



Public Meeting *continued from page 1*

Following the presentations, a number of persons made comments and asked questions of the presenters. The comments ranged from emergency planning issues to the availability of jobs. Other members of the audience submitted written comments and questions; these will receive written responses.

Many attendees came early to view posters about various technical aspects of the project and to talk one-on-one with project environ-

mental and engineering staff. Following the public meeting and the comment period, the poster discussions resumed.

“I want to encourage the public to continue to participate in this process. Their input is important,” Kurkly said.

For copies of the draft permit application, please contact the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 859-626-8944 or by e-mail at outreach@bechtel.com.

For information about Chemical Weapons Destruction in Kentucky

Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office
(859) 626-8944

Blue Grass Army Depot Public Affairs
(859) 625-6221

Blue Grass Chemical Activity Public Affairs
(859) 625-6897

Bechtel Parsons Public Involvement
(859) 625-1291

Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons
Alternatives Public Affairs Office
(410) 436-3398

*For information about the Army's other chemical
weapons destruction programs:*

Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) Public Affairs
(410) 436-3629

**Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile
Outreach Office**
301 Highland Park Drive
Richmond, KY 40475



Blue Grass exchange

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Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

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Richmond, KY 40475
(859) 626-8944
Hours 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m., M–F
Other hours by appointment
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Blue Grass Chemical Activity Public Affairs Officer

(859) 625-6897

Blue Grass Army Depot Public Affairs Officer

(859) 625-6221

Bechtel Parsons Public Involvement Manager

(859) 625-1291



Blue Grass Chemical Agent-
Destruction Pilot Plant

www.pmacwa.army.mil/ky

Citizens Comment at Public Meeting

Providing information and gathering public input was the focus of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Pre-Application Public Meeting held recently at Eastern Kentucky University. The meeting was one of the first steps in obtaining environmental permits for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP).

Under RCRA, the project must obtain a Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) permit from the Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (KDEP) to build and operate the pilot plant. The first step in the permitting process was the public meeting, which will be the first of many opportunities for the public to participate.

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass and the Blue Grass Army Depot plan to submit an

application to KDEP in March 2004 for an RD&D permit to build and operate a full-scale pilot plant. The project will pilot test the proposed neutralization system and, on the basis of the results, will decide whether to treat the remainder of the chemical weapons stockpile using the proposed neutralization system. The entire operation will be overseen by KDEP.

Some 125 members of the public heard presentations on the permitting process and the proposed schedule for the facility.

“We were very pleased by the large turnout from the local community,” said Tom Kurkijy, environmental manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass. “It was a good opportunity for the public to obtain information and ask questions about the facility and the permitting process.”

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Kevin Regan, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass environmental permitting manager, explaining the permitting process during the public meeting.

Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Update

By Chris Midgett

Project Manager, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass



I wanted to take this opportunity to update the community on our project. As many of you know, the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team was awarded a contract last summer by the Department of Defense to safely destroy the chemical weapons stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot. Our mission is to safely and efficiently destroy these weapons while providing maximum protection to our workers, the public and the environment.

Safety

Members of our team work, live and worship here in Madison County. We care about safety because it affects our co-workers, our neighbors, our families and our community. Safety is our number one priority, and it is not just something that we talk about; it is a core value. Our project is dedicated to the concept that all accidents are preventable, and we are committed to achieving and sustaining "Zero Accident Performance."

I am proud to report that our project has worked more than 90,000 hours without an injury or first-aid incident, and we are implementing a comprehensive safety initiative to reinforce our "Zero Accident" philosophy. This effort will help personnel

develop and maintain safe behaviors on and off the job. The Blue Grass safety plan has three components: educating personnel; enhancing safety attitudes; and ensuring that all individuals can participate in the program. This initiative starts us off on the right foot and sets the tone for safety practices during the entire program. In addition, as the BGCAPP project goes forward, safety programs that have proven successful on other sites will be modified for optimum applicability and effectiveness for this project.

Outreach, Employment and Subcontracting

In February 2004, the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office moved to the same location as the rest of the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team. This move provides the public with a "one-stop" location for obtaining information about chemical weapons destruction, employment and subcontracting opportunities. (See related story on page 5.)

Many questions we receive relate to jobs and subcontracts. I encourage any company that wants to do business with us to contact our supplier advocate, Devon Farnstrom. (See related story on page 4.) He will answer questions and facilitate interactions between the project and potential subcontractors.

With regard to jobs, we are currently in the design phase of the project, which is expected to last approximately two more years. During this phase, project staffing will peak at more than 300, with the majority of personnel located in Pasadena, Calif. The Richmond office staff will peak at about 40 persons during this two-year period. To date, we have more than 130 personnel working on the project. Fifteen employees are based here in Richmond. The rest are working on design at Parsons in Pasadena or at General Atomics in San Diego.

After the design phase, we will mobilize for the BGCAPP construction phase, which will take approximately three years. We estimate that construction staffing will peak at between 600 and 1,000 employees; exact numbers will depend on the final design, project funding and schedule. Our goal is to hire 75 to 80 percent of construction staff locally, with "local" being defined as Madison County and the surrounding counties. If sufficient skilled resources cannot be obtained locally, we will branch out to other locales, with priority given to workers living in Kentucky.

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An Alphabetical Guide to Acronyms Used in This Issue

ACWA – Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives
BGAD – Blue Grass Army Depot
BGCA – Blue Grass Chemical Activity
BGCAPP – Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant
CAC – Citizens' Advisory Commission
CDCAB – Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board
CSEPP – Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
CMA – Chemical Materials Agency
KDEP – Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
NAACP – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
PMACWA – Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives
RCRA – Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

BGCAPP Update continued from page 2

Accomplishments and Goals

Among our major accomplishments:

- The Design Build Plan was submitted to the government and approved ahead of schedule.
- Plant design is 10 percent complete.
- The draft RD&D environmental permit application was submitted for government review ahead of schedule. We have incorporated government comments and will submit the permit application to KDEP in March 2004.
- The government has accepted the Integrated Master Schedule.
- The Initial Site Plan and equipment layout for the Munitions Demilitarization Building have been drafted.
- Risk reduction testing and studies are ongoing in San Diego, Calif.; Tooele, Utah; and Columbus, Ohio. We are conducting additional fabrication tests in Pasco, Wash.

Our upcoming milestones include:

- Submit the RD&D permit application to the Commonwealth of Kentucky by March 2004.
- Submit the Initial Design package (30%) to the government by July 31, 2004.

Thank You

My thanks go out to the community for the support you have provided to my team and me. You have welcomed us here and made us feel at home. The level of citizen involvement in this community also impresses me. Please continue to come to the public meetings, call or visit our outreach staff, and let us know how we are doing. We look forward to continuing to partner with Madison County to get rid of these obsolete weapons as safely and expeditiously as possible.

Chris Midgett

CDCAB Agrees to Filter Unit Recycling

The CDCAB held its second meeting Feb. 23, 2004, on the Eastern Kentucky University campus. The community group received an update on the status of the BGCAPP project. Items updated included design completion status, schedule for construction, funding issues and the permit application.

The board was also asked for input into the possible use of filter-housing units from the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, which has been closed after destruction of its stockpile of chemical weapons was completed. Jim Richmond, speaking for ACWA, presented the topic and told the group that the filter-housing units have been decontaminated and could possibly be recycled for use at BGCAPP.

After discussion, the board felt if the filter-housing units were completely agent-free and could be incorporated into the BGCAPP facility, it made sense to recycle and save taxpayer dollars.

The CDCAB is a diverse independent group of citizens interested in the safe destruction of the chemical stockpile stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot. The board was established to represent the community and to provide advice on major policy issues regarding all aspects of the BGCAPP project.



The employees of Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass contributed two boxes of toys to the Toys for Kids collection spearheaded by the Richmond Fire Department. In addition, the partner companies in the joint venture contributed corporate funds and employees chipped in to contribute \$2,600 to help needy kids have a better Christmas. Shown from left to right are Lloyd Kates, Richmond Fire Department; Nancy Chambers, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project controls engineer; and Dean Vencill, Richmond Fire Department and president of Toys for Kids.

News Briefs *continued from page 5*

- Col. Martin Jacoby, commander of the Blue Grass Army Depot, briefed the CDCAB and spoke at the October open house.
- Chris Midgett, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project manager, has addressed many groups, including the CAC, CDCAB, and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce.
- Mickey Morales, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass manager of public involvement, has given general presentations to the Berea Chamber of Commerce and the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management and provided a project update for the CAC.
- Sandra Plant, outreach office manager, gave general information presentations to the Altrusa Club of Richmond, the Public

Relations Student Society of America at Eastern Kentucky University and the Homemakers Club of the Madison County Extension Service.

- Kevin Regan, permitting manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, spoke recently to several groups in Madison County and Frankfort about the environmental permitting process.
- Jim Richmond, ACWA Blue Grass lead, spoke to a recent meeting of the CSEPP Working Integrated Product Team in Winchester, Ky., and to Senate staffers touring the Blue Grass Army Depot.

To request a speaker, please call the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at (859) 626-8944.

Mark Your Calendars

The public is invited to attend the next CAC meeting April 12, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. at the

Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass project office, 301 Highland Park Drive in Richmond, Ky. The CAC is a group of citizens and state representatives appointed by the governor to solicit input from the citizens of Madison and surrounding counties regarding chemical weapons disposal plans.

New ACWA Publication

Many people have requested basic information about the pilot-testing alternative to destroy the Army's chemical weapons stored in Colorado and Kentucky. That information is now available in a new booklet, "A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction," published and distributed by ACWA. Copies are available at the Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office at 301 Highland Park Drive, Richmond, KY 40475. Copies can also be obtained by calling (859) 626-8944 or e-mailing outreach@bechtel.com.

CDCAB *continued from page 3*

As this \$2 billion chemical weapons disposal project takes off, the issues are as important as they are varied. Everything from economic development and sustainability to permitting and environmental considerations will be open for discussion, dialogue and, ultimately, decision making. With input from the community, the CDCAB will play a vital role in those decisions.

Already, issues surrounding infrastructure, emergency preparedness, construction schedules and permitting are being discussed. Some of the questions the CDCAB will address include:

- What percentage of the work force can be hired locally?
- How does a local supplier get the opportunity to bid a contract?
- How will the local infrastructure deal with the influx of workers and their families?
- How does the community avoid a "boom-bust" situation?

- Can the disposal process be accelerated?
- Will funding necessary to accelerate the process be available?
- What is the most effective means of ensuring substantive public participation?
- Should certain secondary wastes be shipped offsite? If so, which wastes, and to where?
- Looking down the road, what about the buildings and infrastructure—should they be torn down or used for other purposes (not related to hazardous waste treatment)?

As you can see, these are important issues and the CDCAB hopes to engage as many local residents as possible in helping us make decisions that will have an impact on Central Kentucky long after the weapons are gone. We invite you to contact us with your concerns and ideas. Contact information for CDCAB members is available from the Outreach Office. We welcome your input.



Craig Williams, co-chair of the Kentucky CDCAB, with two ACWA officials, Bill Pehlivanian, deputy program manager, center, and Jim Richmond, Blue Grass lead.

Moving Forward in 2004

By Bill Pehlivanian

Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, Deputy Program Manager

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to review accomplishments of the past and establish goals for the future. Our program made tremendous progress in 2003 on the path to destroy chemical weapons stored at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky. Our successes are a result of cooperation, involvement, and working hand-in-hand with the local communities. Highlights from the past year include:

- Awarding the systems contracts to design, construct, systemize, pilot test, operate, and close the pilot plants at each depot. As a result, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass has established its team and has become a part of the community—moving families, enrolling children in the local schools and becoming good neighbors.
- Moving forward in selecting a site project manager for Blue Grass, which is expected early this year.

- Submitting a pre-application permit for the Blue Grass project and continuing to work with the Commonwealth of Kentucky on the permitting process.
- Beginning work on the initial design for the Blue Grass pilot plant. Initial design will be finalized in 2004.

Public participation continues to drive all of our efforts. In collaboration with the Kentucky Citizens' Advisory Commission (CAC), we worked with community members and local leaders in Kentucky to create the Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board (CDCAB).

With all of our successes, we will continue to face challenges as well. Your participation is critical during these times. It's important to ask questions to get the most accurate, updated and timely information. For more information, you are welcome to view our Web site at www.pmacwa.army.mil.



As we forge ahead into 2004, we look forward to working with you as we move toward our common vision: safely destroying the chemical weapons stockpiles. We will continue to provide a transparent public participation process. There are many phases of the project still to come, and we remain committed to ensuring you have a voice in this important national project. On behalf of the entire team, I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2004.

Chemical Destruction Community Advisory Board: An Important Element in Kentucky's Chemical Weapons Elimination Program

by Craig Williams, Co-Chair, Kentucky CDCAB

We are fortunate in Kentucky to have a federal agency in charge of disposing of our chemical weapons that understands the value of real community involvement. The ACWA program leadership has consistently demonstrated its commitment to local participation in the decision-making process.

It is this philosophy that led to the formation of the Kentucky CDCAB, a diverse group of community leaders chosen for their ability to represent the views and concerns of all sectors of the local community. CDCAB members, with input from any and all interested parties, will represent the community on issues

surrounding every aspect of Kentucky's chemical weapons disposal program, sharing information with the community and providing guidance to the ACWA decision makers.

Voting members include representatives from the three local governments—Madison County, Richmond and Berea; the local boards of education and chambers of commerce; Eastern Kentucky University and Berea College; the Madison County Ministerial Association; local banks and hospitals; the NAACP; the CAC; local environmental organizations and civic groups; elected state officials; and others.

Included as non-voting members are representatives from the Blue Grass Army Depot; KDEP and Kentucky's Division of Emergency Management; ACWA and its contractor Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass; and representatives of federal elected officials, among others.

Co-chaired by County Judge Executive Kent Clark and myself, CDCAB meetings will be independently facilitated by the Keystone Center, an organization that played a key role in the decision-making process that led to Kentucky's technology choice.

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Employee Profile

Meet Supplier Advocate Devon Farnstrom



Devon Farnstrom, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass supplier advocate, at left, discussing local vendor and subcontracting opportunities with Richmond City Commissioner, the Rev. Robert Blythe.

When local businesses, industries or suppliers have questions about how to provide services for the BGCAPP project, Devon Farnstrom has the magic number. Phone number, that is.

Devon is the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass supplier advocate for the BGCAPP project, a job he describes as “the interface between suppliers and service providers and the project procurement staff.” Devon says the title “supplier advocate” implies that he is going to help all suppliers. “And that is why I’m here,” he says.

Devon joined the project soon after the contract was awarded to Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass last summer. He, wife Marie, and two young sons recently moved into a new home near Kirksville Elementary School in Richmond. Six-year old Trevor is in kindergarten at the school, and the younger son, Jonah, has just celebrated his first birthday.

Bechtel employs a supplier advocate on most of its projects to strengthen local economies and help build community businesses. Devon says that the BGCAPP project has goals that guide community procurement efforts. During

the design phase, for example, at least 65 percent of available subcontracts will be awarded to small businesses.

How does a local business get on the bid list for the BGCAPP project? The first step is to register on the Web site. “That lets each supplier and subcontractor tell us basic information about themselves and the services they offer,” Devon says.

When a Bechtel Parsons buyer has a procurement package, he or she will search the Web site for suppliers that meet basic criteria, and these suppliers are placed on a preliminary bid list. Those suppliers then must provide information that supports their ability to perform the work efficiently and safely. For example, suppliers would need to demonstrate financial stability and the ability to meet technical requirements. Suppliers that meet job criteria are placed on the final bid list.

Devon says it is not a problem if your business doesn’t have access to a computer or to the Web site. “We will have frequent registration fairs where there will be computers and someone to help if you don’t have Internet

access.” (See the information on this page regarding a March 19 registration fair.) Once suppliers and service providers have registered, they should periodically check the Web site for opportunities.

Some subcontracted work—such as an access road, a parking lot and an access control facility—will start in early 2005. Bid packages for this work will be issued in summer 2004. Major construction work will not occur until late 2005 and early 2006. During construction, subcontracts will be awarded for “anything that goes on a construction site,” Devon says. That includes piping, structural steel, instrumentation and concrete.

Devon has a B.S. in business from Tennessee Wesleyan College and has been an employee of Bechtel National, Inc., for 17 years. He worked in engineering and information technology in Bechtel’s Oak Ridge, Tenn., office before transferring to procurement. He most recently spent two years working on a Bechtel job in Richland, Washington.

“If suppliers or subcontractors have any questions about the subcontracting process, they should give me a call,” says Devon.

Contact Information

**Devon Farnstrom, Bechtel Parsons
Blue Grass Supplier Advocate**

Telephone: (859) 624-6201

E-mail: dkfarnst@bechtel.com

Supplier Web page:
<https://supplier.bechtel.com>

Vendor Registration Fair

Friday, March 19, 2004
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
301 Highland Park Drive
Richmond, KY 40475

For more information: (859) 624-6201

BGCAPP News Briefs

Honors for Two CDCAB Members

When the Richmond Chamber of Commerce presented awards for 2004, two members of the CDCAB were honored. Dr. Robert Bagby received the Bill Adams Long-Time Member Award. Dr. Bagby is a retired Eastern Kentucky University faculty member; served as president of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and Richmond Rotary Club; and is involved in many other civic organizations.

The newest CDCAB member, the Rev. Robert Blythe, received a Community Service Award. Rev. Blythe is pastor of First Baptist Church;

teaches classes at Eastern Kentucky University; is president of the Richmond Chapter of the NAACP; and serves as a Richmond City Commissioner.

Need a Speaker?

The BGCAPP project has speakers ready and willing to talk about the project to civic, educational and community organizations. Topics range from general to technical and can be presented in various formats. Speakers represent both the government and contractor organizations. Some examples of speakers and topics:

- Lt. Col. Dennis Cantwell, commander of Blue Grass Chemical Activity, spoke at the

Jan. 22 RCRA Pre-Application Public Meeting.

- Dave Easter, Blue Grass Army Depot public affairs officer, briefed the Kentucky Commission on Military Affairs in Frankfort and 20 students and 4 faculty from the Madison County Industrial Relations Club.
- Devon Farnstrom, Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass supplier advocate, spoke to the Industrial Relations Committee of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the local chapter of NAACP.

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Meet the New Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office Team

The Blue Grass Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office has a new face and is committed to providing the community with up-to-date information on the BGCAPP project.

On Nov. 1, 2003, the government assigned Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass responsibility for managing the outreach office. With the new contract came new faces and a new office location. The outreach office moved to 301 Highland Park Drive, locating with the rest of the Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass team. The

move consolidates resources and increases services to the local community, which now has a "one-stop" location for information about chemical weapons destruction issues, employment and subcontracting opportunities.

The strength of the outreach team comes from the diverse professional experience each member brings. Mickey Morales, public involvement manager for Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass, leads the outreach team. Morales spent the last 15 years working for the Army on

chemical weapons issues. He has also worked with the alternative technologies program and the Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Program.

Sandra Plant, outreach office manager, has extensive experience in community and public relations. She served for eight years as Bechtel's community relations manager on an environmental cleanup project performed for the Department of Energy. She has long been active in the Public Relations Society of America and was honored in 2001 with the society's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Diane Osbourne, public outreach specialist, is a Madison County native and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. She spent the last 10 years at EKU in education outreach. She is active in the Richmond and Berea Chambers of Commerce and provides insight into opportunities for educational interaction for the BGCAPP project.

Jill Abner, administrative assistant, is a familiar face to the Richmond business community. For the last four years, Jill was the executive assistant at the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and is a participant in Leadership Madison County.

Contact the outreach team at (859) 626-8944, fax (859) 626-8949, e-mail: outreach@bechtel.com.



Left to right: Jill Abner, Diane Osbourne, Mickey Morales, and Sandra Plant