



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment Program Legislation

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

Information

The Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) Program was established to identify and demonstrate technology alternatives for chemical weapons disposal. A series of legislation has enforced and provided funding for this mission since 1997. This fact sheet outlines the basic provisions of each law.

Public Law 104-208 National Defense Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 1997

This law, signed Sept. 10, 1996, provided funding for the Program Manager ACWA to conduct a pilot program to identify and demonstrate at least two alternatives to the baseline incineration process for the disposal of assembled chemical weapons. The legislation states that funding will be granted if:

- A program manager is assigned responsibility for the pilot program
- The effectiveness of each alternative technology meets federal and state environmental and safety requirements
- A report to Congress is presented annually
- The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 1997 is repealed
- No funds are used to construct a baseline facility at Blue Grass or Pueblo until 180 days after the Secretary of Defense submits a report to congress detailing the effectiveness of each alternative
- The funds are not used to remove or transport the stockpile to any of the eight chemical weapons storage sites within the continental United States.

Public Law 105-261 Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999

This law, signed Jan. 27, 1998, provided funding for the Program Manager ACWA to continue efforts to identify and demonstrate alternatives to baseline incineration for the disposal of assembled chemical weapons. The legislation requires:

- A program manager uphold responsibility for the program and act independently from the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization
- Activities are carried out to ensure an alternative technology can be implemented immediately after a successful demonstration and a final decision document.
- An independent evaluation of the program is conducted and submitted to the Under Secretary by Sept. 30, 1999
- Should a technology be deemed safe, cost-effective and capable of meeting CWC deadlines and pilot-scale testing be conducted per state and federal environmental regulations, the Under Secretary shall award a contract for the design, construction, and operation of such facility no later than Dec. 30, 1999
- The Under Secretary consults with the National Research Council.
- The Secretary of Defense submits a plan with schedule and cost information for the pilot program to Congress.



**Public Law 106-52
Military Construction Appropriations
Act 2000**

This law, signed Aug. 17, 1999, dictated that no funds be obligated or expended for construction of a chemical weapons disposal facility at Blue Grass Army Depot until the Secretary of Defense certifies to the Appropriations committees that Department of Defense will complete a demonstration of six alternatives to baseline incineration for the disposal of chemical weapons.

**Public Law 106-79
Chemical Munitions Destruction,
Department of Defense
Appropriations Act 2000**

This law, signed Oct. 25, 1999, authorized the Department of Defense to conduct evaluations of three additional alternative technologies under the ACWA program. \$40,000,000 of the funds made available for chemical agent and munitions destruction may only be used to conduct additional ACWA evaluations. The ACWA program is to proceed under the same guidelines as contained in Public Law 104-208, and continue to use the ACWA Dialogue process as well as the Citizens Advisory Technical Teams and their consultants.

**Public Law 106-398
Floyd D. Spence National Defense
Authorization Act For Fiscal Year
2001**

This law, signed Oct. 30, 2000, mandated that the Department of Defense consider incineration and any technologies demonstrated under the ACWA program on or before May 1, 2000, for the disposal of assembled chemical weapons stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado.

**Public Law 107-248
Department of Defense
Appropriations Act 2003**

This law, signed Oct. 23, 2002, assigns the Program Manager ACWA responsibility for the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Kentucky, if a technology other than baseline incineration is selected to destroy the chemical weapons stored there. The law also assigns the program manager responsibility for the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado.