

FACT SHEET

Pueblo Chemical Depot
Draft Hazardous Waste Management Permit
Phase II - Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant
July 17, 2020



COLORADO
Hazardous Materials
& Waste Management Division
Department of Public Health & Environment

Notice of Issuance of Draft Hazardous Waste Permit for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP)

Facility: Pueblo Chemical Depot
45825 Highway 96 East
Pueblo, CO 81006-9330

EPA Identification Number: CO8213820725
Permittees:
U.S. Army
U.S. Department of Defense Assembled Chemical
Weapons Alternatives Program
Bechtel National, Inc.

A final permit that will take information and programmatic lessons learned from the Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) permit for chemical weapons (mustard agent) treatment to a hazardous waste management facility permit.

The Public Comment Period will be held: July 17 through August 31, 2020

Written comments should be submitted to:

Kevin Mackey
Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246-1530
Email: Kevin.Mackey@state.co.us

BACKGROUND

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) is located on the Pueblo Chemical Depot approximately 15 miles east of Pueblo and is owned and operated by the U.S. Army.

The Depot consists of approximately 23,000 acres of federally owned land, was constructed in 1942 and opened as the Pueblo Ordnance Depot.

The 1988 Base Realignment and Closure Commission designated the Depot for realignment. All missions, except the storage of chemical munitions, were terminated on September 30, 1994, and the installation was renamed Pueblo Chemical Depot in 1996.

The current Depot mission includes the storage of chemical munitions containing mustard agent, environmental remediation, and waste management.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division has prepared a draft Hazardous Waste Management permit for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant.

PERMIT HISTORY

The content of this permit will essentially be the same as the current Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) permit with the addition of updates based on the Pilot Test Demonstration. There will be the same hazardous waste permitted units as there were in the RD&D permit.

The Hazardous Waste Management (RCRA Part B) permit specifies operating conditions and requirements for treating and storing operations in accordance with federal and state hazardous waste regulations.

The permit identifies conditions that ensure protection of human health and the environment during hazardous waste operations. PCAPP has been designed to treat mustard-agent-filled munitions using a water or caustic (sodium hydroxide, for example) neutralization process.

Further treatment of the resulting solutions are subsequently performed using a biotreatment process.

The Division issued a Phase I of the Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Permit for the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in September 2004. Phase 2 was issued in July 2005 allowing infrastructure construction, and Phase 3 allowing above ground construction was issued in November of 2008.

As design, construction and operations have progressed, there have been around 300 proposed permit modifications. The final extension cites September 6, 2020 as the date that the facility either needs to have a Hazardous Waste Permit (Part B) or shut down operations.

PROCEDURES FOR REACHING A FINAL DECISION

The draft permit is now available for public comment in accordance with Section 100.507 of the Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations (6 CCR 1007-3). This notice invites any interested person to submit written comments or to submit a written request for a public hearing on the draft permit during the public comment period, which begins with the publication of this notice on July 17, 2020 and ends on August 31, 2020.

FAILURE TO RAISE AN ISSUE OR PROVIDE INFORMATION DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD MAY PREVENT YOU FROM RAISING THAT ISSUE OR SUBMITTING SUCH INFORMATION IN AN APPEAL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FINAL DECISION 6 CCR 1007-3, SECTION 100.50(d)(vi).

The Division Director will approve, modify or disapprove the permit after considering all comments from the public. The public is obligated to raise all reasonably ascertainable issues regarding any condition in the draft permit during the public comment period as required by 6 CCR 1007-3, Section 100.509. Failure to raise an issue or provide information during the public comment period may prevent you from raising that issue or submitting such information in an appeal of the department's final decision. Only matters raised during the public comment period may be contested in any appeal of the permit (Section 6 CCR 1007-3, Section 100.506 (d)(1)(vi)).

The Division will consider all comments prior to making a final decision. Following the public comment period, the Division will issue a final decision and a response to comments in accordance with 6 CCR 1007-3, Sections 100.511-512. See attached Public Notice.

Inquiries regarding this facility should be directed to:
Kevin Mackey at (303) 692-3426, or Toll Free 1-888-569-1831, ext. 3426

Requests to be placed on the mailing list or for general project questions should be directed to:
Jeannine Natterman at 303-692-3303 (Denver metro), or toll free at 888-569-1831 ext 3303 or by email at Jeannine.Natterman@state.co.us

The draft permit and supporting documents are available on the website at:
<https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/pcapp>.

The draft permit can also be reviewed by appointment and observing pandemic protective practices at the Pueblo Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office, 104 West B Street in Pueblo by calling 719-546-0400.