BGCAPP Achieves OSHA VPP Star Status

Since 1982 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has been partnering with worksites that achieve target goals for occupational safety and health by managing the voluntary protection program (VPP). Within the VPP, star status is an indication of low injury and illness rates compared to the respective industry and the ability to self-manage these factors. Although star members are reevaluated every three to five years, incident rates are reviewed annually, self-evaluations are conducted, and rights and responsibilities under the Occupational Safety and Health Act are retained.

All sites covered by OSHA are eligible to participate in the VPP, but only 17 sites are listed on the OSHA website as having achieved star status in Kentucky. The Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot plant (BGCAPP) has undergone site investigations and a detailed review of health and safety programs resulting in the achievement of VPP star status. The systems contractor Bechtel Parsons Blue Grass (BPBG) has spoke of the construction site “safety culture” at numerous public meetings and this distinction is no doubt one that all team members can be proud of.

Madison County EMA Introduces New Alert Radios

After Feb. 6, 2012, the Madison County Alert Radios will change over to the new Advisor Alert Radios (AARs). The original tone alert radios distributed in the 1990s may be dropped off for recycling at Madison County fire stations.
BGCAPP Update

Construction at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) during 2011 focused primarily on the control and support building (CSB), utility building, munitions demilitarization building (MDB), and supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) process building. Currently, concrete foundations are in place and BGCAPP is waiting for modules for the laboratory building.

Significant structural development has taken place on the CSB with present activities consisting primarily of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), electric, as well as plumbing installation, with some metal wall studs and sheet rock still being erected. Construction of the utility building also consists of electric, piping, and HVAC installation. Moving forward in 2012, the MDB has begun to see significant structural development. Electric, piping, and some internal tanks have been placed, as well. Tanks are being placed in the SCWO process building to allow for structural development to take place around those tanks.

Richmond Satellite Office

Preparation of the Division of Waste Management (DWM) satellite office for the oversight of the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (BGCAPP) has been completed. The office is ready for occupancy except for the installation of the T1 lines giving the inspectors access to their Frankfort-based databases. Once these lines are installed the staff at the Richmond Satellite Office (RSO) will include Amy McCracken (environmental scientist) and Huff Hammond (environmental inspector) from the Field Operations Branch who are assigned to BGCAPP as their primary duty. Personnel from the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD) section permitting staff will also be on hand in the satellite office to facilitate the permitting process as needed.

The move to Richmond will help ensure more constant and accessible oversight of BGCAPP by placing the inspectors closer to the site. Any permitting or inspection activity will be easier to conduct and coordinate. Response time will also be decreased dramatically by the move. As the project gets closer to completion staffing levels will increase. Eventually there will be six environmental inspectors, an environmental scientist, and an administration specialist working full time out of the RSO.

The Part A of a RCRA Permit

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires anyone who owns or operates a facility where hazardous waste is treated, stored, or disposed of to obtain a RCRA permit. The permit application consists of parts A and B. The Part A includes a variety of information to properly characterize the facility. In the state of Kentucky the Part A information requirements are defined on form DEP-7058A and can be found at waste.ky.gov.

General information requested on this form pertains to facility, owner, and operator. Existing environmental permits are noted. More specific RCRA data involves each process description and capacity.

The hazardous waste items are then further broken down into individual waste streams and associated RCRA waste codes.

Some reasons to revise a Part A application could include facility changes concerning key personnel or physical changes at the facility such as adding processes or waste streams.

Part A information for each treatment storage and disposal facility (TSDF) is kept in a national database for tracking and other organizational purposes providing an overview of RCRA-related activities taking place at various facilities.
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The mission of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management is to protect human health and the environment by minimizing adverse impacts on all citizens of the Commonwealth through the development of fair, equitable, and effective waste management programs.

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Aerial view of BGCAPP site taken in December 2011

Photographs and images courtesy of ACWA, BGCAPP, CMA, KDEP, and OSHA