

Draft



Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
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Doug Hindman
Chair

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Co-Chairs

**Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB) Meeting
Summary of Action Items and Discussions
March 10, 2009
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
- Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA)
- Secondary Waste Working Group (SWWG) and Monitoring Working Group (MWG)

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.

Action Items

Action Item: Rev. Robert Blythe asked for more detail from Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass regarding the disadvantaged/minority-owned business category for project acquisitions.

Responsible Entity: Mark Seely

Timeline: Before the June 9 meeting, with results to be reported at that meeting.

Action Item: Craig Williams asked about creating a working group for looking into the explosive destruction technology. He will circulate notice to CAC/CDCAB members and will identify working group members and convene before the next meeting.

Responsible Entity: Craig Williams

Timeline: Before the June 9 meeting, with results to be reported at that meeting.

Action Item/Comment: Craig Williams requested a decision on hydrolysate as soon as possible, and asked that if a decision was made, that the public be informed as soon as appropriate, and that it not be held until the next meeting. He also asked that ACWA bring forth the revised funding profile in the same manner.

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Susan Kahler, Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Susan Kahler welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the action items from the December 9 CDCAB meeting, which consisted of the following: 1) Howard Baker had asked for the future cost of conventional weapons per ton through reuse of a possible Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) or BGCAPP supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) unit and 2) Doug Hindman had asked the commission members to think of ways to notify the public in the event of a decision for off-site disposal of hydrolysate.

BGAD looked into the reuse topic and determined that it was very involved and would like further clarification from Baker in order to focus its response. He was not present.

In regards to the public notification for off-site disposal of hydrolysate, Hindman asked that the action item remain pending, until the time of the decision.

Opening Remarks – Doug Hindman, CAC Chair; Kent Clark, Madison County Judge-Executive and CDCAB Co-Chair; and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair

Doug Hindman, CAC chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked participants for their time.

Craig Williams gave apologies from Judge Clark, Howard Baker and Tammy Clemmons, who were all unable to attend the meeting. He congratulated all those involved with the Operation *Swift Solution* mission and said it was a good example of cooperative effort on the government side. He said projects like this were a good demonstration of how things can get accomplished when everyone is pulling together.

Key Updates

BGCAPP Update – Ralph Collins, BGCAPP, Acting 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.

Ralph Collins gave an update on the BGCAPP project. He highlighted that at the next meeting, the steel containers listed as part of the stockpile inventory will be removed from the introductory slide of his presentation since they would be completely destroyed at the conclusion of Operation *Swift Solution*. He noted new government employees hired since the last meeting; discussed the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) blast-wall redesign and the project's hope to get Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB) approval by May or early June. He also addressed the balance of construction contract; the move of project employees to the Richmond Mall; and the availability of the speakers bureau program.

Robert Miller asked what kinds of questions were typically received at Speakers Bureau events. Collins said he had presented to a Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program conference, and their questions were mostly on Operation *Swift Solution*. Mark Seely said he had presented to a group of school children, and they were most interested in how long the project would last and how many people were employed. Miller asked if there had been any "bomb" questions, and Seely said no.

Kevin Atkins asked if DDESB approval of the blast-wall redesign was assured; Collins said he hoped to get resolution on the design in the next couple weeks and then timing would be determined by how it moves through the review chain. He saw no reason why approval would be denied. Atkins asked what the redesign had done to the schedule, and Seely answered it would cost about five months if they get approval in May or early June, but they were looking at construction sequencing to possibly regain some of that time.

Hindman asked for a recap of where the site was in the construction process, and Collins said that would be a good segue into Seely's presentation.

Williams congratulated Collins on becoming the acting site project manager (SPM), asked how long he would be in that position, who the next SPM would be and if Collins would stay on as deputy to the new SPM. Collins said yes, he would like to stay on the project until January 2011 and that the topic of the new SPM would be addressed in Joe Novad's briefing.

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

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Mark Seely provided an update on the systems contractor's progress including the safety record; the pilot plant design; the concrete placements for the MDB foundation and the erection of a mock wall; the move of personnel into the Personnel Support Building and the Maintenance Building; Blue Grass specific equipment; and local acquisitions. He

noted the owner of one of Bechtel's on-site subcontractors was recently announced as the Kentucky Small Business Person of the Year by the Kentucky Small Business Administration.

Bill Scott asked how "local" was defined in reference to project acquisitions, and Seely replied it was the seven-county surrounding area.

As part of the systems contractor briefing, the Constructive Attitude Toward Safety, or CATS, team spoke about the BGCAPP project's employee-centered approach to safety. Jeff Weldon, safety supervisor, spoke about safety being a core value and not a priority, since priorities change. Gail Ditsch, senior safety specialist, explained the program and why people-based safety works – it is a "no name, no blame" program and people watch out for one other. Grover Adams, electrician, added that the CATS team promotes good work practices and reviews their findings with members who are being observed.

As part of the systems contractor briefing, Joanne Torrico, human resources manager, gave insight to the project staffing procedures. She discussed the process involved in filing an open position, their efforts to recruit potential local applicants and ongoing communication between the Blue Grass and Pueblo human resources teams to share best practices.

Rev. Robert Blythe asked how the categories and goals were established for project acquisitions. His concern was there was no category stated for minority-owned businesses. Seely noted that the categories are prescribed by the U. S. Small Business Administration, and that minority-owned business is covered under the "small disadvantaged business" group. Seely offered to set up a meeting with Blythe, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass and government personnel regarding breaking the issue down in more detail and explanation of the "mentor to success" program.

Hindman asked what a "HUB Zone" was, and Seely replied it was a historically underutilized business and there could be cross-over between groups.

Williams said he was thinking the same as Blythe and would also like more detail on minority owned businesses. He then stated that historically on job sites there was a concern that if employees raised safety concerns they would be retaliated against, so it encouraged him to hear the "no name, no blame" part of the CATS team presentation. According to him, there have been many whistle blowers at other chemical demilitarization sites, and it seems the CATS team is addressing this proactively. He offered his congratulations.

Williams reported he had recently received an anonymous memo related to the quality of materials being used at the site. He looked into it and brought the concern to Seely, who gave an in-depth response to his concerns. The response was taken to a state agency for validation, and the agency concurred with Seely's response. He believes the issue is resolved. He said he was sharing this concern because it emphasizes that problems can be raised and resolved through a process of interaction between the contractor, state

government, etc. Scott asked how the issue was resolved. Williams said there had been an overarching allegation about a supplier who had apparently was having problems in other areas of the state, but the issue was not applicable at BGCAPP. In addition, steps were taken by that contractor to ensure the site product was over and above state requirements. This was checked through the contractor, state overseers and the company itself.

Ed Harbour, head ironworker, said there were 26 ironworkers at the site. They had all become good friends and it was a gift to him that he worked with people who all had the authority to stop an action or process if they see something wrong. He said the site safety program was very good and there was nothing silly about it.

ACWA Update – Joe Novad, ACWA, Deputy Program Manager for Operations and Engineering

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Joe Novad announced that Jeff Brubaker would be the new BGCAPP SPM and would be on board in July. He provided an Operation *Swift Solution* update, and noted that the National Research Council (NRC) report on explosive destruction technologies (EDT) was just released. He referenced challenges that the Tooele Chemical Agent Demilitarization Facility was having accessing the agent in certain munitions due to burster issues, and that BGCAPP might experience similar challenges. He offered that EDT might assist in mitigating this issue. He asked the CAC and CDCAB for a preferred public involvement mechanism for discussing EDTs by June.

Sheila Pressley asked if Novad was looking for input or a decision by June, and Novad said he was looking for input as they were still gathering information.

Williams asked if EDT was originally investigated for destroying leakers in Pueblo, and if this would still be its purpose in Pueblo. Novad said yes, and EDT would be used for leakers and plant rejects (any contaminated bursters or munitions where the explosive components could not be removed). Williams asked if the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Demilitarization System had burster removal problems, and Novad said the problems were only with the HD mustard munitions. He added that BGCAPP has lot numbers identical to Tooele's, and from Tooele's reports, the burster issues were limited to mustard. Williams asked if it were feasible, in munitions where the burster has deteriorated and the agent mixed with the explosives, to handle that with the hydrolyzer. Novad said that if the burster was broken, workers would not be able to access the agent and there is no provision for that in the design right now. Seely stated the issue is with access, that raw munitions could not be taken into the SCWO. There was some discussion of creating a working group to look into the EDT information.

Hindman stated he had received a message from Toivio Puro regarding a recent *Lexington Herald-Leader* article on the completion of *Swift Solution* operations. Puro

emphasized it was regarding *Swift Solution* and had nothing to do with the stockpile. He restated Puro's position that incineration should be used to destroy the chemical weapons.

In reference to the formation of an EDT working group, Jeanne Hibberd said she thought the SWWG has already dealt with the EDT issue previously, and while they didn't cover all of the issues, they would be the appropriate group to handle that topic. Williams agreed and said there was an early-on Design Working Group, and he would ask those members to join the SWWG efforts.

Williams then noted the "excitement" of getting a big report the day before a meeting, noted the usage of the four different EDTs, and asked if there was actual data available to look at. The answer was yes. He hoped the decision would be faster than that of hydrolysate.

Secondary Waste and Monitoring Working Groups Update – Craig Williams, CDCAB, Co-Chair

Williams said the SWWG last met on Oct. 8, 2008, regarding Operation *Swift Solution* hydrolysate shipment issues and subsequently brought the recommendation forward to Kevin Flamm, ACWA program manager, that hydrolysate be shipped off site. The CWWG coordinated with the activist community in Port Arthur, Texas, and reached an understanding this was an abnormal circumstance and received concurrence with the knowledge that the CDCAB had recommended it. They have not met since about stockpile secondary waste. They sent representatives to Washington, D.C. to the public forum regarding the NRC report and are still awaiting official decision from ACWA and their superiors in regard to the hydrolysate decision.

He reported that the MWG met on March 3, 2009. Six CDCAB members, Lt. Col. Musgrave and Greg St. Pierre from the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) were present. Curt Wilhide from the Joint Program Executive Office (JPEO), an entity that examines and identifies monitoring capability for Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear defense briefed via phone. Williams noted he appreciated the complexity in moving forward with approval and implementation of supplemental monitoring. He also understands Lt. Col. Musgrave's position, as far as levels of complexity in decision-making above him. The group discussed one of six technologies that the MWG had brought to CMA to send to JPEO – the MINICAMS (Miniature Continuous Air Monitoring System). He reported that discussion was lively and interesting and there was good input from the CDCAB and exchanges with Lt. Col. Musgrave and St. Pierre. They decided that the next step would be Lt. Col. Musgrave briefing the MWG some time next month on detailed specifics on the current monitoring regime and areas that can be improved upon, and activities that have changed because of Sen. Bunning's bill/legislation in 2004.

Next CAC and CDCAB Meeting

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

Closing Remarks – Doug Hindman, CAC Chair, and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair

Hindman thanked everyone for their attendance and said the group would try to get new members up to speed. He added that they know they go through a lot of material quickly.

Williams said "Likewise."