



Doug Hindman
Chair

Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
105 5th Street, Suite 206
Richmond, KY 40475
859.624.4700 / 859.986.7565



Kent Clark
Craig Williams
Co-Chairs

**Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission and
Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board Meeting
Summary of Action Items and Discussions
September 9, 2008
Eastern Kentucky University
Richmond, Kentucky**

Meeting Synopsis

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

- U.S. Army Element, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA)
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP)
- Secondary Waste and Monitoring Working Groups
- Environmental Forum

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 Kentucky Chemical Demilitarization Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC) and Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (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: Craig Williams will work with a representative from the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency to set up a meeting with the Joint Program Executive Office (JPEO) to discuss monitoring technologies.

Responsible Entity: Craig Williams

Timeline: Sept. 30, 2008

Outline of Key Issues and Discussions

Welcome and Introductions – Stephanie Parrett, Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

Stephanie Parrett welcomed the attendees, reviewed the meeting agenda and noted action items from the June 10 CAC/CDCAB meeting, which consisted of the following: CAC/CDCAB members to provide questions or comments to Valerie Hudson to address during the CAC session of the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program State and Local Forum; Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office to provide CAC/CDCAB members with an available date to tour the pilot plant construction site; and Craig Williams, Chemical Weapons Working Group, to e-mail committee members regarding the establishment of a Monitoring Working Group. Hudson stated that no questions or comments were received from members. Parrett reported that CAC/CDCAB members had been invited to tour the construction site on Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Williams stated that the Monitoring Working Group had been established, and he would provide an update later in the meeting.

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

CAC/CDCAB chairs welcomed members of the group and residents. CDCAB co-chairs referenced the Sen. Mitch McConnell and Rep. Ben Chandler tour and praised the progress being made onsite and encouraged members of the committee and board to attend the site tour.

Slides of all presentations are available by contacting the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944 or bgoutreach@bah.com.

Key Updates

ACWA Update – Kevin Flamm, ACWA, Program Manager

Kevin Flamm opened the presentation portion of the meeting with an update on acceleration, technical analyses reports and Operation *Swift Solution*. Flamm provided background information on the legislation driving the acceleration assessment and how the ACWA program had worked with Congress to combine requirements resulting in submittal of semi-annual reports (twice a year). He presented a timeline of the reports and activities related to the assessment. He explained that the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team reviewed the reports to ensure that the information provided was achievable. However, he also emphasized that the site team's participation in the assessment was limited to this review, as he wanted to minimize distractions from the mission on the ground. He explained the challenges related to the funding requirements for the chemical demilitarization program. He stated that additional information would be provided in the Fiscal Year 2010 budget process, and that ACWA officials would continue to work closely with the Department of Defense on acceleration.

Flamm described the three acceleration options that were provided in the semi-annual report in June. He stated that the headquarters team was focused on option three from the report, which is to accelerate the ACWA program by increasing staff, re-phasing schedule, conducting 24/7 destruction operations and using an explosive destruction technology to destroy Kentucky mustard munitions. He noted that for the Colorado stockpile 2017 appears achievable at a 50 percent confidence level, but additional time would be needed for the Kentucky stockpile. He explained that a new funding profile is required to accelerate the program.

Bob Miller, CAC member, asked if the commission was the cause of the Kentucky chemical weapons site needing additional time to destroy the stockpile.

Flamm stated that the CAC is not a factor. He explained that Kentucky was one year behind Colorado in terms of construction and that the Blue Grass stockpile includes a mix of munitions with small quantities, which means the pilot plant will continually be doing short destruction runs of multiple kinds of munitions and agents. He compared this with Colorado, which only has mustard munitions and will require no agent changeovers.

Craig Williams asked about a phrase in Flamm's PowerPoint presentation regarding the program not being approved by the administration as one of the hurdles we have to overcome to accelerate when there was an international treaty directive.

Flamm responded that it was a checks and balances process. He clarified that DoD has to do due diligence and agree that the destruction of the stockpiles is achievable and the impact on other programs has been identified. He added that regardless of the treaty, ACWA's goal is to eliminate the stockpile as quickly and as safely as possible.

Kevin Atkins, Sen. McConnell's field representative, asked if Kentucky could complete destruction by 2018 and Flamm declined to put a timeframe on the destruction of the stockpile.

Flamm then provided an update on the ongoing Noblis analysis and National Research Council studies. Flamm received several questions regarding the confidence in the supercritical water oxidation process. He replied to the questions by stating that there was no reason to think that the process will not operate as intended. However, he caveated this statement noting that neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation has never before been utilized on this scale, and that at any time he reserves the right to decide to make changes in the program to achieve the destruction mission.

Flamm also provided an update on Operation *Swift Solution*. He provided background information on the effort and on the chosen destruction technology. He noted the progress underway at the site and the requirement of a second Temporary Authorization Request, which contained details regarding the treatment of the secondary waste generated by the neutralization process. He highlighted that ACWA officials met with the Secondary Waste Working Group in July and reminded board members that his approach for secondary waste disposal was off-site shipment of the wastes. He stated that the

team had evaluated two treatment storage and disposal facilities. He concluded by stating that the goal was to begin destruction operations in October.

BGCAPP Update – Jim Fritsche, BGCAPP, Site Project Manager

Jim Fritsche followed Flamm's presentation providing commission and board members with information on the following: staffing changes, make-up of Blue Grass stockpile, new Blue Grass Army Depot and Blue Grass Chemical Activity commanders, redesign of the munitions demilitarization building and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) role in the process and outreach events.

Miller asked if the cost of the project would increase as a result of the redesign and Fritsche explained that it did not increase the cost of building the munitions demilitarization building, but would cost \$2 million to redesign.

Doug Hindman asked if role of the COE has been expanded and Fritsche replied that it had not been, but he wanted to provide information on their role.

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

Mark Seely began his presentation by recognizing that the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass workforce had accomplished 3 million man hours without a lost-time injury. He described the construction team's attitude toward safety and explained that all of the craft workers were responsible for safety observations.

Seely provided an update on design and noted that the majority of the engineering group had been relocated to Kentucky. The remaining design projects include finalizing the designs of nine small packages in 2009 and 2010 that are not on the critical path. He expanded on the redesign effort stating that the approach was geared toward a more traditional design. He added that redesign started in early July and would be complete in 2009. Further, construction had been re-sequenced to allow for continued progress and to reduce delays.

Seely covered the work in progress, which includes: installation of 138 kV electrical substation, concrete placement for control support building foundation, layout and excavation of the munitions demilitarization building, completion of the personnel support and maintenance buildings and fabrication of the Blue Grass specific equipment.

David Benge, CDCAB member, asked when the community could expect construction to be completed and Seely explained that it was dependent upon the funding profile.

Various board members asked questions related to acceleration in regards to construction. Flamm requested that those questions be ceased as the answers were related to the details of the acceleration assessment, which is not available for public release.

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

Williams provided the CAC/CDCAB members with an update on the Secondary Waste Working Group meeting that took place on July 22, which focused on Operation *Swift Solution*. He stated that the resulting action items from the meeting were as follows: Blue Grass Chemical Activity to provide information on where currently generated hazardous wastes are sent; ACWA to provide analytical methods and testing results related to *Swift Solution* waste; and ACWA to present, discuss and review possible portable/mobile on-site treatment options with the working group. Williams stated that the quantity of waste was discussed, along with treatment options, including continued storage at the Blue Grass Chemical Activity, mobile on-site treatment and off-site treatment to a commercial treatment storage and disposal facility. He then outlined the disadvantages and advantages of each of the disposal options concluding the presentation with the notation that ACWA's preferred method of treatment was off-site shipment. Williams stressed the importance of identifying the outreach efforts that would take place if off-site shipment occurred.

Ron Hardert, community resident, asked how many contaminated military facilities or installations existed globally.

Williams responded that he couldn't speak to that broad topic, but referenced the chemical weapons stockpile sites across the United States, the non-stockpile program and the past practice of ocean dumping.

Williams also provided an update on the Monitoring Working Group providing information on the meetings that took place in July, August and September. He reminded the group that the Chemical Weapons Working Group had an individual on loan from the Environmental Protection Agency. He reported that the individual had been doing research in the area of monitoring technologies and had developed a short list of potential options. Williams noted that the criteria for monitoring technologies had not been agreed upon. The group's path forward includes setting up a meeting with officials from the JPEO and interested parties to discuss the criteria, recently reviewed technologies and preliminary reviews of the working group's recommended technologies.

Environmental Forum Report – Valerie Hudson, CDCAB, Member

Valerie Hudson concluded the presentation portion of the meeting by briefly highlighting the CAC discussion that took place at the Environmental Forum. Hudson stated that seven sites were represented at the forum and the primary concern voiced was safety. She also noted that CAC's role had been expanded through closure rather than through the conclusion of operations.

Hudson provided the agenda and three key presentations that were distributed at the Environmental Forum. She noted that she had copies of all of the PowerPoint documents that were provided and offered to share them with board members upon request.

Hudson reported that the Indiana CAC had recently folded. Williams asked if the law establishing the CAC had been changed to require all of the advisory commissions to be active through closure. Hudson replied that the original law disengaged the CAC once operations were complete, but that the law had been updated to extend the CAC's mission through closure.

Williams stated that the closure process was complicated and significant because some infrastructure can be used for other purposes. He noted there was interest in the reusable structures and equipment for potential use at BGAD.

Flamm stated that the Newport chemical demilitarization facility was in the closure phase. Miller asked why the Indiana CAC was disbanded and Hudson stated that it was the CAC's decision to dissolve.

Next CDCAB Meeting

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

Closing Remarks – Bob Miller, CAC Member, and Craig Williams, CDCAB Co-Chair

Hindman and Williams closed the meeting by thanking members and the audience for their time and encouraged members to attend the BGCAPP construction site tour.