
West Valley Environmental Service Supports Springville and West Valley Chambers of Commerce

Local businesses supported by West Valley Environmental Services

West Valley Environmental Services Company LLC supports local businesses through its participation in the local Chambers of Commerce. WVES supports existing businesses and understands the need to attract new businesses to sustain the local economy. This commitment was recently reinforced through donations to the Springville and West Valley Chambers of Commerce.

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At the West Valley Chamber of Commerce's monthly dinner on January 14, John McKibbin, president and project manager, presented Chamber Treasurer Ray Williams with a \$2,000 check. Williams gratefully accepted the check, remarking that requests for support from the community will benefit from the donation. The Chamber responds to a variety of requests, from community members in need to educational programs at the local high school.

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Following the Springville Area Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner awards program on January 16, WVES Vice President Steve Warren presented a \$2,000 check to Chamber President Molly Frank and Vice President David Fielding. The Springville Chamber has stepped up its efforts to provide programs and networking opportunities to its members. Included are the Business After Hours events, workshops and seminars and participation in the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

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The WVDP is an environmental cleanup and waste management project located about 35 miles south of Buffalo. The project is conducted by the United States Department of Energy in cooperation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. WVES manages and operates the WVDP under contract to DOE. The WVES team is comprised of URS, Jacobs Engineering, Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC), and Parallax.



WVES President and Project Manager John McKibbin presents a check to West Valley Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Ray Williams.

Vice President David Fielding and President Molly Frank, Springville Area Chamber of Commerce, accept a check from WVES Vice President Steve Warren at the Chamber's Annual Awards Dinner.

**West Valley
Demonstration Project
Quarterly Public Meeting**

Tuesday, February 2, 6:30pm

**Ashford Office
Complex**

9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY 14171

The Department of Energy and the **New York State Research and Development Authority** will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, February 2, at the Ashford Office Complex in West Valley, New York.

For further information, please contact
John Chamberlain at
John.chamberlain@wves.org or (716)942-4610



PUBLIC NOTICE

NYSERDA

**The Department of Energy (DOE)
and the New York State Energy
Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
Announce the Availability of the
Final Environmental Impact Statement for
Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship
at the West Valley Demonstration Project
and Western New York Nuclear Service Center**

DOE and NYSERDA announced the availability of the Final Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship EIS in the *Federal Register* on January 29, 2010.

The Final EIS is available at www.westvalleyeis.com, www.wv.doe.gov, and www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA, or upon request, by writing to Catherine Bohan, EIS Document Manager, West Valley Demonstration Project, U.S. Department of Energy, Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY, 14171.

The environmental impacts resulting from activities to complete the West Valley Demonstration Project and the decommissioning and/or long-term management or stewardship of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center are analyzed in the EIS. Three alternatives to implement these activities are evaluated: Sitewide Removal, Sitewide Close-In-Place, and Phased Decisionmaking. The Final EIS includes and addresses comments submitted during the 9-month public comment period on the Revised Draft EIS. A Record of Decision will be issued no sooner than 30 days following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability of the Final EIS.

The Final EIS and reference materials are available for review at:

Concord Public Library	WVDP Public Reading Room	U.S. Department of Energy
18 Chapel Street	U.S. Department of Energy	FOIA Reading Room
Springville, NY	Ashford Office Complex	Room 1E-190, Forrestal Building
	9030 Route 219	1000 Independence Avenue, SW
	West Valley, NY	Washington, DC

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Copies of President Barack Obama's budget are delivered to the Senate Budget Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday.

Associated Press

Obama airs defense of budget

Two programs important to area face spending cuts

by Jerry Zremski

NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

Updated: February 01, 2010, 11:01 pm /

Published: February 02, 2010, 7:06 am

WASHINGTON ... President Obama on Monday unveiled a \$3.8 trillion proposed budget for fiscal 2011, balancing additional spending on jobs with upper-income tax increases and cuts in many domestic programs ... and still ending up with a record \$1.56 trillion deficit.

The spending plan suggests the nation will go more than a trillion dollars into debt for three years running, but Obama told reporters that deeply cutting the deficit would be impossible during tough economic times.

"We won't be able to bring down this deficit overnight, given that the recovery is still taking hold and families across the country still need help," Obama said. "We will continue, for example, to do what it takes to create jobs."

To that end, the spending plan includes a tax credit for businesses that hire new workers. It extends aid to the unemployed while setting aside \$25 billion in new aid for struggling state governments, some of which would end up heading to New York.

But with the federal debt piling up and public concern about it on the rise, the budget includes a freeze on overall domestic discretionary spending.

While some programs ... most notably college grants ... would grow dramatically, funding for many would be frozen.

And some, including two programs of great interest to Buffalo ... the federal effort to clean up the Great Lakes and the low-income Home Energy Assistance Program ... would suffer big funding reductions.

"We have gone through every department's spending line by line, item by item, looking for inefficiency,

duplication and programs that have outlived their usefulness," Obama said. "That's how we freeze discretionary spending."

But that wasn't good enough for Republicans, who argued that the spending plan does not go nearly far enough to control spending.

"This country is sinking into a fiscal quagmire," said Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee. "These circumstances call for a bold, game-changing budget that will turn things around, put in place a plan to restrain spending, reduce the debt and tackle the big entitlement programs that are growing out of control."

Instead, Gregg said, Obama offered "more of the same ... a budget that claims to be fiscally responsible, but just below the surface contains more spending, more borrowing and more taxes."

There's more spending for sure, particularly on efforts to boost employment and put more cash into the hands of consumers.

About \$33 billion would be devoted to that new \$5,000 tax credit for companies that add jobs. Obama also proposes extending his Making Work Pay middle-class tax breaks of \$400 per individual and \$800 per couple through next year, instead of letting them expire this year.

Social Security recipients would get \$250 payments to account for the fact that low inflation left them with no cost-of-living increase.

To Gov. David A. Paterson, though, a key element of the plan was the aid to states.

"While hard choices will still need to be made to balance New York's budget, this aid would help mitigate some of the most difficult actions I proposed in my Executive Budget, which were put forward only out of sheer necessity in order to close an over \$7 billion deficit," Paterson said.

In addition to short-term aid aimed at quickly boosting the economy, the Obama spending plan includes a handful of big increases in programs to boost long-term growth.

The Pell Grant program for college students was among the biggest winners. Its funding would nearly double to \$35 billion.

"This will help us reach the goal I've set for America: By 2020, we will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world," Obama said.

The proposal includes a \$4 billion National Infrastructure Innovation and Finance Fund aimed at paying for important big-ticket items that states might be unwilling to fund.

In addition, the National Institutes of Health would get an extra \$1 billion, assuming that Congress passes health care reform. That could be a faulty assumption, since Democrats no longer have a filibusterproof majority in the Senate.

The Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs departments ... exempt from the domestic spending freeze ... would get funding increases.

The budget also is rife with losers, notably big business and the wealthy.

It includes \$1.4 trillion in new taxes over the next decade. Taxes would go up \$120 billion on international corporations, and big banks that were helped by last year's bailout would face \$90 billion in new fees.

Also, the Bush administration's tax breaks would expire for families making more than \$250,000 a year.

Republicans argued that such moves run counter to any efforts to create new jobs.

"Small businesses and job creators simply cannot afford the massive Obama tax increases included in this budget and be expected to hire more workers," said Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the House Republican whip.

While Republicans upbraided Obama for a lack of fiscal discipline, the budget did include some steep cuts.

Former President George W. Bush's proposal to return astronauts to the moon would be abandoned.

And a signature Obama environmental effort ... a massive Great Lakes cleanup ... would be scaled back.

Funding for the Great Lakes program would be cut to \$300 million from \$475 million. While \$300 million is still far more than the effort got under Bush, the Environmental Protection Agency conceded that the funding cut "reflects the difficult economic times."

The budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 now goes to Capitol Hill.

Final spending plans always look far different than what the president proposes, and that's especially likely with

Obama's proposal to cut funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance to \$3.65 billion from \$5 billion.

Presidents routinely propose cutting that program, and Congress routinely disposes of the idea.

The budget also includes several other line items of special interest to the Buffalo area. In particular:

-- Buffalo could receive about \$24.3 million in community development block grant money, the same as this year, since funding for that program would not change.

-- The Army Corps of Engineers would get \$16.5 million for its waste cleanup programs in Western New York, up 12 percent, all for one reason: Funding for the Linde Air Products cleanup in the Town of Tonawanda will increase to \$10 million, from \$3 million this year.

A larger quantity of radioactive waste has been found at the former Manhattan Project site than had been expected, said Linda Houston, project manager for the corps.

-- The corps would receive routine amounts of funding for local waterway operations and maintenance, with \$1.165 million for Buffalo Harbor and \$1.55 million for the Black Rock Channel and Tonawanda Harbor.

-- Funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project will hold steady at \$58 million.

e-mail: jzremski@buffnews.com



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West Valley, Buffalo Sewer Authority, UB, NFTA at top of jobs, awards lists

The federal government's second comprehensive report on stimulus spending, released Jan. 30 and based on self-reporting by recipients, accounts for cumulative stimulus dollars distributed between Feb. 17 and Dec. 31, 2009. It also lists the number of jobs funded by stimulus money between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. So far, more than one-third of the total \$787 billion stimulus package has been spent, while 599,108 jobs have been paid for with stimulus funds, the report shows.*

WHO'S GETTING WHAT: Top jobs created or retained

According to the list of top 10 local jobs created or saved via a single stimulus award, college students are getting more work in the form of additional federal work-study jobs, which connect financially needy students with on-campus jobs. Note that some job totals are measured as full-time equivalents, not necessarily as individuals hired for full-time work.

- 1 West Valley Environmental Services LLC:** 66 prime contractors jobs; 55 subcontractor jobs created to help accelerate decontamination, demolition and general duties involved in closing the former nuclear reprocessing plant.
Jobs created/retained.....111
- 2 University at Buffalo:** More federal work-study jobs for students, based on financial need.
Jobs created/retained.....94
- 3 Daemen College:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
Jobs created/retained.....46
- 4 Canisius College:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
Jobs created/retained.....37
- 5 Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority:** Private-sector workers and NFTA existing staff upgraded NFTA's power support system by manufacturing and installing batteries along the Metro Rail line.
Jobs created/retained.....33.8
- 6 Buffalo State College:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
Jobs created/retained.....28
- 7 Erie Community College:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
Jobs created/retained.....25
- 8 St. Bonaventure University:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
Jobs created/retained.....24
- 9 Western New York AmeriCorps Fund:** Created and retained 21 AmeriCorps Recovery VISTA positions and one project staff position for work involving youth-adult mentoring, job readiness and service learning programs.
Jobs created/retained.....22
- 10 Veteran Enterprises Co. Inc.:** Hired 14 workers, plus an additional five workers via subcontractor, for milling and paving work at a parking lot at the VA Western New York Healthcare System at Buffalo.
Jobs created/retained.....19

WHO'S GETTING WHAT:

Largest individual stimulus awards

The latest list of largest individual stimulus awards given out in Western New York differs from the federal government's earlier report dated Sept. 30, 2009. The current report covers recipient-reported stimulus awards granted between Feb. 17, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2009.



- 1 West Valley Environmental Services LLC**
(Contract): Accelerate the closure of the former commercial nuclear reprocessing center.
Award:.....\$73.8 million
- 2 Buffalo Sewer Authority**
(Grant): New drain control facility in Buffalo.
Award:.....\$17.7 million
- 3 Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority**
(Grant): Purchase 56 buses.
Award:.....\$14.5 million
- 4 Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority**
(Grant): Site upgrades/renovations, including energy efficiencies, at various housing developments.
Award:.....\$14.5 million
- 5 Buffalo City School District**
(Grant): Staff salaries; program development.
Award:.....\$14.5 million
- 6 Neighborhood Housing Services of South Buffalo Inc.**
(Grant): Weatherization upgrades for multiple housing units four stories or taller.
Award:.....\$8.34 million
- 7 Supportive Services Corp.**
(Grant): Weatherization upgrades for housing units throughout Erie County, except the city of Buffalo.
Award:.....\$8.1 million
- 8 NYS Department of Transportation**
(Grant): Reconstruct 1.6 miles of Maple Road in Amherst.
Award:.....\$7 million
- 9 Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency**
(Grant): Homeless prevention and rapid rehousing, a three-year federal program to help families prevent becoming homeless.
Award:.....\$6.5 million
- 10 Buffalo City School District**
(Grant): Staff salaries; program development.
Award:.....\$6 million

*Data as of Dec. 31, 2009. SOURCE: RECOVERY ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BOARD VIA WWW.RECOVERY.GOV; INDIVIDUALS RECIPIENTS

West Valley Demonstration Project Update including final impact statement

Originally launched to demonstrate the safe solidification of high-level radioactive liquid, the West Valley Demonstration Project is demonstrating how to conduct cleanup of highly contaminated radioactive facilities with one of the best safety records in the Department of Energy cleanup program. The project partners, DOE and the New York State Energy and Research Authority, have released the final environmental impact statement for the decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship at the WVDP and Western New York Nuclear Service Center.

In the impact statement, DOE and NYSERDA have identified phased decision-making as the preferred alternative for the site. During phase one, removal of the main plant process building, the vitrification facility, the remote handled waste facility, the source term of the north plateau groundwater plume and five water treatment lagoons would take place. No decommissioning actions would be taken at this time on the underground high-level waste tanks and the nuclear regulatory commission-licensed disposal area. If the phased decision-making alternative is selected for implementation, DOE and NYSERDA would make the phase two decision in 10 years or less, as the agencies continue to gather important information and data. Phase one is expected to take



CLEANING UP — West Valley Demonstration Project employees working on a state-licensed disposal area. Photo submitted by Sorja Allen.

eight to 10 years.

NYS and the federal government recently completed an agreement regarding financial responsibilities for the cleanup of the site. The proposed settlement identifies a specific cost share for each government for each facility and area of contamination at the site and identifies a process for determining who pays for contamination that may be identified in the

future.

"This resolution is a significant milestone in our ongoing work to decontaminate the West Valley Site and ensure the area's long-term environmental health and safety," New York State Governor David Paterson said. "With this agreement, our state and federal governments may proceed with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities." The state

expects to file a motion in federal court this month, asking that the court approve the agreement.

Of particular interest are the preparations for the eventual demolition of the main plant process building, which will allow for the removal of radioactive contamination from under the building. The contamination has resulted in a plume of contaminated groundwater on the northern part of the site.

West Valley Environmental Services has been tasked with getting the former commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing facility "demolition-ready" by June 2011. Crews have been actively working in the remaining 20 of the 54 cells in the main plant.

The following activities have been completed in the main plant:

- Decontaminated extraction cell-3. Due to the weight of the tanks and the limited access, nearly all of the 12 tanks were removed through the roof of the main plant.

- Completed decontamination of the acid recovery cell. This cell contained six large tanks and more than 5,500 feet of contaminated piping when work began in the cell. The tanks were cut up with a plasma torch and removed from the cell in pieces. The cell was then decontaminated and the cell walls were painted to control loose contamination.

- Removed two large tanks intact

from the hot acid cell through a newly-created opening in the exterior wall of the main plant. This principle involved removal, packaging, off site shipment and disposal of the tanks in less than two weeks.

WVES also completed the characterization of the contaminated groundwater plume and the design of the permeable treatment wall that will be installed to mitigate the plume.

DOE has designated \$74 million for environmental cleanup projects at West Valley, which will be worked in close coordination with current work:

- Accelerate decontamination of the main plant process building in preparation for demolition.

- Install systems to solidify higher-activity liquids remaining in the main plant, dry the underground radioactive waste tanks and vaults, mitigate the contaminated groundwater plume and accelerate stored, solid radioactive waste processing/packaging.

- Erdman Brook Erosion Mitigation Project. The August 8 - 10 storms caused stream erosion within Erdman Brook adjacent to the state-licensed disposal area. The extent of the damage prompted NYSERDA to install new erosion controls in Erdman Brook. Work was completed in October. Similar erosion control work will be completed within Frank's Creek, located along the east slope of the SDA.

- Leachate Removal Project.

More than 8,000 gallons of leachate were removed from the SDA in November. The project involved pumping the liquid into U.S. Department of Transportation-approved containers and transporting it to a treatment facility in Tennessee. To complete the project, NYSERDA plans to remove the large tank and miscellaneous solid waste inside the building at the SDA in the early spring. This waste will be shipped to Utah for disposal.

WVES is conducting the cleanup at the WVDP. URS is the lead company in the four-partner venture and is teamed with Jacobs Engineering, Environmental Chemical Corporation and Parallax.

WVDP employees worked more than 2.1 million safe work hours in 2009 and topped the DOE's chart for safety performance. "The Department of Energy values and expects the safe performance of work," said DOE-WVDP Director Bryan Bower.

Did you know this about St. Aloysius Regional School?

NYS Assessments 2009

- 10 students received perfect Math scores
- 2 students received perfect English scores

Full Music Program

- Instrumental instruction
- Band
- Orchestra
- Spring Musical & Christmas/Spring Concerts
- Hand Bell Choir & Chime Choir

Advanced Math & Science Classes

WNY Science Congress results, last three years:

- Won 19 Gold, 11 Silver, 4 Bronze, 6 Navy/Marine Environmental Medals and the **only** WNY middle school to send students to NYS Science Congress.

Other Attributes

- Advanced technology including interactive white boards
- Interscholastic sports in baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and track
- After school Chess Club, Ski Club, Bowling and Intramurals
- Spanish for students in grades 5-8

Springville Journal

February 18, 2010

When the West Valley Demonstration Project is cleaned up do you think the area will be completely safe?

Asked of people on the streets



Marge Gaske: "There's always an unknown factor. It may prove to be safe but we won't know until the future."



Barry Vizena: "Sure why not? I would trust it. If you live there there's no need to worry about your lights working at least."



Ken Heiler: "That question answers itself. If it's gone then it's safe. But how in the world do we know if it's all gone?"



Diane Lux: “Yes I do. Because my son works in nuclear physics and he knows all about West Valley. He says it will be safe.”



Tom Blasdell: “Yes it’s safe now. People have been living near there all their lives. I used to myugrt\$