



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

ACWA QUARTERLY BRIEF

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

December 2007



HOT TOPICS

Operation *Swift Solution* Initiated. ACWA is leading Operation *Swift Solution* to eliminate three steel containers at Blue Grass Army Depot that are showing signs of corrosion. ACWA will employ a team from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center using the Chemical Agent Transfer System to drain and neutralize the combination of agent GB, GB breakdown products and decontamination fluids in the containers. Once empty, they will be decontaminated, cut in two and recycled. This effort is being coordinated with the depot, the Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA), the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA), local stakeholders, and the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP). The operation is expected to run through late spring 2008 and cost approximately \$2 million. Next steps include holding an informational public meeting at Eastern Kentucky University on Jan. 15, 2008, and finalizing a plan to treat and dispose of secondary waste.

Acceleration Assessment Under Way. ACWA has initiated an assessment of potential opportunities for accelerating the destruction of the Colorado and Kentucky chemical weapons stockpiles. This assessment is in response to requirements included in Public Law 110-116, which mandates completing the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile in accordance with the deadline established by the Chemical Weapons Convention (April 27, 2012), but in no circumstances later than Dec. 31, 2017. Defense Department officials will meet with Congress by next summer to discuss the acceleration options and come to an agreement on the path forward.

U.S. Army Element, ACWA Activated. The U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives was formally activated in a ceremony hosted on Nov. 28, 2007, by Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC). At the dual ceremony, Kevin J. Flamm was officially chartered as ACWA's program manager by Dr. Arthur T. Hopkins, Acting Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Nuclear and Chemical and Biological Defense Programs) who represented Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics John J. Young, Jr. The new organization is structured as an AMC Separate Reporting Activity under direct operational control of the Department of Defense as mandated by law. Its new designation as an Army "element," an Army organization assigned to a non-Army program, signifies the official change from ACWA's former alignment with CMA.



The Chemical Agent Transfer System is a sealed glove box that allows operators to manually drain the contents of a ton container into a self-contained neutralization reactor.

PILOT PLANT UPDATES

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- **Safety:** 2.3 million man hours without a lost-time injury.
- **Acquisitions:** Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass has awarded a total of \$49.5 million in subcontracts, with 57% going to Kentucky businesses.
- **Construction:** Completed construction projects include the access road, perimeter fencing, the access control building and associated utilities, and a change house for craft workers.

Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

- **Safety:** 2.8 million man hours without a lost-time injury.
- **Acquisitions:** Bechtel Pueblo has awarded a total of \$87 million in subcontracts, with 69% going to Colorado businesses.
- **Construction:** On Oct. 23, Bechtel Pueblo direct hire workers completed their first concrete pour for an outdoor slab to support tanks that will hold sodium hydroxide used in the neutralization process. Underground utilities are 97% complete, temporary power and high mast lighting are 96% complete, and the stormwater control system is 87% complete.

NEXT 120 DAYS AT ACWA

ACWA will continue working with Noblis and the National Research Council to support ongoing technical analyses regarding the off-site shipment of hydrolysate and secondary waste. The analyses are expected to be complete by summer 2008 and will support the ongoing ACWA acceleration assessment. Additional milestones ahead include the start of construction for the agent processing building at Pueblo and the completion of designs for the three main processing buildings at Blue Grass.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, known as ACWA, is responsible for the safe destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado and the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky.

Monthly status updates on chemical weapons destruction in Colorado and Kentucky can be found at www.pmacwa.army.mil.

For additional information, please contact the ACWA Communications and Congressional Affairs office at (410) 436-3398.