



Doug Hindman  
Chair

Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission  
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board  
105 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 206  
Richmond, KY 40475  
859.624.4700 / 859.986.7565



Kent Clark  
Craig Williams  
Co-Chairs

---

**Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and  
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting  
Summary of Action Items and Discussions  
June 10, 2008  
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)
- Systems Contractor
- Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG) Presentation on Agent Monitoring
- Blue Grass Chemical Activity (BGCA)

**Meeting Summary Structure**

This meeting summary is not intended to be a verbatim record of conversations, but instead will provide an overview of the discussions and next steps committed to by the government and various members of the CAC and 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](mailto:bgoutreach@bah.com).

**Action Items**

**Action Item:** Valerie Hudson is attending the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) national workshop in June. The topic is chemical demilitarization site closure. She requested that CAC and CDCAB members provide her with any questions they may have by e-mail to [valerie.hudson@ky.gov](mailto:valerie.hudson@ky.gov). She will present those questions during the CAC session.

**Responsible Entity:** CAC and CDCAB members

**Timeline:** June 13, 2008

**Action Item:** The Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office will notify CAC and CDCAB members of the availability to tour the BGCAPP construction site.

**Responsible Entity:** Rebecca Toy

**Timeline:** Aug. 31, 2008

**Action Item:** Craig Williams, executive director of the CWWG, will send an e-mail request to CAC and CDCAB members asking them to consider forming a Monitoring Working Group and to begin discussion on agent monitoring.

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams

**Timeline:** Sept. 9, 2008

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

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

Rebecca Toy welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted action items from the March 11 CDCAB meeting, which consisted of the following: Secondary Waste Working Group (SWWG) to schedule a public meeting as appropriate to discuss the static detonation chamber; Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) team to inform the CAC and CDCAB members of the public release of the Noblis report; and ACWA team to keep the CAC and CDCAB members informed of the progress associated with the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB). Craig Williams stated that the SWWG would meet with Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) and ACWA to receive an update on the status of the static detonation chamber applications. The outcome of that meeting will determine whether a public meeting is appropriate. Toy stated that Jim Fritsche and Mark Seely would be providing updates on the DDESB issue and the status of the Noblis report during their presentations.

### ***Opening Remarks – Bob Miller, CAC Member; Kent Clark, Madison County Judge-Executive and CDCAB Co-Chair; and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair***

On behalf of chair Doug Hindman, CAC member Bob Miller opened the meeting stating that the commission has moved forward with nominating Nora Shepherd and Sheila Pressley for the two vacant positions. Miller noted that once the nominees were approved by the governor's office, the commission would host an organizational meeting to acquaint and reacquaint members with the CAC's mission. CDCAB members will be invited to attend the meeting as well. Miller also reported that the commission had approved the March meeting minutes by e-mail and that moving forward, the CAC will use the meeting notes of the CAC and CDCAB as the notes of record for the governor-appointed commission. Miller congratulated Craig Williams for receiving an honorary doctorate of humanities degree. In addition, Miller stated that CAC member Valerie Hudson planned to attend the CSEPP national workshop and has requested that CAC and CDCAB members provide her with three to five questions or concerns for her to discuss during the national CAC discussion session.

Carl Richards, CDCAB member and Madison County Emergency Management Agency director, noted that the national workshop would be focused on chemical demilitarization plant close-out topics.

Hudson clarified that the first day of the conference included a session devoted to the national CAC community.

Williams asked why the focus of the workshop was on close-out procedures when the chemical weapons destruction plants in Pueblo, Colo., and Richmond, Ky., had multiple years remaining.

Richards explained that it was better for the CSEPP community to look ahead and consider lessons learned from other destruction sites in their planning efforts.

Williams asked that questions and concerns related to CSEPP be submitted to Hudson by e-mail by June 13.

Williams then welcomed attendees and new CDCAB members: Tammy Clemmons, sustainability coordinator at Berea College, and Charles Hickox, continuing education and outreach dean at Eastern Kentucky University. Williams noted that Col. Richard Mason's change of command ceremony was scheduled for July 16, and that he hopes to be invited to the event. He announced that Col. Mason's replacement was Col. Joseph Tirone. In addition, Williams noted that Lt. Col. Tom Closs would be transferring command of the chemical activity in July to Lt. Col. David Musgrave. He thanked Lt. Col. Closs for his service, openness, cooperativeness and acceptance with the community on behalf of the CWWG, CAC and CDCAB.

Judge Kent Clark welcomed attendees and stated that it was great to see a sizable crowd of people in attendance.

## **Key Updates**

### ***BGCAPP Update – Jim Fritsche, BGCAPP, 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 briefed the group on the following topics: BGCAPP mission and stockpile contents, staffing update, ongoing initiatives, update on technical analyses and stakeholder involvement.

He noted that ACWA and the systems contractor are working to avoid impacts to the construction schedule while they resolve DDESB's concerns with the design of the munitions demilitarization building (MDB). The DDESB has requested additional information regarding the design of the blast containment area for the building.

Fritsche also reported that the acceleration assessment was expected to be delivered to Congress by June 30. After that time, Noblis would be tasked with incorporating the data and then finalizing the report. He stated that the ACWA program manager will discuss the acceleration assessment with the CAC and CDCAB chairs in early July.

He provided a brief update on Operation *Swift Solution* regarding the submittal of the Temporary Authorization Permit (TAR).

Fritsche also discussed community and workforce safety precautions that are now in place, including severe weather and seismic event plans, installation of traffic beacon and highway striping, and ongoing coordination with local law enforcement to increase safety on U.S. Highway 52.

Williams asked about the timeline for receiving approval on the TAR and if the request had been submitted more than once. Leasue Meyers, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, responded that issues with the first submittal of the TAR had been resolved and the application was currently proceeding through the administrative review process. The next step includes a technical review. Williams suggested that the timeline for Operation *Swift Solution* was closer to fall. Jim Richmond confirmed that the project should be complete by December. Richmond stated that safety was and would continue to be the priority.

### ***Systems Contractor Update – Mark Seely, BPBG, 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).***

Mark Seely provided a detailed update on the project related to safety, design and construction. He highlighted the team's safety record, noting the completion of 2.8 million job hours without a lost-time injury. He noted that the design was approximately 83 percent complete and that the comment resolution phase was going well on final design packages for the three major processing buildings, noting specifically that all but 40 of 935 comments had been resolved. He reported that the design team had completed their transition from Pasadena, Calif., to Richmond, Ky., and that they were currently focused on completing the design for the plant.

Seely clarified that DDESB had approved the Site Safety Plan Submission, with the exception of the MDB blast design. He also added that BPBG had addressed all of DDESB's questions, awarded a contract for coupler testing and completed additional calculations. He reported that the Army had concurred with the current BPBG design approach and the team planned to meet with DDESB in June. He discussed project team adjustments such as resequencing construction activities to enable progress to continue, thus minimizing critical path recovery as a result of providing DDESB with additional data.

Seely also provided an update on Blue Grass Specific Equipment testing and fabrication process, acquisitions, current project staffing and recent community support activities.

He discussed construction work that had been completed, including roadway concrete, perimeter fencing, access road, active security vehicle barrier, access control building and associated utilities, temporary electrical substation, craft change house, badging facility and canopies for the access control point. He highlighted work in progress, which includes placing concrete for the control support building foundation, installing underground utilities, fire water system excavation and installation, storm drain excavation, personnel support and maintenance buildings and foundation for 138kV substation.

***Presentation on Agent Monitoring – Craig Williams, CWWG, Director***

***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).***

Williams, executive director of the CWWG, briefed committee members on chemical agent airborne monitoring and asked the group to consider forming a Monitoring Working Group to begin a discussion on agent monitoring. He explained that the purpose of the CWWG addressing the topic was to identify if there were options available to improve monitoring capabilities and to ensure the very best protection to the workforce at the BGCA and BGCAPP. He discussed recent history on advanced monitoring efforts, which included:

- The CWWG advocating for improved agent monitoring capabilities in 2003
- Sen. Jim Bunning securing appropriations and congressional language for deployment of improvement or advanced monitoring capabilities for the Blue Grass Army Depot in 2004
- The Technologies for Chemical Agent Detection workshop

Williams stated that there had been no concrete action to fulfill the intent of the congressional language put forth by Sen. Bunning and that between 1994 and 2004 the National Research Council (NRC) made numerous recommendations. He noted that his primary basis behind initiating the monitoring discussion is based on NRC reports (2002, 2005) on monitoring systems.

Williams stated that current monitoring appeared to be adequate, but he was confident that there are improved capabilities that could be incorporated. He recommended that the CAC and CDCAB follow the NRC's recommendations to stay apprised of advanced technology capabilities and on behalf of the CWWG, recommended the formation of a CDCAB working group to work with the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) and BGCA and others to fulfill the recommendation contained in the NRC reports, specifically the 2005 report. He recommended that the group allow Marsha Marsh to participate as a resource to the CWWG, as well as focus on the following:

- Incorporating the most recent detection advances in the area of Homeland Security and other like areas in the discussions surrounding agent monitoring
- Developing a completion date for the recommendations from the proposed CDCAB Monitoring Working Group to be submitted to CMA and ACWA regarding

deployment of advanced monitors for the activities associated with storage and demilitarization of the BGCA stockpile

He formally introduced Marsh and explained that she was on loan from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assist the CWWG with research on agent monitoring, among other things.

Miller asked Williams if he felt like the current monitoring system in use at BGCA was adequate.

Williams replied that he felt like the monitoring system was adequate, but that there were better monitoring systems available.

Miller then asked if there were specific technologies of interest and Williams replied yes, but did not elaborate on the options. Miller asked Lt. Col. Closs about his position on the monitoring system.

Lt. Col. Closs replied that the 2005 NRC report stated that BGCA had the most effective monitoring capability available. He stated that the system met all requirements and it was the safest and most effective technology available.

Williams responded that the 2005 NRC report included strong recommendations for alternative options to be considered. He added that he was uncomfortable with the current level of monitoring and was convinced that there are other improved capabilities. He added that the NRC didn't state that the BGCA had the safest monitoring system, but an adequate system.

Miller questioned if Williams felt like the system was inadequate or if he had higher expectations.

Williams responded that his goal was to concur with the NRC report and follow their recommendations to research advanced technologies.

Aaron Thompson, CAC member, asked if the group was specifically discussing the monitoring system or the people who operate it.

Lt. Col. Closs interjected that there was no better technology available. He noted that BGCA had advanced in terms of quantity of equipment and people.

Williams responded that he was confident that there were improved capabilities that could be incorporated. He recommended that the NRC's recommendations regarding researching advanced technologies be conducted. He stated that it was the CAC and CDCAB's obligation to follow the NRC's recommendations.

Miller asked Lt. Col. Closs what procedures were in place to keep up with technology. Williams responded to the question and noted that decisions regarding incorporating advanced technologies would be made by CMA.

Thompson questioned whether the group would have a better chance of identifying advanced technology options rather than the Army.

Bill Scott raised the issue of Williams speaking on behalf of the CWWG while acting as CDCAB co-chair and CAC member. He requested to know if the CWWG had any statutory authority.

Williams stated that he was representing the CWWG and proposing to the CDCAB and CAC to initiate discussions with CMA.

Miller questioned how the group would move forward with approving the recommendation based on the fact that the CDCAB is not a voting body. Williams offered that decisions were usually made by consensus or by lack of rejection. He offered to develop a specific recommendation and distribute it via e-mail. If no one responded, the recommendation would move forward.

Carl Richards raised concerns related to developing a working group. He advocated that CAC and CDCAB members read the 2005 NRC report before making any decisions to form a new working group. He cautioned the group on vendor practices and noted that the systems may not be as good as they sound and could very likely create a negative response such as upsetting the public with multiple false positive agent leaks. He stated that if the CAC and CDCAB formed a working group it would give the monitoring issue credibility and generate concern within the community. He asked Williams why he couldn't work it from the CWWG perspective.

Williams responded that the CAC and CDCAB could offer a more diverse and broader perspective. He noted that if the group determined not to proceed, he would work it from the CWWG perspective.

Robert Bagby, CDCAB member, asked if this topic was of interest to elected officials who were up for re-election.

Williams stated that the interest for new monitoring systems included a much broader audience.

As a result of differing opinions, the question was raised of how the group would make decisions moving forward. In regards to this specific recommendation to form a working group, Williams will distribute an e-mail outlining the proposal. Members will have the opportunity to object. If there are no objections, the recommendation will move forward.

Williams concluded his briefing by inviting CAC and CDCAB members to attend a BGCAPP construction site tour on June 11. Toy followed by noting the requirements for the tour.

### ***BGCA Report – Lt. Col. Tom Closs, BGCA, Commander***

Lt Col. Closs highlighted several BGCA employees and thanked them for their service and commitment to the program. He provided a brief storage update and highlighted the following activities: recent enhanced storage monitoring inspection, annual inventory evaluation and repalletization efforts, chemical limited area improvements and steel container monitoring activities. He noted several upcoming events, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new chemical laboratory, the change of command ceremony and Operation *Swift Solution*. He stated that his replacement was Lt. Col. David Musgrave.

Williams asked how often the igloo containing the steel containers was monitored and requested clarification on the monitoring process. Lt. Col. Closs explained that the igloo is monitored daily; five tubes are used to pull air from the igloo and analytical tests are performed on those samples. He further explained that BGCA chemical workers would be notified by an alarm if an agent leak was detected.

Williams also asked how many rockets were tested and how the sample selection was made. Lt. Col. Closs explained that the rockets were sampled by lot number based upon a quarterly requirement.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 9 at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Quads A and B.

### ***Closing Remarks – Bob Miller, CAC Member, and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair***

Miller and Williams closed the meeting by expressing appreciation to the BGCA workforce, Lt. Col. Closs for his service and the outreach office staff for organized meeting efforts.