

27 September 2002
No. 02-01

PUEBLO CHEMICAL AGENT-DESTRUCTION PILOT PLANT CONTRACT AWARDED

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – A basic contract was awarded today under the Defense Department's Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment program headquartered here to Bechtel National, Inc. of San Francisco, Calif. The contract supports destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile stored at Pueblo Chemical Depot, near Pueblo, Colo.

Under the contract's first task order, a design-build plan will be developed for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, or PCAPP. The plant will neutralize and biodegrade the Pueblo chemical weapons stockpile comprised of mustard agent-filled cartridges and projectiles. Additional task orders under this basic contract will be awarded in the future for following phases of the effort, including design completion, construction, systemization, pilot testing, operation, and ultimately, closure.

"We are pleased to be moving ahead with this major milestone in our program," said ACWA Program Manager Michael Parker, "and we look forward to working with our new team members."

Pueblo Chemical Depot Commander Lt. Col. John Driftmier agreed.

"Along with all the depot employees, I stand ready to support the chemical weapons disposal process," he said. "Our mission is to keep the stockpile safe; we have done that for over 45 years and will continue to keep it safe."

Project leaders will sponsor an open house on Oct. 9 from 4 until 6 p.m. at the Pueblo County Conference Room, located at 1001 North Santa Fe Avenue in Pueblo, to provide the community with an opportunity to meet the contractor teams and other government agencies and organizations working together to eliminate the Pueblo chemical agent stockpile.

Colorado Citizens' Advisory Commission Chairman John Klomp said the contract award was a landmark decision for Pueblo.

"It ensures that the water neutralization process to destroy mustard agent at the Pueblo Chemical Depot will begin to move forward, making Pueblo a safer community, as well as helping make America safe from the potential threat of terrorist activity," Klomp said.

- 30 -

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: The Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Public Affairs Office at 410-436-5253 or Pueblo Chemical Depot Public Affairs Office at 719-549-4135. The point of contact for Bechtel National, Inc. is Mr. John Schlatter at 865-603-0918. Additional information on chemical stockpile disposal is available at the Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office, 301 North Main Street, Suite 306B, Pueblo, Colo. 81003, or call 719-546-0400. On the World Wide Web, visit <http://www.pmacwa.org>.

Congress established the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment program in 1997 in accordance with Public Law 104-208. ACWA's mission is to identify and demonstrate two or more alternative technologies to the baseline incineration process for the demilitarization of assembled chemical weapons. In 1999, Public Law 105-261 authorized ACWA to plan for a pilot facility using an alternate technology for the destruction of assembled chemical weapons. U.S. Army chemical weapons and agent stockpiles are stored in Anniston, Ala., Pine Bluff, Ark., Pueblo, Colo., Richmond, Ky., Newport, Ind., Edgewood, Md., Hermiston, Ore., Tooele, Utah, and previously on Johnston Island in the Pacific.