



THE WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

April 7, 2011

The Honorable Brian Higgins
United States House of Representatives
2459 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Higgins

As you are aware, the West Valley Citizen Task Force (WVCTF) continues to advocate for a complete cleanup of the radioactive waste and contamination at the West Valley Demonstration Project/Western New York Nuclear Service Center site, under the provisions of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act (Public Law 96-368).

In 2010, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released a Record of Decision (ROD) and New York Findings Statement which set forth a Phased Decisionmaking process and identified portions of the site for significant cleanup by 2020. This agreement provides a path forward for cleanup of some of the most contaminated areas of the site, a result that the WVCTF has been waiting on for many years. In addition, in 2010 DOE and NYSERDA arrived at a Consent Decree which resolves many of the outstanding disagreements on their respective financial responsibilities for the radioactive waste cleanup.

To that end, we seek your support to insure that the agreed-upon Phase 1 cleanup vision be completed by 2020. The President's 2012 funding request for \$60 million is insufficient to achieve this objective. The funding reduction results in a reduced appropriation level not seen since the 1980's, one which will defer the vision to 2024 and will impact schedules resulting in additional cost. By allocating an additional \$20M annually for FY 2012-2016 the needed resources will be made available to *achieve the 2020 completion date for the ROD objectives and ultimately save the taxpayers \$120 million.*

Recent ARRA funding provided to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) created jobs, accelerated cleanup projects, and provided contracting opportunities to small businesses.

The funding proposed for the WVDP in FY2012 is not enough to accomplish the proposed activities approved in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0226, FEIS for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center) and Record of Decision.

We have an historic opportunity to make significant cleanup progress at the WVDP, retain local jobs and help the local economy while reducing future federal expenditures. Many of the legal and administrative roadblocks from the past are now out of the way, and we simply need Congress to properly fund the West Valley Demonstration Project.

The West Valley Citizen Task Force respectfully requests that you advocate for an additional \$20 million in funding for the Fiscal Year 2012, and continue to secure the \$80 million per year threshold necessary through 2016 to achieve the documented program goals and objectives.

Sincerely,

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West Valley Citizen Task Force

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