



Pueblo Chemical Agent-  
Destruction Pilot Plant

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# Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Receives National Safety Recognition

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT, Colo. – On Wed., Feb. 18, the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) project, headed by systems contractor Bechtel Pueblo Team, received one of the highest recognitions for safety practices—Star Status—in the U.S. Dept. of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

More than 500 construction workers, office staff, government officials and invited guests attended the recognition event, which took place in the multipurpose building on the PCAPP construction site on the grounds of the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD). OSHA Region VIII Director Greg Baxter and VPP Manager Brad Baptiste travelled from Denver to Pueblo to present a plaque to PCAPP Site Project Manager Gary Anderson and Bechtel Project Manager Paul Henry. Members of the VPP employee committee were presented with the prestigious VPP flag.

Awarding the plaque, Baxter told the crowd that achieving Star Status is no small feat and everyone should be proud of the commitment PCAPP workers have made to safety. He commended the workforce and the management team for their partnership in working together to create one of the safest construction sites in the Nation.

Several dignitaries attended the event, including Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Kevin Flamm; Lt. Col. Christopher Chesney, PCD commander; Pueblo County Commissioner John Cordova; and Citizens' Advisory Commission Chairperson Irene Kornelly. Lt. Col. Chesney said he was impressed by the PCAPP workforce during last week's successful evacuation of the site during a Chemical Accident/Incident Response Exercise where more than 400 employees evacuated the site by car in less than 30 minutes. Commissioner Cordova remarked of his personal interest in safety, as his son, John, Jr. is a construction worker for the project. Cordova congratulated the PCAPP project staff for their achievement from the U.S. Dept. of Labor.

"This award sets the benchmark of excellence and also an expectation for plant operations," said Anderson. "This award will raise our stature in the community."

Flamm, who arrived from Maryland to attend the event, said, "you are indeed building a legacy of safety and I can't think of a more lasting and unselfish contribution to leave with the Pueblo community—the Home of Heroes."

Sal Lopez, a Bechtel steward, discussed the prevalent safety culture on the construction site. Lopez commented that he has never worked for a project that places such high emphasis on safety.

Several PCAPP workers received recognition for participating in the Safety Culture Observation Union Team, or SCOUT, as they are known on the construction site. The SCOUT team is a voluntary employee-based safety group that promotes safety awareness through craft observations and collectively pursues a world-class safety culture.

"This recognition represents one of the proudest moments of my career," said Henry. "As a team, we set out to achieve this goal and we are being recognized for having one of the safest construction projects in the nation."