforward and she is focused on meeting the treaty deadline of Sept. 30, 2023. She will work to ensure the facilities are closed in close coordination with local communities, CACs and CDCAB, in a manner that works for the communities as well as the program. Campbell said steps have been taken in the background to ensure the Blue Grass and Pueblo plants are fully prepared in the future and if there are needs or wants for things that need to be considered across the next few years to please let him, Rosenblum or Abaie know. He said Rosenblum is open to hearing from the local communities and wants to make sure everything the government can do to help the community after the program is over is done. Campbell then said they are in discussions with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for an Executive Council visit in the spring of 2022 (COVID-19 pandemic-dependent). He said he thinks it will come off as a huge success, no matter the format.

Abaie said it was good to be with everyone in the Teams meeting and he is hopeful the group can all be in the same room in the next few months. He hopes everyone is staying healthy and safe and said COVID-19 has had significant impacts in all communities and at the sites. He said the sites have proactively worked to minimize the impact, and Blue Grass has worked the last campaign through the pandemic. Abaie congratulated the entire team for their persistence and safety in the destruction of the mustard projectiles in the Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) facility. He noted it was the first campaign to begin at BGCAPP, and it was a long one. He said the rounds were more problematic than expected and, to echo Dr. Candace Coyle's words in the news release, the EDT was the best technology to use to destroy them. He said he could not envision trying to destroy them in the main plant. Abaie said the team is now starting the VX rocket destruction campaign and thanked the community for working with ACWA on the project. He said it has been a deliberate, slow process in starting, and gave kudos to the team for getting more than 10% done so far. This allows ACWA to focus on the next step, which is closure, and right now they are focusing on getting the contract in place for the decontamination and demilitarization of the facility. The next stage will be the actual demolition portion. Abaie said ACWA will work very closely with this group and other stakeholders as the Secretary of the Army and the governor agree on what equipment and facilities can transition for further use. He closed by saying he is extremely proud of the team for doing a great job to date and thanked the group for working with ACWA as it modified the plant and brought in technology so that the weapons of mass destruction can safely be destroyed.

BGCAPP Project Update – Dr. Candace Coyle, Site Project Manager, BGCAPP, and Ron Hink, Project Manager, BPBG

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

The presentation began by showing a video of the first VX M55 rockets being processed. Coyle said there has been a lot of good news and good happenings at BGCAPP and she appreciates everyone's comments. She said she appreciates the public affairs team, which puts the videos together to let everyone see what's going on. She then said the last of the mustard projectiles and two Department of Transportation bottles were destroyed Saturday, Sept. 4, and all projectiles in Kentucky are now destroyed. Coyle noted the campaign was a challenging one, taking two years and almost three months due to the age of the munitions. She said a great deal of thanks are due the community, elected officials, regulators, Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) and BGAD and everyone else involved.

Coyle then said the EDT was being transitioned to the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) 1200, to destroy drained nerve-agent rocket warheads, and a new off-gas treatment system is being readied for nerve-agent operations. The drained rocket warheads are being moved to the Chemical Limited Area (CLA) for storage, then will be moved to the

SDC 1200 when it is ready. Coyle noted there has been a lot of progress going on and they expect to start the destruction of drained rocket warheads in October 2022.

On the start of the VX rocket processing, Coyle said it was a major overhaul from the original design and a great win for the mission team and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It took only 18 months to redesign, fabricate, test and operate the new system, which was a great feat using a lot of Kentucky resources. The VX rocket campaign started July 9 and is the fourth of five Blue Grass campaigns to begin. Hink said everything is working as planned and they are debugging to get to full availability—the equipment runs fine but may not yet reach full availability. The plant planned the slow ramp-up knowing these challenges would need to be faced. He said he sees the next six months as a tune-up for the GB rocket campaign. Hink said things are going to plan, they are training crews and everything is going well.

Coyle said the hydrolysate shipments are still being planned and the public comment period for the shipment permit modification request ends today (Sept. 8). She noted the permit must be finalized before the plant will make any shipments, and that will probably occur this fall. Coyle said rocket-motor shipment is planned for fall as well, and a briefing will be provided to the OPCW Executive Council before shipment, probably in early November. The motors will be tracked for treaty purposes. She mentioned the drained rocket warheads are going back to the CLA. She said the rocket motors will be stored on the depot and she appreciates everyone who has partnered and worked with them on those actions, and the logistics have been “eye-opening.” She recognized Karl Slaughenhaupt, BGCAPP principal deputy, for leading the planning process, as well as Jamie Hall, BGCA deputy commander, for his involvement.

Coyle shifted to destruction status and said three campaigns are now complete, the VX rocket campaign is about 10% complete and is set to finish in about 6 months. At that point destruction of the stockpile at Blue Grass will be about 49% complete. She said the project is on track to meet the 2023 date.

Regarding the SDCs, Coyle said they are the main focus right now, to get both up and running next year to support main plant destruction. Action on the SDC 2000 includes placement of wall panels for the enclosure building, cable tray fabrication and installation, installation of electrical components, and site paving. She said the team is making phenomenal progress, with great work being done despite the pandemic. On the SDC 1200, she said the focus has been on the placement of the thermal oxidizer and other off-gas treatment system components and placement of concrete equipment pads and pedestals. Coyle said the SDC 1200 is scheduled to begin processing in September or October of next year and mentioned the SDC 2000 is important for processing overpacked rockets for treaty obligations.

Coyle then spoke on the closure topic, beginning with the Aug. 18 visit of U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell to the Duncannon Training Center. She said it was a great opportunity and thanked those involved. Coyle said McConnell was provided a tour of the training center and talked about closure activities with representatives of the entire Blue Grass team. She said McConnell emphasized his office will be involved in any way they can in

planning for what comes after the project is complete. Coyle then said they continue to work with BGAD and the U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command (JMC) on the end-state memorandum of understanding. She said closure will be in two parts, 1) getting to unventilated monitoring, with the proposal in process now, and 2) mostly the demolition component.

Coyle then discussed the Supercritical Water Oxidation (SCWO) study topic and said it is ongoing and that the data gathering and review, market research and options for future SCWO operations are in process. She said four scenarios have been evaluated for the future of SCWO: 1) that it remain at BGCAPP, 2) it is moved somewhere else in total, 3) parts of it are moved somewhere else, and 4) it is cannibalized and components sold. Coyle said the planning covers the best/worst case of going to greenfield status to fulfil ACWA's obligation to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Hink spoke about safety and said there have been no lost-time accidents in more than five million man-hours and the project's recordable incident rate is 0.2, which equates to working in a bank or office building. He said he is proud of the low severity of events, as well. Hink then said the COVID-19 pandemic is still a challenge, with six confirmed cases on site and 23 in quarantine, but of those 23, none of them were contracted at work. He said there are effective measures on site and they are managing to control any spread at work. There have been 209 total cases since the beginning, and that has not affected their ability to accomplish the mission and protect the workforce. Hink said the 1,413 current staff number is a little low, that it should be around 1,450-1,500, as they continue to see significant levels of attrition. This is not unexpected, as there is a lot of training involved with these jobs and in-depth background checks. He noted this is one of the challenges they face in executing the mission and they will continue to fight it. The current staffing level does not affect the mission. Hink then said project payroll is \$1.1 billion. He shifted to recruitment and said they have two upcoming virtual job fairs, and COVID-19 is making it a challenge to find new employees. They are continuing to recruit and learning how to get better at it during the pandemic. Hink provided a list of available positions and said they do not change a lot as the highest attrition is in those areas. He said jobs are likely available for those who have worked in an industrial setting.

Hink then discussed the flame event experienced at the EDT June 16 and said it resulted from some challenges with the hydraulic system, that they knew they had a leak and thought they had taken care of it. He specified it was not a facility fire, but a lot of heat generated from ignited ethylene glycol, which is rated combustion proof but can ignite when the water in it cooks off, when the detonation chamber was opened. They saw a bluish flame in the chamber, which released a lot of heat that damaged control and electrical cables and other components. No real flames were released. Hink said it took about four weeks to install and reroute the cables, which they were able to do with better routing. They learned to add additional combustion time and air before opening the chamber, to burn off any issues, and trained shifts on how to deal with the hydraulic fluid, as water removal is an issue with combustibility. He said they have increased their rigor in off-normal events and have taken corrective actions and learned lessons from it. He noted the event did not set off building fire alarms, as it was more of a heat event.

Harry Moberly said the group received an email about a Louisville company involved in researching the destruction process and asked if that was included in the economic impact figures for the surrounding counties. Hink said it was not as the project was done as government-furnished (Other Transactional Agreement [OTA]) and that would not be included in the systems contractor's numbers. Moberly asked how the company was involved. Hink said they designed, prototyped, tested and transported new rocket line equipment to BGCAPP for assembly. Coyle noted a recent article on the topic: <https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/news/2021/08/30/crg-automation-growth.html>. Moberly asked if the company was associated with BPBG. Hink said no. Abaie said ACWA contracted through a different method, the OTA, to bring that capability to BGCAPP. He said the OTA is a fast-paced action that allows the government to do rapid prototyping and deliver a new system. In this case, it took 18 months to design, test, fabricate and deliver the system. He said they then asked the company to partner with BPBG to work out initial start-up issues. Abaie said it typically takes about two years to get a government contract codified and awarded, but in this case it was completed and the system delivered in less than two years. He complimented Hink and his team for making sure the team was seamless in this effort. Williams added his appreciation for the effort made by Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP technical advisor, and Tim Garrett, ACWA director of field operations, on the subject. Moberly asked if this was a company ACWA knew about and tapped to handle the job. Abaie said no, it was done through a bid process with companies who had any experience in the area. This process allows the government to act like a small company in industry to quickly solicit for their needs.

KDEP Permitting Update – Dale Burton, BGAD Section, KDEP, and Ted Malone, Professional Engineer, KDEP

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

Malone began the update by discussing the two permit modification requests with an open comment period that ends on this date (Sept. 8): 1) the off-site shipment of agent hydrolysate, to Veolia near Port Arthur, Texas, for disposal, and 2) an increase in permitted storage of up to 29 igloos at BGAD to store uncontaminated rocket motors awaiting destruction. The storage will be temporary and the motors will be monitored prior to placement in storage. Malone noted documents on these actions are available in the repositories around the area, the comment period ends tonight, and he anticipates issuance of the permit around the end of the month. He said future actions include permit modification requests for using the SDC 1200 to destroy drained VX rocket warheads and the SDC 2000 to destroy GB rocket overpacks and warheads. Burton said the documents are on the KDEP Division of Waste Management website as well.

Williams asked if the rocket motors will be stored in the CLA or on the depot proper. Malone said the motors will be stored on the depot, not in the CLA.

Burton addressed the items since the last meeting and said it has been a very busy time getting final approvals issued for the start of the rocket campaign. He said they have

issued several Temporary Authorization Requests: one to allow the project to start storing uncontaminated rocket motors in six igloos, one for the continuance of construction on the SDC 1200 off-gas treatment system, and one for the continuation of SDC 2000 construction. Burton noted several other permitting actions including the acceptance of the Facility Construction Certification for rocket line modifications, the approval of another greater-than-117 vapor screening level mustard-agent secondary waste shipment to Texas, and the approval of three additional igloos for containerized warhead storage. He said when BGCA empties an igloo of chemical weapons for destruction, it will be added to ACWA's permit for storage. Burton then said his department sent comments to the project on the test plan for the VX rocket campaign and the VX projectile hydrolysate analysis report and sent notices of deficiencies on the SDC 2000 and SDC 1200 Class 3 permit modification requests. He said they were getting pretty close on those but they had some additional comments. They are also reviewing the request to modify the Open Burn/Open Detonation and Controlled Destruction Chamber permits for the depot and emphasized this was not related to chemical demilitarization. Burton said they are hoping to open a public-notice period for the SDC permits later this fall, probably in the October/November time frame. He then said a minor regulation change was needed to add additional waste codes, principally for new secondary wastes coming from SDC processes. This should become effective in October. They are also having an ongoing discussion of issues and the path forward related to the changeover from one agent to another, as well as final decommissioning, closure and demolition. He said closure is very site-specific and case-by-case on monitoring, how to handle wastes and what level of documentation is needed before wastes can be shipped off site and noted the discussions will continue for a year or more. He congratulated BGCAPP for completing the mustard campaign and for starting the VX rocket campaign.

Moberly said some positive achievements were being recognized and it would be remiss to not notice the significant contribution Burton and his team have made to all that is going on at BGCAPP. Williams thanked Burton and his team for their efforts and said he appreciates the transparency and communications between teams. Abaie thanked Burton and his team for the cooperation they have shown the program and said when he was briefing the new Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Programs he told her the close cooperation with KDEP is what allows the project to continue and move forward.

Williams asked if the uncontaminated rocket motors will be monitored after they are placed in storage before being unpacked and fed into an SDC. Burton said the monitoring they receive as they leave the main plant is the final monitoring, that there are several rounds of screening and monitoring before that and there should not be any issues after that point. Williams asked if everyone's confidence rate is extremely high that there aren't any hidden levels of agent. Burton said he thinks so, that the screening process has been beefed up and the rockets are checked for internal leakers before they even enter the destruction process. Hink said they monitor for very low levels, so their confidence derives from that. Williams said he understands GB volatilizes more readily than VX and contamination will be caught before the motors leave the plant, but VX has a different character and he wants to ensure there is as close to zero chance as possible of contamination for the workforce handling the motors. Hink said they use circulating

fans for the best chance of detection during monitoring. Brubaker said they are developing an automated, robotic process to unload the motors from their boxes and place them into a feed container to be loaded into the SDC units to eliminate manual intervention.

EIWG Update – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB

Williams provided background on the future economic impact to the area after BGCAPP closure and said the group is keenly aware of the post-demilitarization economic situation and is trying to determine what number and kind of workers would like to stay in the area, and he has good news on that. He then provided background on the grant application made to the OLDCC through the Bluegrass Area Development District to assist the EIWG to prepare for project completion. He said they got the green light on the application Sept. 3 and thanked everyone who supported the effort. Williams will provide the application letter to Marko to distribute to the group. He said a main point within the application is to conduct an economic resiliency plan consisting of three elements: 1) regional supply chain mapping, 2) economic diversification, and 3) workforce retention. Williams said the first two of the three elements are necessary to support the third, and everything is channeled toward trying to retain as much of the workforce as possible. He noted a similar study done in 2013 and said some of the elements in the next phase will replicate that but will be significantly updated. He said there is an 18-month schedule to get this done, with milestones included in the application by month. Williams then said he met with the Bluegrass Area Development District executive director on how to proceed with the next steps and they both have a lot of homework. He asked if anyone in the meeting knows anyone with experience working on this kind of project to please contact Williams. He will share this information with the Bluegrass Area Development District. Williams then provided a slide that reiterated the decision-making process and information on infrastructure that could remain post-closure, such as the SDC units. He emphasized the decision on retention will come from the Secretary of the Army and the governor of Kentucky.

Williams discussed the visit of U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell and staff to the project's Duncannon Training Center, noting the BGCA, BGAD and JMC commanders attended, and said a lot of time was spent briefing the senator on the ongoing mission of the depot and the current chemical weapons project, and a significant amount of time on the economic impact topic. He said McConnell was very interested in all of it and said his office would do anything it could to prevent a post-demilitarization economic downturn. Williams said he received the same message from U.S. Sen. Rand Paul's and U.S. Rep. Andy Barr's offices. Williams then provided two slides from the BGAD presentation to the senator that showed facilities and utilities that could potentially be reused and said the depot does not have the authority to keep or get rid of anything (that decision will be made by the Secretary of the Army and the governor of Kentucky), but does have an influential role to play in the decisions. He said the final decision has not been made.

Hindman asked if the depot did not want the SDC units. Williams said the decision has not been made. If they use them for their operations, it would have environmental

advantages, but they need to look at cost and other factors. He said the discussions are ongoing.

Moberly asked if the study will look at possible private uses of the SDC units. Williams said no, and right now, he does not know where certain parts of the study might lead them. It is not part of the study right now but could come up at some point and be incorporated in the study. Moberly said he is concerned that if it is not a consideration that if the Army made the decision it would be too costly for them to use the SDC units that they might get rid of them. Williams said he would make note of this.

George Ridings said he thought a year or so ago the group was told they could not have non-Army operators inside the fence for future use of the SDC units. Williams said tenants could be incorporated into the Army system and provided the three ways this could be feasible: 1) Government-Owned, Government-Operated, 2) Government-Owned, Contractor-Operated, or 3) Federally Funded Research and Development Centers. Ridings said he thought the depot's blast arcs could have made this an issue. Williams said the explosive arc consideration would be on the conventional weapons side and depot authorities would determine if something could be operated safely in the area. Ridings said it was encouraging to hear the potential for outside sources to come into the depot. Williams said he is not saying the depot is leaning that way, but there are many pieces to be considered before decisions could be made.

Stephanie Nelson said she had met with Col. Dorris yesterday for a tour and briefing and he said there is a significant issue with the explosive area and moving someone onto the depot, as they would need to move almost 50 igloos for that to happen and they did not see that as being feasible cost-wise.

In closing, Marko said the next CAC/CDCAB meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 1:30 p.m. and the format has not yet been determined. She requested the use of feedback forms if attendees have any questions or comments and noted the video recording of this meeting will be provided on the ACWA YouTube channel and the link can be requested from the ORO.

Closing Remarks – Doug Hindman, Chair, CAC; Reagan Taylor, Co-Chair, CDCAB; Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB; and Michael Abaie, Program Executive Officer, ACWA

The chairs thanked everyone for attending.

Abaie thanked the group for their time and said ACWA will continue to work closely with the group on closure and make sure the group has a voice moving ahead.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting format has yet to be determined.

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