



Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant

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Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Awarded Key Environmental Permit

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PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT, Colo. – Construction of the final stage of the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant was given the green light by Colorado authorities today with the issuance of a Class 3 modification to the facility's initial Research, Development and Demonstration Permit. The plant, now under construction at the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot, will safely destroy the depot's stockpile of mustard-agent-filled munitions.

Issued by the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), this permit modification is of particular importance because it allows the completion of facilities and systems designed to process and destroy the chemical agent. Earlier stages of the permit limited the project's contractor, the Bechtel Pueblo Team, to site preparation work and the construction of support buildings. To capitalize on rapid construction progress, the state health department has granted several Temporary Authorizations that allowed the project team to begin preliminary foundation and structural work on the portions of the plant associated with agent and munition processing.

"The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has done a tremendous job in ensuring that we meet the highest standards of safety and environmental protection," said government site project manager Gary M. Anderson, "while going the extra mile to help us maintain and increase the momentum of our construction effort."

"My mission," said Depot Commander Lt. Col. Christopher K. Chesney "is the safe, secure storage of the chemical weapons stockpile and a seamless transition to its neutralization and disposal. The granting of the stage three permit moves us all closer to the goal we share with all Colorado citizens, the safe, expeditious destruction of the Pueblo chemical stockpile."

Bechtel Pueblo Team project manager Paul Henry agreed and expressed his thanks for the teamwork between the State, the Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and the greater Pueblo community. "The permitting process is necessarily thorough and complex," said Henry, "but with the cooperation and hard work of State authorities, Pueblo county and city officials, the CAC and the support of many local citizens, we have a permit here that will allow us to get this job done right and on time."

This Class 3 modification to the Research, Development and Demonstration Permit, is issued under the authority of the Colorado hazardous waste regulations and will become effective within 30 days. No hazardous waste management activities will be allowed under this permit. Additional permit changes will be required before the plant is allowed to commence agent destruction operations.

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is being designed, built, tested, operated and closed under a contract awarded in 2002 to the Bechtel Pueblo Team. The project is overseen by the U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, which is responsible directly to the Department of Defense for the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the chemical stockpiles at both Pueblo and the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Kentucky.