

## Blue Grass Winter 2003

### Contact Us

#### Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

370 Highland Park Drive  
Suite 2  
Richmond, KY 40475  
(859) 626-8944

#### Outreach Office Hours

Monday–Friday  
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Other hours by appointment

#### BGCA Public Affairs Officer

(859) 625-6897

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(859) 625-6221

## DoD announces Blue Grass stockpile destruction preference

### *Neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation named 'agency-preferred alternative'*

Following a comprehensive evaluation process including independent assessments for safety, environmental and operational risks, Department of Defense (DoD) officials recently designated neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation, or SCWO, as the agency-preferred technology for full-scale pilot testing at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky., to destroy its chemical weapons stockpile.

The agency-preferred alternative refers to the technology that the DoD believes would fulfill its mission and responsibilities, giving primary consideration to safety, environmental and technical factors. The agency-preferred alternative will be identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons at Blue Grass Army Depot.

The evaluation process for full-scale pilot testing considered the incineration process and the following three alternative technologies:

- Neutralization followed by SCWO
- Neutralization followed by SCWO and gas phase chemical reduction
- Electrochemical oxidation with silver and nitric acid

The designation of the agency-preferred alternative does not eliminate either of the other technologies from further consideration.

The next step in the decision process involves publishing the Final Environmental Impact Statement. Following that, the Defense Acquisition Executive will select a technology for full-scale pilot testing at Blue Grass. This technology decision will be documented in a Record of Decision, which is expected in early 2003.

### **What is neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation?**

- Munitions are disassembled by modified reverse assembly. Agent and energetics are separated.
- Agent and energetics are chemically decomposed and neutralized by caustic or water hydrolysis. The resulting chemical compounds are known as hydrolysates.
- The agent and energetics hydrolysates are destroyed using supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) units. SCWO subjects the hydrolysates to high temperature and pressure, causing a break down into carbon dioxide, water and salts.
- Metal parts are thermally decontaminated to a 5X level (free of agent contamination) in a heated discharge conveyor.
- Dunnage is sized-reduced and destroyed in the SCWO.
- Solid effluents are recycled or tested prior to disposal in permitted landfills.
- Gas effluents are recycled or filtered and monitored before being released into the atmosphere.



*Outreach Office staff members recently provided information folders about the U.S. Army's chemical weapons disposal program to more than 100 residents of the Madison Towers residential complex in Richmond. Ann Nebesho, a resident, participated in the event.*

## **Technology decision spurs increased community interest**

As the announcement date nears regarding the method of destruction for the Blue Grass chemical weapons stockpile, the Army's local outreach program continues to provide quality information and involvement opportunities to meet increased interest from the community. Local schools, organizations and businesses regularly request program updates from Army representatives, and the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office provides free information to the community.

Speaking engagements and other information sharing opportunities are regularly scheduled through the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, located at 370 Highland Park Dr., Suite 2, in Richmond. To take advantage of these free information services, visit or phone the office at (859) 626-8944.



*In November, the outreach office was invited to share information regarding the Army's chemical weapons disposal program with the Family Resource Center Directors of the Madison County School System. Pictured are the directors that participated in the presentation.*

### **Final Environmental Impact Statement Available**

The next step in the Blue Grass technology decision process involves the publication and distribution of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. If you would like a copy of this document, please contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944. You may request the full document or the executive summary. The document is also available on CD-Rom.

# Disposal mission progressing nationwide

## Aberdeen, Maryland

- On Sept. 6, 2002, the Army celebrated construction completion of its neutralization disposal facility located on Aberdeen Proving Ground. The facility is now undergoing an extensive, six-month testing period to prepare for the March 2003 start of disposal operations.
- Using an accelerated neutralization process, stockpile destruction is slated for completion by September 2003, nearly two years ahead of the original schedule.

## Anniston, Alabama

- The facility is now undergoing an extensive testing period to prepare for agent disposal operations.

## Hermiston, Oregon

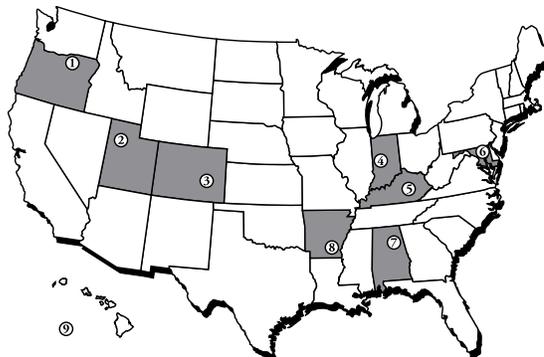
- Gov. John Kitzhaber approved CSEPP readiness, enabling the Army to proceed with demonstrating that the facility can safely incinerate surrogates that are more difficult to process than actual chemical agent.
- Currently the facility is in the surrogate trial burn process, in preparation for agent disposal operations which are scheduled to begin next year.

## Johnston Island, Pacific

- The JACADS team continues to proceed with closure activities including processing secondary waste and removing equipment.
- Final closure is scheduled for January 2004, marking official completion of the Army's disposal mission on Johnston Island.

## Newport, Indiana

- Construction of the neutralization facility is approximately 60 percent complete. The Army plans to begin agent disposal operations in October 2003 and destroy the entire stockpile by April 2004, approximately two years ahead of the original schedule.
- In compliance with environmental regulations indicating that all former chemical agent production facilities must be destroyed, the Army released an environmental assessment evaluating the potential impacts of dismantling Newport Chemical Depot's former chemical agent production facility.



## Stockpile Locations

1. Hermiston, Ore.
2. Tooele, Utah
3. Pueblo, Colo.
4. Newport, Ind.
5. Richmond, Ky.
6. Edgewood, Md.
7. Anniston, Ala.
8. Pine Bluff, Ark.
9. Johnston Atoll, Pacific

## Pine Bluff, Arkansas

- The Army has completed construction of the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, which will employ incineration technology. Agent disposal operations are expected to begin in 2004.
- In August, the Army held public meetings to discuss methods for destroying the non-stockpile chemical materiel stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal. Non-stockpile items include binary chemical weapon components and recovered warfare.

## Pueblo, Colorado

- In July, Under Secretary of Defense Pete Aldridge announced that neutralization followed by biodegradation technology, or "neut/bio," will be used to destroy the Pueblo stockpile.

## Richmond, Kentucky

- Department of Defense officials have designated neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation as the "agency preferred technology" for full-scale pilot testing at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Kentucky.

## Tooele, Utah

- The stockpile of GB nerve agent has been eliminated. This represents 44 percent of the chemical agent and 81 percent of the munitions stored at the Desert Chemical Depot.
- The facility is preparing to incinerate VX nerve agent and expects to complete the disposal campaign in 2003.

For additional updates and current events, please visit our Web site at <http://www.pmcda.army.mil>.

## We want to hear from you ...

The Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office serves as a clearinghouse of information about the chemical weapons stockpile stored at Blue Grass Army Depot and the Army's plans for chemical weapons disposal. The outreach office has informational materials that can address your questions or concerns.

If you would like more information about the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, please telephone (859) 626-8944 or complete this form and mail it to:

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile  
Outreach Office  
370 Highland Park Drive, Suite 2  
Richmond, KY 40475

**Would you like to be added to our mailing list?**

Yes     No

**Would you like an information packet mailed to you?**

Yes     No

**If you answered yes to either of these questions, please complete the following:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**The outreach office schedules presentations that can be given to community groups, clubs, organizations, etc. If you know of a community group that might be interested, please complete the following:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

