

## **Manufacturing Commercial Blasting Agents from Gun Propellants**

Manufacturing Commercial Blasting Agent From Gun Propellants In 2002, NSWC Crane contracted with TPL, Inc for the conversion of large grain gun propellants to blasting agents. The concept is to design a versatile plant capable of processing multiple types of gun propellants into finished blasting agents or their components for commercial, surface mining. TPL has developed a high propellant content 1.5D commercial blasting agent which is intended to accommodate the widest possible variety of propellants. The range of validated propellants, physical and performance characteristics, and market acceptance are all areas that have been explored and completed by TPL during this project. As the project progressed, it became clear that building a semi-permanent, modular plant that could take advantage of existing unutilized/underutilized facilities at the storage sites would be the most beneficial solution for the demilitarization of the large quantities of excess propellant stored at the DoD's sites. It was decided that the first modular processing facility should be installed at Hawthorne Army Depot. The Hawthorne facility is expected to come on-line during the summer of 2005. It is anticipated that this facility will be able to produce approximately four million pounds of packaged blasting agent per year. The facility will also produce commercially packaged propellant to supply the bulk surface mining segment which is much larger than the packaged segment.