

SILVER LINING

Closing a chapter on the Cold War legacy

CH2M HILL is helping deliver a new technology to the U.S. Army that is aimed at helping destroy its stockpile of chemical weapons.

The first phase of the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment—a \$2 million project—was to design, construct and operate two first-of-a-kind pilot facilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. CH2M HILL provided engineering, scientific, construction and operations support.

“Our work in the ACWA program is demonstrating alternative technology that can provide clear environmental benefits to the public and the Army while destroying the unwanted legacy of chemical weapons,” said Brint Bixler, project manager.

The pilot facilities are used by the team of CH2M HILL and AEA Technology to demonstrate SILVER II, a patented

destruction process based on electro-chemical oxidation. It is a safer alternative to incineration because its emissions are lower and, in an emergency, the process can be immediately shut down.

SILVER II destroys the organic components of completely assembled weapons, including chemical agents and explosive components.

The team is currently preparing for the \$5 million second phase of the project, which includes additional tests at the pilot plant, and preparation of a preliminary design for a full-scale chemical demilitarization facility. If the Army selects SILVER II in the spring of 2002, CH2M HILL and AEA will have the opportunity to propose to design, build and operate a facility to destroy the stockpile of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Depot in Kentucky.

Chemical Weapons Storage Sites

