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**Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting**  
**Summary of Action Items and Discussions**  
**December 7, 2007**  
**Eastern Kentucky University**  
**Richmond, Kentucky**

**Meeting Synopsis**

The meeting was designed to provide an update on the following:

- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP)
- Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA) and Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) GB Ton Containers Accelerated Disposal
- Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) Recommendation
- CDCAB Working Group Report

**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 bgoutreach@bah.com.

**Action Items**

**Action Item:** The CDCAB and CAC will write a letter requesting that the CAC chair and CDCAB co-chairs be placed on the distribution list to receive news releases regarding the BGCA.

**Responsible Entity:** Doug Hindman

**Timeline:** March 11, 2008

**Action Item:** Provide additional information to a Madison County community member regarding the sustainability of a proposed structure that will house the Chemical Agent Transfer System (CHATS) during extreme weather events, and whether or not the carbon filter has the capability to filter hydrofluoric acid.

**Responsible Entity:** Kevin Flamm, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives

**Timeline:** March 11, 2008

**Action Item:** CDCAB members will vote on the recommendation to combine the CDCAB and CAC meetings.

**Responsible Entity:** Doug Hindman

**Timeline:** March 11, 2008

**Action Item:** The Secondary Waste Working Group (SWWG) will host a public meeting regarding the Static Detonation Chamber (SDC).

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams

**Timeline:** March 11, 2008

### **Outline of Key Issues and Discussions**

#### ***Welcome and Introductions – Rebecca Toy, Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office***

Ms. Toy welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted that the action items from the September 11 CDCAB meeting had been completed, with the exception of a public meeting being held on the Static Detonation Chamber.

#### ***Opening Remarks – Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair***

Judge Clark welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking time to participate. Craig Williams echoed Judge Clark's comments and reported that Rob Rumpke, former Richmond Chamber of Commerce executive director, had been replaced by Mendi Goble, current executive director. He also noted that Tammy Clemons was replacing Diane Kirby who recently retired from Berea College. Kirby will remain on the CAC. Williams stated that the meeting would focus on the Blue Grass GB ton container leak incident and the intended course of action to eliminate the containers. He reiterated that the CDCAB, CAC, BGCA, ACWA and local community shared the goal of destroying the chemical weapons stockpile at Blue Grass. Finally, Williams stated that differing opinions should be openly shared throughout the meeting, but that comments made should not be personal and strictly meant to improve the safety of the community.

## Key Updates

### ***BGCAPP Site Update – Jim Fritsche, Site Project Manager***

***Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 859-626-8944 or [bgoutreach@bah.com](mailto:bgoutreach@bah.com).***

Jim Fritsche recapped project activities in 2007 to CDCAB members. He noted that the ton containers have always been part of the BGCA stockpile, and that they would be discussed in detail throughout the meeting. He acknowledged the pilot plant's safety record and commended the construction team's efforts to self evaluate their work in ensuring safety.

Fritsche talked through key milestones that occurred throughout 2007, including: recertification of BGCAPP under Nunn-McCurdy; Department of Defense approval of a revised cost and schedule estimate for the ACWA program; submittal of revision four of the Research Development and Demonstration permit to the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP); progress on the construction site; appointment of Kevin Flamm as permanent ACWA program manager; naming of Mark Seely as Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass site project manager; Noblis and National Research Council technical analyses regarding hydrolysate and secondary waste; and obtaining the Title V Air Permit.

Fritsche also provided a look ahead to 2008 which included the following items: design completion for munitions demilitarization building, control support building and the supercritical water oxidation building; construction start-up for munitions demilitarization building; an assessment of how to fulfill requirements included in Public Law 110-116; results of the Noblis and NRC technical analyses; and opening of the Richmond engineering office.

### ***BGCA and ACWA GB Ton Containers Accelerated Disposal - Lt. Col. Tom Closs, Commander, BGCA; and Kevin Flamm, Program Manager, ACWA***

***Slides of these presentations are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 859-626-8944 or [bgoutreach@bah.com](mailto:bgoutreach@bah.com).***

Lt. Col. Tom Closs and Kevin Flamm provided a joint presentation on the destruction of three corroding ton containers currently in storage at the Blue Grass Chemical Activity.

Lt. Col. Closs began the presentation by referencing the success of the repalleting efforts in 2006, while noting that he was just as proud to discuss the actions associated with the ton container leak on August 27, 2007. He reported that the Blue Grass

stockpile was the only remaining U.S. stockpile storing GB ton containers and that the chemical activity faced three challenges: cleaning up the liquid spill, changing the plug and preventing a leak from reoccurring.

He recapped the sequence of events associated with the GB ton container leak in August. Lt. Col. Closs clarified that the leak was identified during routine headwall monitoring and that the reading was 800 times lower than what the Center of Disease Control allows. He stated that notifications were immediately made to state and local officials and a press release was issued.

Lt. Col. Closs reported that the igloo was monitored on Aug. 28, and that workers entered the igloo and discovered a liquid spill on Aug. 29. Lt. Col. Closs used a ton container model and a photo of the three ton containers as visual tools to illustrate the incident and provided details as to where the leak occurred. He stated that the highly acidic mixture of GB and decontamination solution had eroded the plug, which was then decontaminated by workers with Clorox bleach. The ton container was rotated and the plug was replaced. According to Lt. Col. Closs, it was discovered that the contents of the ton container had eroded the threads on the plug and that the content most likely resembled a sludge-like consistency rather than liquid. In October a vapor leak was detected and workers applied a sealant to the replaced plug to prevent any additional vapor leaks.

He reinforced that the ton containers are monitored daily and pose no threat to the public if another leak were to occur.

Robert Miller, CDCAB member, reported that community members had contacted him regarding recent media coverage and questioned whether or not vapor had been released into the atmosphere.

Lt. Col. Closs reaffirmed that there was no indication that the vapor escaped the igloo and that he was confident that there was no risk to the public. He expressed concern related to the safety of his workforce in regards to a potential clean-up operation if another leak or spill were to occur.

Doug Hindman and Craig Williams stated that they were grateful for the work performed at the BGCA, but were concerned about the notification of leaks to the public, stating there was no information indicating that the leak on Aug. 27 was different from past leaks. Hindman proposed that the CDCAB be placed on the distribution list to receive news releases from BGCA and the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD). He also requested that the contents of the news release contain details such as the reading level and corrective actions being implemented. Williams stated that failure to disclose information to the community about the significance of the event could undermine public trust of the program.

Lt. Col. Closs restated that the BGCA distributed proper notification to representatives of KDEP, CSEPP, media and elected officials.

Williams also asked questions about air monitoring, timeframe of discovery and detection of a vapor leak outside of the igloo. He noted that he has made numerous requests to the U.S. Chemical Materials Agency regarding improved monitoring systems.

Lt. Col. Closs stated that BGCA had taken tremendous steps in the last two years to ensure better monitoring with the installation of mini-cams and Real Time Analytical Platforms. He also referenced the addition of a new analytical laboratory with expanded chemical monitoring capabilities.

Kevin Flamm discussed the plan to eliminate the GB ton containers. He noted that in 2004, BGCA workers had transferred the contents of a leaking non-typical GB ton container into two treaty documented ton containers. He clarified that the contents of the ton containers are a combination of GB, GB breakdown products and decontamination fluids from previous BGCA activities. He reported that the corrosive nature of the contents had caused the original ton container to deteriorate and leak, and that initial testing indicated that similar corrosion is occurring within the two new containers. He assured CDCAB members and the community that Lt. Col. Closs and staff had the containers under control, but emphasized that the problem would not get better as time passes.

Flamm discussed the proposed action of bringing the Chemical Agent Transfer System, known as CHATS, along with experienced staff, to drain and neutralize the contents of the three ton containers and ship the secondary waste off site for disposal. He explained that CHATS technology employed a single stage neutralization process involving the same GB "recipe" and clearing method to be used during BGCAPP pilot plant operations. He also discussed other equipment that would be utilized, such as: operations shelter structure, chemical agent filtration system, a mobile analytical platform and a monitoring trailer. He also discussed the proposed site layout. He estimated that the elimination process would take 80 days and cost around \$1.7 million.

He addressed issues and responded to questions related to the current destruction plans. Flamm noted recent meetings held with the KDEP, BGCAPP workforce and CAC/CDCAB co-chairs in which he discussed and received input on the technology options – CHATS and Explosive Destruction System (EDS). He reported that the path forward included the following: a public meeting, submitting a draft permit modification, requesting temporary authorization to KDEP, issuance of temporary authorization, site preparation, mobilization, operational readiness review and destruction operations. He confirmed that the state would have all oversight responsibilities.

CDCAB members asked questions related to the following: permitting; the option to overpack or inject decontamination solution into the ton containers; site location; draining process and options available for using a controlled containment facility to transport the ton containers from the igloo to the CHATS.

Mr. Flamm responded to the permitting question by stating that ACWA was working closely with KDEP officials and that the CHATS facility would neutralize the contents of the ton containers with the same neutralization recipe that BGCAPP plans to use. He clarified that permitting efforts associated with the ton container acceleration disposal project would be done parallel with efforts associated with BGCAPP. In reference to the option of overpacking or injecting decontamination solution into the ton containers, he explained that the plugs were already under pressure and that pressure would continue to build-up. He also noted that the liquid inside the three ton containers was not distributed equally. Todd Williams, Blue Grass Army Depot staff member, added that the overpack equipment options was not suited for storage and would not fit into the igloos.

Lt. Col. Closs explained that the site selected for the CHATS provided better terrain and that relocation of the ton containers from the igloo to the CHATS facility was safer because the containers would not have to be turned.

Mr. Flamm also explained that CHATS was designed for the purpose of draining ton containers and that he was confident that the system could handle the liquid.

Madison County Judge-Executive Kent Clark stated that he appreciated all of the efforts and that he fully supported the project. He noted that he had one small problem related to the plans to ship the hydrolysate generated from the GB ton containers off site for disposal. He called into consideration the community's feelings regarding off-site shipment of hydrolysate generated from BGCAPP. He requested that the hydrolysate be stored at BGCA until a final decision is made on the treatment of hydrolysate that will be generated at BGCAPP. Judge Clark clarified that the majority of his constituency would not view the off site shipment of hydrolysate generated during the GB ton container elimination mission and BGCAPP as separate issues. He also stated that there was time to train BGCA staff on how to store hydrolysate.

Mr. Flamm explained that the depot wasn't trained to store the waste that will be generated and noted that it would be better to eliminate the hazard. He stressed that this GB ton container speedy elimination process would not set a precedent regarding the future decision of treatment of hydrolysate generated at BGCAPP.

A Madison County community member asked questions about an option to have a negative pressure airlock facility connecting the igloo to the CHATS; sustainability of the sprung structure during a weather event such as a tornado; and whether or not the carbon filter had the capability to filter hydrofluoric acid.

Mr. Flamm responded that the sprung structure was not tornado resistant and that ACWA officials would determine if the structure was weather resistant and if hydrofluoric acid would be contained in the carbon filters. He stated that community questions related to providing a negative pressure airlock facility connecting the igloo to the CHATS were noted.

### ***CAC Recommendation – Doug Hindman, Chair***

Mr. Hindman presented a formal recommendation to combine the Kentucky CAC and CDCAB meetings. He stated that when the CDCAB was formed, there was a need to distinguish between the two groups. He explained that the need had diminished as the two groups have grown. He reasoned that combined meetings would be more time efficient and increase communications between the two groups. He referenced a formal memo that was provided to members and noted that there would be a couple of logistical changes, including the addition of more chairs to the current CDCAB table set-up, coordinating the agendas and facilitating opening and closing remarks.

Bob Miller raised questions related to the functionality of the meetings, record keeping, organizational structure and voting options.

Williams suggested that the CDCAB members vote on the recommendation and consider Miller's comments.

### ***CDCAB Working Group Report – Craig Williams, Chair, SWWG***

***Slides of this presentation are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 859-626-8944 or [bgoutreach@bah.com](mailto:bgoutreach@bah.com).***

Mr. Williams reported that the SWWG met on Sept. 19 and Nov. 20 to discuss and develop recommendations on the SDC for non-contaminated rocket motors and mustard projectiles.

He reported that on Sept. 19, representatives from ACWA and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass briefed the SWWG on the history of the SDC and application for weapons such as the mustard projectiles. He reported that on Nov. 20, voting members of the SWWG met to discuss the information that was provided during the Sept. 19 meeting. He stated that the group developed a draft recommendation which included the following: continue studying the use of SDC for non-contaminated rocket motors and reject the SDC treatment for mustard projectiles and any other agent containing materials. He explained that the reasons for recommending against SDC application for treatment of mustard projectiles included: significant deviation from record of decision; permitting

considerations; gas stream and effluent characterization issues; hold, test and release criteria; and potential for other agents and munitions to be processed by the SDC.

The group plans to hold a public meeting before a final recommendation on using the SDC for mustard projectiles is submitted to the CDCAB and then passed to ACWA and Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass.

### ***Next CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2007 at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Quads A and B.

### ***Closing Remarks – Craig Williams, Co-Chair***

Mr. Williams remarked that his observation of the meeting was that the group once again proved that they were able to deal with difficult issues and move forward. He thanked everyone for attending.