

Kent Clark
Craig Williams
Co-Chairs
105 Fifth Street
Suite 206
Richmond, KY 40475
Phone: 859 624-4700/986-7565



Summary of Action Items and Discussions May 24, 2005 Eastern Kentucky University Richmond, Kentucky

May 24 CDCAB Meeting Synopsis

The May 24, 2005 CDCAB meeting was designed to provide:

- a general update on the Assemble Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) Program including technical, budgetary and site-specific updates;
- an overview and discussion regarding the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) design consideration studies;
- an overview and discussion on design consideration 35 (secondary waste);
- an overview and discussion on design consideration 43 (separation of rocket motors from warheads);
- a report from the CDCAB design considerations working group.

Meeting Summary Structure

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations, but instead is meant to provide an overview of the discussions and next steps committed to by the government and various members of the 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 (859) 626-8944 or outreach@bechtel.com.

ACTION ITEMS

Action Item: The CDCAB will provide written comments to BGCAPP personnel on design consideration 35 (secondary waste) by May 25. **Responsible Entity:** CDCAB

Design Considerations Working Group **Timeline:** Concurrence was provided to BGCAPP and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) by Craig Williams on May 24.

Action Item: Craig Williams requested information on costs for the off-site shipment of hydrolysates to commercial treatment facilities. **Responsible Entity:** PMACWA. **Timeline:** On-going.

Action Item: Liz Crowe requested information on potential off-site commercial treatment facilities. **Responsible Entity:** PMACWA. **Timeline:** On-going.

Action Item: Craig Williams requested the list of all 53 original design considerations. **Responsible Entity:** BPBG **Timeline:** List was provided to Mr. Williams on June 10.

Action Item: The board agreed to merge the secondary waste and design considerations working groups into one group which will continue to provide input for all of the redesign efforts being considered. The group will meet before the next CDCAB meeting and provide input to PMACWA. **Responsible Entity:** BPBG, PMACWA and CDCAB **Timeline:** June or July 2005.

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions during the May 24 CDCAB Meeting

Opening Comments by Kent Clark and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chairs

Kent Clark thanked board members for attending and understands that everyone has busy schedules. He explained that the redesign working group had a very informative meeting with project personnel in April. He emphasized that everyone is still on board and working together to make sure things are done right.

Craig Williams said that after an intense few months of working to ensure adequate funding for the Blue Grass chemical demilitarization program, the project is back on track. He recalled that in January, the Chemical Weapons Working Group held a press conference discussing the Pentagon's future plans for postponement of destruction for the Blue Grass and Pueblo, Colorado chemical weapons stockpiles.

In close coordination with the Kentucky Congressional delegation, Mr. Williams explained how members of the CDCAB expressed their concerns to the Pentagon. He said that through Senator Mitch McConnell's leadership, funds have now been restored. Mr. Williams asked Mr. Kevin Atkins, the Senator's representative to the CDCAB, to convey the entire Board's appreciation for the Senator's efforts in addressing the funding situation. Mr. Williams said that the board has a lot of issues in front of them and that the design considerations are complicated and tightly integrated. He stressed to the board the importance of paying attention to the redesign since it has a direct impact on how the plant will be constructed and operated.

Program Overview

--Bill Pehlivanian, Deputy Program Manager for ACWA

Slides are available for this presentation by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 859-626-8944, outreach@bechtel.com.

Discussion regarding BGCAPP funding. Several board members board members asked whether the funding was sufficient and whether there were any actions the board could take to provide support. Mr. Williams informed the board that even though there is a release of funds there are still some challenges in executing the project because some of the money needs be reprogrammed from one “checkbook” to another “checkbook”. Mr. Pehlivanian agreed and responded that there is nothing the citizens can do from a programmatic level to affect the funding situation.

Discussion regarding the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office contract. Jeanne Hibberd asked for an explanation of the outreach office transition. Mr. Pehlivanian explained that Michael Parker, Program Manager for ACWA wanted to streamline the public involvement effort to have the contractor who is designing, building and operating the facility also work to inform and involve the public. He explained the difference between public outreach and public involvement - public involvement is an ACWA requirement and what the CDCAB is doing, public outreach is an office where people go to get information. To that end, ACWA gave the outreach portion to BPBG since they were in the best position to answer the questions on the design, construction operations and closure of the facility. ACWA asked the Office of the Secretary of Defense and they agreed to a one year trial period. The Department of Defense Inspector General examined the Pueblo outreach contract and said there is a perceived conflict of interest. Mr. Michael W. Wynne, the Defense Acquisition Executive, directed PMACWA to go back to third party just for outreach effort. The contract is expected to be awarded this summer.

Site Update

--Jim Fritsche, Site Project Manager, BGCAPP

Slides are available for this presentation by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 859-626-8944, outreach@bechtel.com.

Overview of Design Considerations

--Chris Midgett, Project Manager, BPBG

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Discussion regarding design considerations. Several board members asked about a wide number of issues – safety, regulatory, environmental justice, public acceptability of on-site and off-site destruction technologies, closure, facility reuse, economic, employment and schedule impacts, public and political sensitivities to the transportation of hydrolysates and opportunities for further public information and involvement-- associated with the proposals. Other CDCAB members expressed concerns about criteria for the development of costs, potential public opposition to the off-site shipment of hydrolysates (wastewater generated from the neutralization of chemical agents and their explosive components) by both the local community and the recipient community.

The board decided to continue to review the redesign effort in detail through the use of a CDCAB working group.

Overview of Design Consideration 35 (Secondary Waste)

--Roger Dickerman, Operations Manager, BPBG

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Overview of Design Consideration 43 (separation of M55 rocket motors and warheads)

--Chris Midgett, Project Manager, BPBG

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Discussion regarding design consideration 34. Jim Richmond, PMACWA provided a preface to Chris Midgett's presentation. He described how events that have occurred at other sites have impacted Design Consideration 43. He informed the board that the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has encountered fires while processing GB rockets at their chemical weapons destruction facilities located in Pine Bluff Arsenal, Arkansas and Umatilla Chemical Depot, Oregon. While the current design for BGCAPP calls for the same type of rocket shear equipment in use at these facilities, PMACWA and BPBG are exploring alternatives to reduce the risk of possible similar incidents occurring once BGCAPP becomes operational. Mr. Richmond said that prior to the recent events at Oregon and Arkansas, the concept of separating the rocket motors had been under consideration for the last several months by the project design team as a way of improving operations and reducing overall cost. It will now be pursued as a potential risk reduction alternative. Mr. Richmond explained that while all fires have been contained with no danger to the public, it doesn't make sense to design plants that will start fires. At this point, he said, no one knows why the fires have occurred. The fires are under investigation by CMA. He emphasized that this design option is in the early stages of investigation and that as information becomes available it will be shared with the public, regulators and CDCAB. He stressed that safety would continue to be the top priority.

Members of the board requested additional information on test results, blast containment, regulatory issues, quantification of risk reduction, and schedule. The board agreed to merge the secondary waste and design considerations working groups into one group which will continue to provide input for all of the redesign efforts being considered.

Closing Comments by Kent Clark and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chairs

In closing, Messrs. Clark and Williams thanked board participants for their contribution. They expressed their appreciation for each board member participant and their abilities to apply their care and concern for this issue in a positive manner.

Next CDAB Meetings*:

September 13

December 6

*All meetings will be held at Eastern Kentucky University's Perkins Building unless otherwise indicated.

Attendance:

CDCAB members present included Rob Rumpke, Tim Thomas, Craig Williams, Kent Clark, Bob Miller, Carl Richards, COL Martin Jacoby, Mike Caudill, Jeanne Hibberd, Jim Fritsche, Jim Rooney, LTC George Shuplinkov, Jill Cornielson, Kevin Atkins, Rev. Robert Blythe, Kim Irwin, Myrt Wilson, Doug Hindman, Larry Burnette, and Geoff Reed.