



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

Government Deputy Site Project Manager Selected

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

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ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Ralph Collins has been selected as deputy site project manager for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, part of the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, known as ACWA, headquartered here. Collins will assist Site Project Manager Jim Fritsche in managing the plant's field office and overseeing the systems contract with Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass.

The New York native is no stranger to the chemical stockpile destruction program or the military. Collins served 26 years on active duty in the U.S. Navy in a variety of assignments involving petroleum management, facility operations and maintenance, government procurement and general logistics. Since then, he served as the Deputy Commissioner for the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection for eight years.

"With his extensive background in chemical weapons destruction as a state regulator, his strong relationships with the public and the regulating community, and his keen understanding of the issues, Ralph is a perfect fit for assisting me in leading the Blue Grass project," said Fritsche. "His knowledge of the Blue Grass Army Depot, the community and state and federal regulators will make him a true asset to the team."

Collins represented the Commonwealth of Kentucky on the ACWA Dialogue, a national group established by ACWA consisting of representatives from the Department of Defense; state, tribal and federal government regulators; and diverse citizen interest groups. He was also the state chair for the Kentucky Environmental Working Integrated Process Team which brought together state and Army officials to expedite the planning, development, and implementation of all aspects of the environmental permitting process for the Blue Grass Army Depot.

(MORE)

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Collins said he is pleased to become part of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant team.

"I am excited about my new position and the opportunity it offers me to renew my involvement in this extremely important program," he said. "Although my new role will be quite different from my previous duties, the common goal remains the same - we must safely and efficiently destroy the stockpile of chemical weapons and eliminate the threat that the stockpile presents to nearby communities. I look forward to joining the excellent team of military, civil service and contractor personnel that ACWA has assembled, and I am anxious to reestablish contact with the state and local officials and the citizen's groups who monitor our progress on the project."

He holds a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from Ohio State University, an MBA from the University of Kansas, and a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. Among his many career awards is the Department of the Army's Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Duty Award for his support of the ACWA program.

Collins and his wife Judi live in Lexington, Ky. and have one son and one daughter.

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