

Pueblo Design Alternatives Analysis

On January 30, 2003, the Department of Defense certified, in compliance with Public Law 105-261 that the neutralization technology selected to destroy chemical weapons at Pueblo is as safe and cost effective as incineration. While the Department directed accelerated destruction of the Pueblo chemical weapons stockpile, current information indicates that the emerging design is not executable within the current funding levels. Consequently, the Department is conducting an analysis to evaluate the affordability and cost and schedule effectiveness of potential design variants, while complying with the safety and environmental requirements for the Pueblo project. This analysis is a part of the Government review process for design acceptance. As this project emerges from the initial design concept phase, a funding profile will be developed, consistent with the accepted design using neutralization followed by biodegradation technology.

On January 6, 2004, representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA), Corps of Engineers, Bechtel Pueblo Team, and FOCIS Associates formed the team that will analyze potential design variants. The study will focus on the affordability and cost and schedule effectiveness of potential design variants, identifying a path forward to support the selection of an optimal design that is safe, affordable and technically viable. No impact to the near-term Pueblo schedule is expected since work on the current Pueblo design will continue in parallel with the study. Initiation of construction for infrastructure and support facilities, currently anticipated to commence mid-late Fiscal Year 2004, will be unaffected by this analysis. Additionally, the Department has no plans to reduce funding for the Pueblo facility in the Fiscal Year 2004.

The results of the study will be briefed to the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Chemical Demilitarization and Threat Reduction) (DATSD (CD&TR)) in early February. The DATSD (CD&TR) will develop recommendations for the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs), who will recommend a path forward for Pueblo to the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics).

Information papers discussing the status of the study will be published during the course of the study for the purpose of keeping the Pueblo community informed of the ongoing actions and status.