



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Destruction Project to Begin Early Construction

Pueblo and Blue Grass Facility Redesigns Underway

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

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ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md., -- A hold on construction has been lifted for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant by the Department of Defense, Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives Michael A. Parker announced today.

As a result, Parker has directed the project team to re-energize early construction efforts with the project's contractor, the Bechtel Pueblo Team. Funding previously appropriated will be used to fund the construction activities, which will include site improvements such as fencing and road paving.

Parker also noted that teams at both of the program's chemical weapons destruction facilities planned to be built near Pueblo, and near Richmond, Ky. at the Blue Grass Army Depot, are examining redesign options to make them more affordable.

"Our project teams will continue to identify changes to the existing design concepts that will reduce the overall costs of both the Pueblo and the Blue Grass projects. As we do so, we're committed to working closely with both communities to involve the public in looking at these options," Parker said. "The construction activities that we will be resuming as soon as possible in Pueblo will support any option that may be ultimately selected."

The direction received today lifts both the early construction hold at the Pueblo site, as well as last September's stop work order imposed on the plant's processing design. At that time, the Bechtel Pueblo Team was directed to stop design work on the plant's processing buildings while studies were initiated to examine design alternatives that could reduce project costs. "Processing" refers to those areas of the plant where the weapons' energetics materials and chemical agent will be accessed, removed and neutralized. Those studies will continue through this summer, with opportunities for public involvement planned.

The start of early construction at Pueblo was put on hold in January while the Army's Chemical Materials Agency conducts an assessment to review options that may help the department meet a 2012 chemical weapons treaty destruction deadline, including the relocation of chemical weapons stockpiles. Work on that assessment continues.

At the Kentucky site, the department's release of previously appropriated funding will allow the government and its contractor, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, to continue with design work currently under way and to reschedule early construction activities. Cost-saving changes being considered for the Blue Grass design will also involve public reviews in the upcoming months.

News Release



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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives at 410-436-3398 or visit www.pmacwa.army.mil. Additional information on the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is available at the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, phone 719-546-0400. For information on the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant, call the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 859-625-8944.