



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Destruction Project Granted Environmental Research, Development and Demonstration Permit

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

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Close Collaboration between the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, the Blue Grass Army Depot, the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Team and Local Community Results in Timely Permitting

BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT, Ky. – Initial construction of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is one step closer following Friday's issuance of a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, permit by the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection's Division of Waste Management. The plant will destroy a stockpile of chemical weapons containing 523 tons of mustard and nerve agents stored here.

Known as a Research, Development and Demonstration permit under the RCRA program, it allows for construction, testing, and operation of a facility to destroy M55 rockets and 8" projectiles containing nerve agent GB, also known as sarin, and related wastes. Initial infrastructure construction for the facility is expected to begin in 2006. Construction for the main destruction facility is scheduled to continue during 2007 while the plant design is finalized by the government's contractor, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass. BPBG will also systemize, pilot test, operate and ultimately close the plant. KDEP also awarded the depot a permit for the storage of the chemical weapons.

Col. Rick Mason, depot commander, emphasized the depot's mission while expressing his appreciation to the commonwealth of Kentucky for granting the permits for chemical weapons storage and destruction operations.

"The Blue Grass Army Depot has safely stored its stockpile of chemical weapons for more than 60 years," Mason said. "I commend KDEP for the way they've balanced their oversight responsibilities with support for the mission to safely store and destroy the chemical weapons stored here. The depot has been and continues to be an important part of central Kentucky - not only in its last mission of the safe, secure storage and destruction of the chemical stockpile entrusted to its care, but in its mission to support our war fighters overseas."

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These feelings were echoed by the government and systems contractor team.

"I want to express my appreciation to the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection for their teamwork and diligence in the environmental permitting process, " said Jim Fritsche, government site project manager. "They have done their job in ensuring that this project is protective of human health and the environment."

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass Project Manager Chris Midgett agreed and added, "We were able to obtain this important permit in a timely manner thanks to the hard work of everyone involved and by actively involving the community in the permitting process. It was truly a team effort."

The permit contains a comprehensive compliance schedule requiring submittal of additional information and approvals at set times before processing hazardous waste. It will become effective October 30.