



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

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www.pmacwa.army.mil

Acting site project manager named for chemical weapons destruction pilot plant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RICHMOND, Ky. -- Ralph Collins, deputy site project manager for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP), will temporarily fill the position vacated by retiring site project manager James Fritsche until a permanent replacement is named, according to the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA) officials in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Fritsche retired Feb. 2 after serving as the government's lead since June 2004. Collins joined the team as its deputy in November 2005.

"I'm delighted to be selected to fill in for Jim," said Collins. "I look forward to continuing the progress we're making on the site and maintaining a good and open relationship with the public about our progress."

A certified hazardous materials manager, Collins has garnered over 40 years of experience working with both public and private sectors as an environmental, energy and materials manager.

He has worked with federal agencies planning responses to emergencies such as natural disasters, accidental releases of hazardous materials, the cleanup of hazardous waste sites and the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles.

An active duty naval officer for 26 years, Collins later served eight years as the deputy commissioner for the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection. He represented the commonwealth on the ACWA Dialogue, a national group which consisted of representatives from the Department of Defense; state, tribal and federal government regulators; and diverse citizen interest groups.

Collins also co-chaired the Kentucky Environmental Working Integrated Process Team. This organization brought together state and Army officials to expedite the planning, development and implementation of all aspects of the environmental permitting process for the BGCAPP.

He has a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from Ohio State University, a master's degree in business administration from the University of Kansas and a master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

For more information on the project and its Pueblo counterpart, please go to <http://www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky/main.htm>.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant
Public Affairs Office at (859) 624-6326 or visit www.pmacwa.army.mil.