

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA****REPORT TO THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON
PROGRESS ACHIEVED TOWARDS COMPLETE DESTRUCTION
OF ITS CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE
(31 MAY 2018)****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 (hereinafter “the 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 of America 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). The Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) will be used to destroy problematic mustard-filled munitions at the BGCAPP in Richmond, Kentucky. 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. In addition, the United States of America is evaluating supplemental destruction technologies for PCAPP. One of the supplemental destruction options under consideration is use of one or more SDCs to augment the PCAPP main plant.
- 2.3 Experienced and trained personnel from former Chemical Weapons Destruction Facilities (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 2018:**Remaining Stockpile Destruction Totals**

Site	EIF Category 1 Stockpile (MT)	Amount Destroyed Since EIF (MT)	Remaining Amount (MT)	Amount Destroyed Since 31 January 2018 (MT)	Percent Destroyed at Each Site
Blue Grass	475	0.649784	475	0	0.14
Pueblo	2,371	229.512517	2,141	0	9.68
Total	2,846	230.162301	2,616	0	

4. PROGRESS AT ACTIVE SITES SINCE 31 JANUARY 2018:**PCAPP EDS (as of 31 May 2018):**

(a) Problematic Munitions:

- (i) Three items from the PCAPP (1 M2A1 4.2 inch mortar and 2 M60 105mm projectiles) have been identified and overpacked.
- (ii) A cumulative total of 88 munitions are currently scheduled for destruction during the PCAPP EDS second campaign, scheduled to begin in summer 2018.

PCAPP (as of 31 May 2018):

(a) Main Plant Operations:

- (i) Completed reconfiguration of 105mm boxed munitions on 15 February 2018; all munitions have been returned to storage at Pueblo Chemical Depot.
- (ii) Began reconfiguration activities for 4.2-inch mortars on 12 April 2018.
- (iii) Currently in a pause in plant operations due to Agent Neutralization Reactor technical issues.

(b) Plant Updates:

- (i) Completed construction of an enclosure to protect the equipment and electrical systems of the Immobilized Cell Bioreactors in the Biotreatment Area.
- (ii) Began construction of an enclosure to protect the equipment and electrical systems of the 30-day tanks in the Biotreatment Area from inclement weather.
- (iii) On 17 May 2018, the United States of America notified the OPCW of phased restart of destruction operations. Agent Neutralization Reactor restart will be a progression, starting with hot water only batches working toward agent batches to reduce current inventories.

BGCAPP SDC (as of 31 May 2018):

- (a) Construction: 93.3% complete (Construction was 87% complete as of 31 January 2018).
 - (i) Installation of the Public Address and Life Support System is complete.
 - (ii) Fire protection system testing has started.
- (b) Systemisation: 80% complete (Systemisation was 80% complete as of 31 January 2018).
- (c) Start of SDC destruction operations: The schedule for BGCAPP SDC is still under review. Destruction operations are planned to start in summer 2019. No impact on the overall BGCAPP planned completion date is expected.

BGCAPP (as of 31 May 2018):

- (a) Construction: 100% complete.
- (b) Systemisation: 62.6% complete (Systemisation was 57.6% complete as of 31 January 2018).
 - (i) All specific activity previously reported continues to make progress.
 - (ii) The following activities have been completed: in the Munitions Demilitarization Building: continuity checks between equipment and the Facility Control System (FCS), demonstration testing of the Energetics Batch Hydrolyzers/Energetics Neutralization System, and the Rocket Shear Machines/Rocket Handling System; in the Control and Support Building: localised FCS startup loop testing, tuning and various systems testing; and testing of electrical panels and Utility Power Center.
 - (iii) The following activity has started in the Munitions Demilitarization Building: testing of the Life Support System.
- (c) Start of main plant operations: Destruction operations are scheduled to begin in April 2020.

5. MEASURES UNDERTAKEN TO OVERCOME PROBLEMS

- 5.1 The PCAPP has implemented engineering improvements to address the technical challenges experienced with the Agent Neutralization Reactor. The Agent Neutralization Reactor/Agent Hydrolyzer recovery plan is currently being developed and corrective actions are ongoing. Phased restart of Agent Neutralization Reactor operations is awaiting final regulatory approval and operational readiness review board approval.

- 5.2 The United States of America continues to review opportunities to optimise performance at the facility. Planning is underway to develop initiatives for more efficient destruction of the remaining stockpile without compromising safety or the environment.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 The United States of America remains on track to meet our planned completion date.

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