



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

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First Major Concrete Placement Begins for Munitions Demilitarization Building at BGCAPP

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RICHMOND, Ky. – Construction workers at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) achieved another milestone recently, as they completed the first major concrete placement for the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB).

After delays caused by cold weather and an ice storm, placement of more than 300 cubic yards of concrete was completed on Feb. 7, according to Terry Stroschein, BGCAPP resident engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He added that this represents the first substantial concrete placement work on the main processing building for the plant.

The 87,000-square-foot MDB is the facility where the chemical weapons will be disassembled, explosives removed, and the agent neutralized. Moreover, this is the first time a facility will be constructed to neutralize GB and VX chemical agents that are contained in rocket munitions, according to Ralph Collins, the Army's acting site project manager.

"This placement is a critical part of the project," said Collins. "Each placement of concrete occurs in sections which contain substantial reinforcing for strength. The building is huge and its foundation consists of many separate concrete placements. Because of delays in getting design approval for the explosive containment areas, we have started with the non-explosive areas. When you include the work to complete the vertical walls of the explosive containment area, it will take us nearly two years to complete the entire concrete placement effort."

Up until Feb. 7, when the concrete placement began for the MDB, the completed buildings on the site included auxiliary support structures for personnel and maintenance, said Gary Cough, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass site construction manager.

"The weather has been a factor for us," he said. "When it is below freezing, we have safety concerns for our workers, such as potential cold weather injuries. The batch plant (concrete supplier) can't supply us if it is below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. We have to wait for the temperature to rise to above 15 degrees."

The concrete is placed in a checkerboard pattern, with some areas as thick as 40 inches. Before placement, ironworkers install reinforcing rods for added strength, and once the concrete is placed, cement workers smooth it, finishing the surface.

Cough, who began working on the project in February 2006, noted that a project of this size takes a large workforce with carpenters, ironworkers, cement finishers, laborers, and surveyors. Most of the workers are local, he added.

"The concrete supplier sends a representative to our site to be a part of the coordination effort with the 35 concrete trucks and getting them on to the site, as well as tracking the quality of the concrete," he said. "The finale of the process coming together takes lots of people and lots of planning. It really fits our project motto, 'Many talents, one goal.'"

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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.

Photo Thumbnails, Cutlines and Credits:



Photo 1 (worker constructing wood framing): A Bechtel Parsons construction worker builds framing for the first major concrete placement for the foundation of the Munitions Demilitarization Building at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Photo by Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office



Photo 2 (concrete flowing from chute): Concrete flows from a chute into a wire-reinforced form as part of the first major concrete placement for the foundation of the Munitions Demilitarization Building at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

Photo by Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office



Photo 3 (worker directing concrete spout): A Bechtel Parsons construction worker spreads concrete during the first major concrete placement for the Munitions Demilitarization Building at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant.

Photo by Bechtel Parson Blue Grass