

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA****REPORT TO THE EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON
PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARDS COMPLETE DESTRUCTION
(31 MAY 2017)****1. INTRODUCTION**

The Conference of the States Parties decision regarding the “Final Extended Deadline of 29 April 2012” (C-16/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2011) requires the United States of America to report at each regular session of the Executive Council on the progress achieved towards complete destruction of remaining stockpiles. This report is submitted pursuant to guidelines established by this decision of the Conference of the States Parties.

2. MEASURES TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS

- 2.1 The Government of the United States of America continues to act on opportunities to accelerate the completion of chemical weapons destruction. By using a combination of new technologies, contract incentives, and the transfer of experienced personnel, the United States is working to complete destruction before the scheduled timelines.
- 2.2 The United States of America will use Explosive Destruction Technologies to eliminate a portion of the munitions at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) and the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP). Specifically, the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) is being used to destroy problematic mustard-filled munitions in a safe and efficient manner at the PCAPP in Pueblo, Colorado. The Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) will be used to destroy problematic mustard-filled munitions at the BGCAPP in Richmond, Kentucky.
- 2.3 The United States of America intends to use contract incentives similar to those used successfully in accelerating the destruction efforts at six other chemical weapons destruction facilities (CWDFs). These contract incentives will be applied to the operations and closure phases of both the PCAPP and the BGCAPP to accelerate the destruction of the remainder of the United States’ chemical weapons stockpile.
- 2.4 Experienced and trained personnel from former CWDFs were hired to facilitate the transition from construction to systemisation and from systemisation to destruction operations at the PCAPP and the BGCAPP. By virtue of their familiarity with safety and environmental compliance requirements, these personnel will assist the programme in avoiding problems or delays during systemisation and operations.



3. PROGRESS MADE SINCE 31 JANUARY 2017

Since 31 January 2017, the United States of America destroyed 0.005 MT of unknown agent at the Recovered CWDF Savanna Army Depot Activity in Savanna, Illinois and 86.659200 MT of mustard agent at the PCAPP in Pueblo, Colorado.

Remaining Stockpile Destruction Totals

| Site | EIF Category 1 Stockpile (MT) | Amount Destroyed Since EIF (MT) | Remaining Amount (MT) | Amount Destroyed Since 31 Jan 2017 (MT) | Percent Destroyed at Each Site |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Blue Grass | 475 | 0.649784 | 475 | | 0.14 |
| Pueblo | 2,371 | 145.407427 | 2,225 | 86.659200 | 6.13 |
| Total | 2,846 | 146.057211 | 2,700 | 86.659200 | |

4. PROGRESS AT ACTIVE SITES SINCE 31 JANUARY 2017

PCAPP EDS (as at 31 May 2017)

- (a) Problematic Munitions:
- (i) Twenty-one items from the PCAPP (12 M110 155mm projectiles and nine M60 105mm projectiles) and three items from the Pueblo Chemical Depot (two M110 155mm projectiles and one M60 105mm projectile) have been identified and overpacked.
 - (ii) A cumulative total of 37 munitions are currently scheduled for destruction during the PCAPP EDS second campaign.

PCAPP (as at 31 May 2017)

- (a) Main Plant Operations:
- (i) Destroyed 86.659200 MT.
 - (ii) Processed 969 HD M104 155mm projectiles.
 - (iii) Processed 15,351 HD M110 155mm projectiles.
 - (iv) Continuing reconfiguration of 105mm boxed munitions.
- (b) Plant Updates:
- (i) Completed repairs to hydrolysate storage tanks and to the secondary containment liner for the Brine Concentrator Feed tanks.
 - (ii) Completed enclosure of the Water Recovery System.
 - (iii) The Biotreatment Area (BTA) is in the initial phase of start-up. The nutrient feed into the BTA has begun.

- (iv) Began planning for offsite treatment of hydrolysate at the Veolia Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility in Port Arthur, Texas. A Detailed Facility Information (DFI) Addendum and revised Facility Agreement (FA) have been submitted to the Technical Secretariat.

BGCAPP SDC (as at 31 May 2017)

- (a) Construction: 87% complete (construction was 87% complete as of 31 January 2017)
- (b) Systemisation: 80% complete (systemisation was 80% complete as of 31 January 2017)
- (c) Start of SDC destruction operations: SDC construction and systemisation have been paused while the overall schedule for BGCAPP is under review to ensure the most efficient application of resources. No impact on the planned completion date is expected.

BGCAPP (as at 31 May 2017)

- (a) Construction: 100% complete
- (b) Systemisation: 46.5% complete (systemisation was 68% complete as of 31 January 2017). The plan for systemisation was re-evaluated in May 2017. This re-evaluation resulted in an increase in the total scope of work which ultimately decreased the percentage of systemisation work completed.
 - (i) All specific activity cited in the last report continues to make progress.
 - (ii) The following activities have been completed: installation and testing of High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters and in-line service pressure testing of the hot water system in the Control and Support Building; and start-up of the boiler to support hot water and steam systems and steam system commissioning, and turnover to operations of the compressed and instrument air system in the Utility Building.
 - (iii) In the Munitions Demilitarization Building (MDB) commissioning for the Rocket Shear Machine has begun.
- (c) Start of main plant operations: Destruction operations are scheduled to begin in April 2020.

5. MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS

- 5.1 Steps continue to be taken to optimise performance at PCAPP. These measures include contractor incentives to complete destruction operations ahead of schedule without compromising safety, as well as additional quality assurance/quality control procedures and enhancements to oversight processes.

- 5.2 The United States of America continues to anticipate and address potential issues and will use risk mitigation strategies to address and eliminate concerns as early as possible to facilitate the safe and environmentally sound destruction of the remaining United States' chemical weapons stockpile. Personnel at both facilities continue to share and apply their broad knowledge and technical experience to address emerging challenges.
- 5.3 The United States of America remains on track to meet our planned completion date.

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