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**Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting**  
**Summary of Action Items and Discussions**  
**March 11, 2008**  
**Eastern Kentucky University**  
**Richmond, Kentucky**

**Meeting Synopsis**

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

- Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA)
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP)
- Systems Contractor
- CDCAB Co-Chair's Report on Recent Congressional and Defense Actions
- Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) Chair's Report on Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on Public Notification

**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 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:** The secondary waste working group will schedule a public meeting as appropriate to discuss the static detonation chamber.

**Responsible Entity:** Craig Williams

**Timeline:** June 10, 2008

**Action Item:** The ACWA team will notify CDCAB and CAC members regarding the public release of the Noblis report.

**Responsible Entity:** Rebecca Toy, Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office  
**Timeline:** Upon Public Release

**Action Item:** The ACWA team will keep the CDCAB and CAC informed of progress associated with the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) effort.

**Responsible Entity:** Jim Fritsche, BGCAPP site project manager, and Mark Seely, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager

**Timeline:** As Appropriate

### **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 that action items from the December 7 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***

Craig Williams thanked everyone for taking time to attend a very important CDCAB meeting and stated that Judge Kent Clark was unable to attend, but sends his regards. He welcomed the following individuals who were sitting in for board members: Tony Hatton for Valerie Hudson, David Bengel for Mendi Goble, and Mark Klass for William Hilling. Williams commented on the recent media coverage on the DDESB anticipated disapproval of the munitions demilitarization building design and remarked that he did not tip the media. He stated that a reporter contacted him and because he felt that it was a rumor that needed to be clarified, he responded and directed the media to John Schlatter, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass public communications manager.

### **Key Updates**

#### ***ACWA Update – Kevin Flamm, ACWA Program 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).***

Kevin Flamm provided a programmatic update. He explained that the ACWA team was developing aggressive, or higher execution risk, acceleration concepts. He noted that destruction by 2012 is not feasible and that ACWA is looking at options to meet destruction by 2017. Flamm then described various activities and scenarios that were contributing to the assessment process. Flamm provided a status update on the Noblis and National Research Council (NRC) technical analyses. He explained that the Noblis

report was in draft format and would later be updated to incorporate the acceleration assessment data. He discussed the area of focus for the NRC analysis on secondary waste and noted that the report would be submitted to the government this fall. In regards to Operation *Swift Solution*, Flamm reviewed background information and the notional path forward. He noted that stakeholder feedback regarding medical support requirements was being included in the permit package that would be provided to the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP). Flamm concluded by providing information on the BGCAPP funding appropriations for Fiscal year 2008 and the President's budget request for Fiscal year 2009.

Tony Hatton, substitute CDCAB member and KDEP acting division of waste management director, asked what approach was being taken in regards to updating the life cycle cost estimate (LCCE) to reflect the acceleration assessment. Flamm responded that technical approaches and scenarios included in the acceleration assessment would influence how the LCCE is updated.

CDCAB members Bob Miller and David Benge, as well as an Estill County resident, asked questions about the Chemical Agent Transfer System (CHATS) and whether or not the technology was new or had been proven. Flamm stressed that the CHATS was not a new technology and had been safely used to destroy the agent at two other locations. Flamm noted that Operation *Swift Solution* would use the same neutralization recipe, as well as all chemical agent monitoring and safe guards that will be employed in the full-scale facility.

Dr. Paula Maionchi inquired about the emergency response plans and medical support concerning the BGCAPP workforce. Flamm, Jim Fritsche and Col. Richard Mason explained that existing plans between the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) and BGCAPP were compatible to activity associated with Operation *Swift Solution*. Col. Mason and Johnnie Allen stated that it was unlikely that the BGCAPP workforce would be in the area during the transfer of the steel containers from the igloo to the operations shelter, when an incident could occur outside of engineering controls.

Williams and Benge asked questions regarding the cost of the overall program through closure. Williams noted that the overall LCCE would decrease if the program met the 2017 deadline, but the funding level would increase in the upcoming years.

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

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Jim Fritsche provided the CDCAB with an update on BGCAPP's most recent accomplishments and initiatives which include: coordinating site visits for several groups

including congressional representatives, U.S. Army medical personnel, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency and the Madison County Board of Education; meeting with CAC and CDCAB representatives to discuss a path forward on public notification resulting from Aug. 27 steel container leak; reviewing critical design packages; and welcoming new ACWA staff members. Fritsche informed the board that 44 M60 rockets were shipped from the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to the Blue Grass Chemical Activity. He explained that the training rockets will be used to test the rocket cutting and rocket shear machines that are currently being planned for testing in Fiscal year 2011. Fritsche discussed the project's current challenge of working with the DDESB. He explained that ACWA was anticipating receiving two letters from DDESB, one letter disapproving of the recent designs of a section of the munitions demilitarization building and the other providing approval to move forward with other construction projects.

Williams asked if the DDESB was likely to be responsive to ACWA in regards to reviewing data, and Flamm replied that the DDESB was working with the team in a collaborative effort.

Doug Hindman, CDCAB member, asked about the review process leading up to the design submission to DDESB and why it was just now evident that the design submission was not adequate. Fritsche and Mark Seely, systems contractor project manager, explained that the review process involved the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and government staff. Seely noted that the review of the munitions demilitarization building had been ongoing since November 2007.

Bill Scott, community member, asked about the storage life of the chemical weapons. Fritsche noted that recent studies indicate that there is no immediate risk.

Jeanne Hibberd, CDCAB member, asked if there were any other concerns regarding the design, and Fritsche replied that no other concerns had been identified.

Seely added that safety was paramount.

***Systems Contractor Update – Mark Seely, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, Project Manager***

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Mark Seely provided the CDCAB with an update on the progress that the systems contractor had made since the December board meeting. He provided an update on the project's safety record and noted that BGCAPP employees have worked more than 2.6 million job hours without a lost time-injury.

He explained that the design of the pilot plant was more than 82 percent complete and that final design packages of three major processing buildings had been submitted to the government for review. He updated the board on the design team's transition from Pasadena, Calif. to Richmond and noted that the current local design staff was at 45 and would peak at 60 during the next two years. Seely also explained that the systems contractor was working to resolve DDESB questions on blast protection in the munitions demilitarization building.

Seely highlighted the construction projects that have been completed, as well as ongoing tasks. Completed projects include: roadway concrete, perimeter fencing, access road, active security vehicle barrier, access control building and associated utilities, temporary electrical substation and craft change house. He also discussed ongoing construction projects including: installation of underground utilities, fire water system excavation and installation, storm drain excavation, badging facility, personnel support building and maintenance building.

Seely also provided an update on acquisitions and noted that more than 60 percent of all construction awards went to Kentucky businesses.

He clarified that the Blue Grass Specific Process Equipment is unique to the pilot plant, including the energetics batch hydrolyzer and metal parts treater, and required special testing and fabrication. He explained that the energetics batch hydrolyzer would be used to neutralize explosive components of weapons; that the metal parts treater would be used to heat munitions bodies and other metal parts to ensure all agent is destroyed; and that all Blue Grass Specific Process Equipment would require special testing and fabrication.

Benge and Robert Bagby asked questions associated with hiring for craft labor, and an Estill County resident asked that the systems contractor not forget about surrounding counties resource capabilities.

Greg Kocher, *Lexington Herald-Leader* reporter, asked about upcoming discussions with DDESB and about other facilities that use the same type of design that BPBG is proposing.

Seely explained that the systems contractor planned to meet with DDESB to talk through their concerns. The goal is to confirm that the BGCAPP team is collecting appropriate data and completing the testing that DDESB requires in order to approve the design.

Williams stated that his staff and team of consultants were reviewing the NRC's report on the metal parts treater and noted that there were no major objections.

Seely noted that the NRC's report indicated that the metal parts treater would work and offered recommendations on additional testing options.

### ***CDCAB Co-Chair Report – Craig Williams, Co-Chair***

Williams announced that the CAC would be meeting following the CDCAB meeting to discuss the formal recommendation presented by Hindman to combine the Kentucky CAC and CDCAB meetings. Williams reminded board members that the proposal was distributed for review and that no feedback was submitted. He stated that unless issues were raised, the proposal would move forward.

Williams provided a briefing on recent congressional and defense actions impacting the chemical weapons destruction projects in Colorado and Kentucky. He included a conference report which noted the establishment of the 2017 deadline; the letter provided to Sen. Mitch McConnell from Secretary of Defense Robert Gates; excerpts from the white paper on the Fiscal year 2009 President's budget request for the ACWA program; and a proposed bill that would prohibit the transport of hydrolysate.

Bryan Makinen, Dr. Maionchi, and Scott, community members, questioned the CDCAB's concerns related to off-site shipment of hydrolysate.

Williams responded that it would not be appropriate for him to speak for all CDCAB members but that he could provide data that indicates off-site shipment of hydrolysate is not a favorable option. He did note that it was an emotional issue for many people. Carl Richards, CDCAB member, stated that he didn't want the hydrolysate shipped for the following reasons: it could result in the depot storing millions of gallons of hydrolysate if an intended transportation storage disposal facility (TSDF) decided not to accept the waste; no data supports actual cost savings; and it would result in additional toxic materials on the highways. Hindman added that the community has absorbed the risk for years and deserves the additional jobs that the supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) facility would provide. Hibberd added that it was an environmental justice issue.

Dr. Maionchi noted that the community needed to understand that by building the SCWO facility, there was an unknown risk associated with the future uses. She explained that the "unknown" governor could decide to use the facility as a waste treatment plant.

Benge asked whether or not there were legal problems with shipping hydrolysate and Flamm responded that there were no laws against shipping hydrolysate.

### ***CAC Report on Ad Hoc Meeting on Public Notification – Doug Hindman, Chair***

Doug Hindman provided CDCAB members with an update on the ad hoc meeting regarding public notification. He stated that the Blue Grass Chemical Activity commander and public affairs officer, as well as the BGAD public affairs officer, agreed to add CDCAB and CAC members to their public notification list.

Miller asked that the language provided in the public notifications be carefully crafted for general consumption so that the message would not sound alarming.

***Next CDCAB Meeting***

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, at the Eastern Kentucky University's Carl D. Perkins Building, Quads A and B.

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

Williams asked that Flamm and Seely keep the CDCAB informed of progress made in the context of the DDESB effort.