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## Summary of Action Items and Discussions September 13, 2005 Eastern Kentucky University Richmond, Kentucky

### September 13 CDCAB Meeting Synopsis

The September 13, 2005 CDCAB meeting was designed to provide:

- a general update on the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) including the status of the Expedited Removal of Rocket Motors Initiative; previously known as Design Consideration # 43
- an overview and discussion regarding the recommendation for Design Consideration #34, Off-site Shipment of Hydrolysates
- 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 at (859) 626-8944 or [outreach@bechtel.com](mailto:outreach@bechtel.com).

### ACTION ITEMS

**Action Item:** Craig Williams requested an update of the design considerations studies.  
**Responsible Entity:** BGCAPP Team. **Timeline:** A letter from Jim Fritsche, BGCAPP government site manager, and a design considerations fact sheet was distributed to the board by electronic mail on September 26.

**Action Item:** Craig Williams requested updated information on potential costs for the off-site shipment of hydrolysates to commercial treatment facilities. **Responsible Entity:** Program Manager Alternative Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PMACWA). **Timeline:** October 2005.

**Action Item:** Members of the board requested information on how CDCAB meetings would be facilitated after The Keystone Center (TKC) transition. **Responsible Entity:** PMACWA. **Timeline:** Before the December 6 CDCAB meeting.

## **Outline of Key Issues and Discussions during the September 13 CDCAB Meeting**

### **Welcome**

--Doug Thompson, Facilitator, The Keystone Center

Mr. Thompson welcomed all participants, reviewed the meeting agenda and discussed the current status of the board meetings. He informed the board of the following events that occurred after the May 24 CDCAB meeting:

- The design considerations working group met on July 19
- The project held a public availability session on July 26
- The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) held public hearings on environmental permits on August 30

### **Opening Comments**

-- Kent Clark and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chairs

Judge Clark thanked board members for their attendance. He explained that in response to requests made by board members the meetings will now be shorter in duration. He said that the board is seeing results of the Design Considerations Working Group's interface with PMACWA, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass and the Blue Grass Army Depot. He thanked all parties for participating and said that all the hard work has paid off.

Mr. Williams said that there has been significant amount of progress since the beginning of the year. He explained how ongoing efforts by the Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG), Congress, and Department of Defense (DOD) have resulted in efforts to maintain adequate funding. Mr. Williams informed the board that he provided comments on the environmental permits on behalf of the Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) on August 30. Mr. Williams said that generally speaking the comments were supportive of the permit. He shared Judge Clark's feeling that the project is moving forward and stressed the need to continue to maintain diligence in Washington, D.C. He closed by thanking all board members for their participation.

### **Key Updates**

--Jim Fritsche, Site Project Manager for BGCAPP

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**Discussion regarding BGCAPP funding.** Mr. Williams asked the KDEP representatives for a timeline on the response to public comments to the environmental permits. Eric Ringo responded that it would take approximately 30 days. Mr. Williams then inquired if the date for issuance of the Research, Development and Demonstration permit was still slated for late October. Mr. Ringo replied that October remained the target date.

**Discussion regarding the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office contract and public involvement.** Bob Miller requested clarification on the bullet item describing public involvement. Mr. Fritsche explained that as the project moves forward with the design considerations studies it will involve the community through the CDCAB working group. Public involvement will also ensure issues and concerns are addressed and will be conducted with board members individually or as a group.

**Discussion regarding the destruction of M55 rockets.** Mr. Williams asked if there were any new information from the Chemical Materials Agency regarding the fires which occurred at the Arkansas and Oregon chemical weapons destruction facilities. Mr. Fritsche replied that the investigation was still ongoing. Mr. Williams explained that the trigger for the fires has been the Rocket Shear Machine (RSM) and asked if consideration has been given to installing the rocket motor separation system within the BGCAPP to eliminate possibility of fire from RSM. Mr. Fritsche responded it was one of the options being considered. Roger Dickerman of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass explained that even if the rocket motors were separated from the rest of the rocket the RSM would still be needed to shear the warhead. Mr. Williams asked about the disposition of the rocket motors themselves. Mr. Dickerman replied that they would be processed outside of the BGCAPP facility. Mr. Fritsche explained that the decision on the rocket motor separation has not been made at this time. Mr. Williams expressed his approval of how the project was examining different options to ensure there were no fires in the facility as a result of rocket shearing operations.

#### **Update on Design Consideration #34, Off-Site Shipment of Hydrolysates**

--Jim Richmond, Team Leader, Design Consideration Study Team #34

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**Discussion regarding design consideration #34.** Mr. Miller observed that a lot of the risks associated with the off-site shipment of hydrolysates are a result of public opposition and requested more information about other risks. Mr. Richmond responded that there were other risks of a technical, environmental, programmatic and business nature were evaluated. Carl Richards stated that there are other unknown risks such as possible changes in permits at the recipient treatment facility. Mr. Williams informed the board that when the state of New Jersey reissued the permit to DuPont's Chambers Works it specifically stated that the facility was not allowed to accept chemical weapons-related hydrolysates. He told the board that the CWWG has proposed a solution to build

supercritical water oxidation units for use in Indiana and move them to Kentucky after Indiana's nerve agent stockpile has been destroyed. Mr. Williams thanked the BGCAPP and PMACWA team for factoring the community's concerns in the decision-making process. He urged PMACWA to consider not just the Colorado and Kentucky residents but the concerns of communities along the transportation corridor. He said opposition to the shipment of hydrolysates is found across the board. Judge Clark said that there are citizen groups and working groups at other sites that would make folks aware of this issue if it would come to their state. These groups could generate public opposition. Jeanne Hibberd asked about the risk to the future of program. Mr. Richmond responded that the risk that has been identified is to reduce the life cycle cost estimate in a timely manner. Bill Pehlivanian of PMACWA said that this will affect the program from fiscal year 2008 forward. He stressed that a decision had not been made on the shipment of hydrolysates and that there will be a process PMACWA has to go through as part of the DOD-directed critical design review. He said the ultimate decision will be made by the Undersecretary of Defense through the DOD acquisition process.

### **Design Considerations Working Group Report**

--Kent Clark and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chairs

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Mr. Williams said that most of the issues discussed by the working group had already been discussed throughout the afternoon board meeting. Mr. Williams commented that the July 19 Design Considerations Working Group meeting was the most well attended working group meeting that the CDCAB ever had. He saw that as a positive sign which demonstrates that when there are important issues to be discussed people are willing to participate. Mr. Williams and Judge Clark expressed their appreciation that that PMACWA and its contractors are looking at different options to ensure there are no rocket fires during the rocket shearing process. Mr. Williams said that if any new developments arise the working group will reconvene at a future date and work through the two co-chairs to make recommendations.

### **Next Steps and Other Issues**

--Doug Thompson, Facilitator

Mr. Thompson asked if the board would like to continue with its current format of shorter quarterly meetings or look at other options. Ms. Hibberd said she likes the quarterly meeting format and that if the board met less often it would not have continuity. She also said she approves of the shorter meetings as long as discussion on important issues was not sacrificed.

Mr. Thompson asked for agenda items for future meetings. Ms. Hibberd commented on the three comprehensive plans that were being written for the City of Berea, City of Richmond and Madison County. She expressed concerns as to whether the communities are considering impact of the BGCAPP facility for projected growth and jobs. She would like to have as an agenda item a discussion on the overall impact of the

project to the community. Mr. Richards requested an opportunity to brief the board on the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. Mr. Williams requested a briefing by PMACWA on funding and legislative updates to include the Defense authorization and appropriations bills signed into law and the status of fiscal year 2007 funding.

Mr. Thompson informed the board that it was time for a transition from having the Keystone Center facilitate board meetings. He said the thinking is that the CDCAB has reached a point under the able leadership of the two chairs and is working effectively, so they may not need Keystone to facilitate. PMACWA will continue to provide meeting and administrative support to the meetings and the Keystone Center will remain available as issues arrive. Mr. Pehlivanian provided background on Keystone Center involvement in the PMACWA program and explained that the goal has always been to transition to a locally led effort. He stressed that PMACWA will continue to provide administrative support.

Mike Caudill asked how the decision was made to terminate Keystone Center involvement. He did not feel that the board was ready to have meetings without a facilitator. Mr. Williams said it was his understanding that there would still be a facilitator but that it would be a matter of finding someone local to facilitate. His preference is someone as objective as possible. He praised the efforts of TKC and their expertise in getting the board off the ground. Mr. Richards stated that a facilitator was needed with an assertive personality and suggested Eastern Kentucky University as a resource. Ms. Hibberd offered to work with the next facilitator. Mr. Miller suggested the facilitator be someone in PMACWA or someone who has a sense of the group.

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

In closing, Messrs. Clark and Williams thanked board participants for their time and their contributions.

### **Next CDAB Meeting\*:**

December 6

### **Attendance:**

**CDCAB members present included** Robert Bagby, Kim Irwin, James Rooney, Tim Thomas, Bob Miller, Craig Williams, Kent Clark, Kevin Atkins, Jim Fritsche, Carl Richards, Byron Bond, Jeanne Hibberd, Geoff Reed, and Mike Caudill.

\*The next meeting will be held in the television studio at Eastern Kentucky University's Perkins Building. Individuals needing more information or special access may contact the Outreach Office for assistance.