



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

Reagan Taylor  
Craig Williams  
Co-Chairs

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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. 9, 2015  
Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)  
Richmond, Kentucky**

**Attendees**

**CAC:** Tonita Goodwin, Doug Hindman, Diane Kerby, Mark Klaas, Harry Moberly, Sheila Pressley and Craig Williams

**CDCAB:** David Benge, Jeff Brubaker, Michael Bryant, Tonita Goodwin, Doug Hindman, Mike Hogg, Leslie Kaylor, Diane Kerby, Mark Klaas, Tara Long, Bryan Makinen, Darcy Maupin, Harry Moberly, Lt. Col. Andrew "Jack" Morgan, Doug Omichinski, Chester Powell, Sheila Pressley, George Shuplinkov (for Col. Lee Hudson), Regina Stivers (for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's (R-Ky.) office), Reagan Taylor, April Webb, Conrad Whyne, Craig Williams and Ethan Witt (for U.S. Rep. Andy Barr's (R-Ky.) office)

**Media Attendees:**

*Lexington Herald-Leader:* Greg Kocher  
*The Richmond Register:* Bill Robinson

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting provided information on the following:

- Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA) Baseline Chemical Demilitarization Success Model
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) Update
- Explosive Destruction Technology (EDT) Working Group Treaty Sampling Operations Update
- Secondary Waste Working Group (SWWG) Waste Codes Update
- Design Working Group (DWG) Munitions Drain Systems Update

## **Meeting Summary Structure**

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations, but instead will provide an overview of the discussions and 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:** Reschedule the previously scheduled CAC/CDCAB tour.

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

**Timeline:** By Dec. 9, 2015.

**Action Item:** Supply list of proposed rocket motor testing sites.

**Responsible Entity:** Jeff Brubaker, BGCAPP site project manager (SPM).

**Timeline:** When available.

**Action Item:** Provide project employment diversity metrics.

**Responsible Entity:** Ron Hink, incoming Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) project manager.

**Timeline:** By Dec. 9, 2015.

**Action Item:** Provide waste-code change recommendation to Conrad Whyne.

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams, CDCAB co-chair.

**Timeline:** By Sept. 30, 2015.

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

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

Parke welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the following action items from the June 17, 2015, CAC/CDCAB meeting:

Action Item	Steps Taken	Date/Status
Rocket Handling System/ Munitions Washout System design-change schedule charts to be provided to Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) chairs in a larger format.	The files were emailed to CAC/CDCAB members Aug. 5.	Complete
Schedule a CAC/CDCAB tour around the date of the next meeting.	The tour will be rescheduled due to a transportation issue.	Before Dec. 9 meeting
Hold Design Working Group meeting to discuss design modifications.	This meeting took place Aug. 11.	Complete
Finalize 2016 CAC/CDCAB meeting dates.	The 2016 dates were provided in meeting packet.	Complete
Process the Explosive Destruction Technology Working Group recommendation on the treaty sampling process back through the larger CAC/CDCAB body.	A draft is being prepared. Craig Williams will cover in his briefing.	In progress
Convene meetings as necessary with the Secondary Waste Working Group on the waste-code modifications in order to process that through the CAC/CDCAB within the suggested schedule.	Williams will discuss in his briefing.	In progress

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

Hindman welcomed attendees and noted PEO ACWA Program Executive Officer Conrad Whyne's attendance. Williams conveyed regrets from those members unable to attend

and said he appreciated the way Whyne has been communicating with the group. Taylor recognized Tom Botkin, District 4 magistrate, for his attendance.

## **Key Updates**

### ***Baseline Chemical Demilitarization Success Model – Conrad Whyne, Program Executive Officer, PEO ACWA***

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

Whyne discussed the baseline chemical demilitarization success model and its savings of time and program dollars. He said he has challenged this program to do the same. Once the Blue Grass plant becomes operational, he stressed the importance of keeping it operating because of the daily cost of the project whether or not it is processing weapons. Whyne said the baseline sites all met the treaty deadline by improving the safety program. He noted the Blue Grass safety program is already ahead of the baseline sites. He also said the theory-based schedule needs to be replaced with one derived from real data when munitions are introduced to the plant. This will create lessons learned and may cause some tweaking of the plant at that point. He then said any waste well-removed from agent, such as non-contaminated rocket motors, could be shipped off site for disposal to optimize the schedule further. He is interested in the things that will make the plant more efficient and move forward with destruction. Whyne said things such as better planning, analyzing down-time, working with regulators and having the right front-line supervisors will help improve plant production. If a credible threat to the schedule is found, he wants to pursue risk mitigation ahead of time. He said the program is doing that right now with biotreatment in Pueblo and supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) in Blue Grass. He is reviewing the National Academies studies closely and will address and prioritize their recommendations. Whyne then thanked the group for their direct support of and involvement with the program.

Craig Williams emphasized biotreatment and SCWO are both post-neutralization processes, where the agent has already been destroyed and the storage risk significantly minimized. He said it is critically important to understand if something should go wrong with the SCWO process, that it is non-agent material. Whyne said the priority is to make SCWO work.

### ***BGCAPP Project Update – Jeff Brubaker, Site Project Manager (SPM), BGCAPP, and Doug Omichinski, Project Manager, BPBG***

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

Brubaker and Omichinski informed the group of the progress made on the plant and announced the July 31, 2015, substantial construction complete milestone and the corresponding media day. Brubaker noted there were punch-list items remaining, and that they should be complete by the end of October. He said the project is demobilizing craft personnel, of whom there are less than 300 this week and only a handful will be left at the end of October. He discussed the completion of the Personnel Maintenance Building, its space for treaty personnel and the hiring of about 10 new medical staff to support 24/7 operations, including 2017 EDT operations. Omichinski noted overall construction was 98 percent complete, there are 433 punch-list items remaining, project trailers will be reconfigured for systemization support staff training and the start of 24/7 Control-Room operations. Brubaker referenced the now-available [National Academies hydrolysate study](#) and discussed the results, saying everyone believes SCWO will work, but also finds it prudent to have a back-up plan in place. Omichinski briefed on the progress of the plant design changes regarding eliminating munitions washout and said all design changes have been issued and are in the field (completion is part of the punch-list items) and said despite a few long lead-time items, the changes would be complete enough by the end of October to start testing. Brubaker noted the National Academies has been tasked to study the processing impact of these changes and they will produce a letter report on their findings. He gave background on the proposed waste-code changes and said the plant is working to determine if the changes should be made through regulation or statute. Brubaker then addressed the rocket-motor testing topic and said PEO ACWA and BGCAPP are preparing to conduct treatability testing, with a facility agreement now with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for review. He hopes to have their approval in October. He said this testing could be done at up to four locations. Some testing may begin this year and some might be early in 2016. Omichinski said the systemization operations team is now in control of the facility. He said systemization is 35 percent complete, with all equipment available to the team for testing. Systemization staffing will be at its peak with the hiring of a few more people. Brubaker said the project received 24 trailers of EDT equipment and will start installation in December. The fabrication of the enclosure building has begun off site and foundation and utility work have commenced at the site. The treaty sampling plans for this project continue to move forward. The Class 2 permit application should be submitted by the end of September and will initiate a 60-day public comment period with a public meeting included. The project is also completing a site plan safety submission for submittal to the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board for final review. Omichinski emphasized safety is a priority and the project is heading toward its best safety-record year ever. Brubaker covered public and community involvement and discussed the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's role with OPCW and the project.

Omichinski announced his leaving the project for a new Bechtel assignment and said Ron Hink, a former Blue Grass assistant project manager and Aberdeen, Maryland, chemical demilitarization project operations manager, will be his replacement.

Williams asked if the list of rocket-motor testing sites was available and if it could be supplied to the group. Brubaker said the list is in draft form right now and the project is

reaching out to each of the four organizations to verify their interest. He will provide the list to the CAC/CDCAB when it is available.

Mike Hogg asked if Omichinski could speak to local hiring practices involving area colleges and universities. Omichinski said the project works with local and area colleges and universities and has hired many interns over the years. He said they have done very well within these relationships and will continue this activity.

Diane Kerby asked about diversity of project staff. Omichinski said he would send that information.

David Benge asked what the project's employment numbers will be after the craft is phased out and in a year from now. Omichinski said 800 to 900 at first, with a small operations and systemization team, then ramp up to 1,100 to 1,200.

Tom Botkin, a local magistrate, asked if any SCWO technical issues had occurred in systemization. Omichinski said no, they are only doing very preliminary testing of SCWO right now, as it was just turned over to systemization. Harry Moberly wanted clarification that the issues are not safety issues. Brubaker confirmed they are operability or maintainability issues, and not safety-related.

### ***EDT Working Group Treaty Sampling Operations Update – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB***

Williams provided a handout (attached) and gave a brief background on the treaty sampling process. He said the recommendation has been agreed to by all the parties and he thinks everyone is on the same page. He will draft a recommendation letter soon.

### ***DWG Munitions Drain Systems Update – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB***

Williams said the group has already concurred and recommended that PEO ACWA proceed with the elimination of the washout system for M55 rockets, but has not yet made that recommendation for the GB and VX projectiles. He said the group is very impressed with some of the changes that have been made to mitigate risk in this process. Williams said the DWG will draft a recommendation on this topic and provide it to the group shortly. He asked the group to focus more on the secondary waste codes topic right now because of the time frame involved.

### ***SWWG Waste Codes Update – Craig Williams, Co-Chair, CDCAB***

Williams said the group's draft recommendation states they concur with changing the waste codes as long as the waste poses no agent hazard. He said the main impact of not changing them would be on transportation. First-responders would be forced to

overreact if something happened to a vehicle carrying process waste that was labeled as acutely hazardous when it was a lower-level waste. Williams said he sent the draft out and asked for input before the meeting and there was none, but wants to give one more week for comments. He said he could not emphasize enough the transparency and patience of the Blue Grass representatives in working with the group on this matter.

Doug Hindman said this original law came from the citizens of Madison County and if it needs to be changed through the legislature, it needs to be very clear that the citizens are behind the change. Williams noted this was one of the tools they used to push the use of alternative technologies years ago.

Williams asked if a conclusion had been reached on the appropriate way to handle waste code changes, legislatively or administratively. April Webb said they have had discussion with Tom Fitzgerald, but he has not yet provided updated information.

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

Williams thanked Omichinski for doing a great job and showing great leadership. He said he appreciated the project's support of local organizations during Omichinski's tenure.

***Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. at the ECU Carl D. Perkins Building, Rooms A and B.

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