



THE WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

July 21, 2012

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Adequate Funding for West Valley Demonstration Project

Dear Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand,

In May we wrote asking you to support adequate funding for the cleanup at the site of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). In that letter we noted the impacts of current proposed funding levels which fall significantly below those anticipated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and also below base funding in recent decades. The proposed levels would significantly delay work at the site, thereby lengthening the potential time-frame for cleanup while increasing the environmental and human health risk associated with contamination that remains in place and, in some instances, is still migrating. Delay would also substantially increase the federal government's total cleanup cost (because even though the site cleanup cost can theoretically be spread out over many years, there are about \$20 million in recurring annual costs on top of this). In the near term, delay would also adversely affect the local economy as site workers' incomes decline or disappear entirely, and purchasing power diminishes.

In early June an amendment introduced by Congressmen Reed and Higgins passed the House by a vote of 223-195. The amendment transfers \$36 million in funds from administrative accounts to the non-defense environmental cleanup fund, which supports West Valley remediation. We hope that you will introduce and advocate vigorously for a similar amendment in the Senate.

West Valley Citizen Task Force
c/o The Logue Group
PO Box 270270 – West Hartford, CT 06127
860-521-9122

Sincerely,

Deborah Aument *[Signature]* Christopher C. Hurst
P-83/Kranz *[Signature]* *[Signature]*
Honore S. Lambert *[Signature]* *[Signature]*
Ray D. *[Signature]* Eric W. Wohlers

Copy:

Congressman Tom Reed (NY-29)
Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-27)
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Francis J. Murray, Jr. President and CEO, NYSERDA
Paul Bembia, Director WVSMP, NYSERDA
David Huizenga, Senior Manager for DOE Environmental Management
Bryan Bower, Director WVDP, DOE