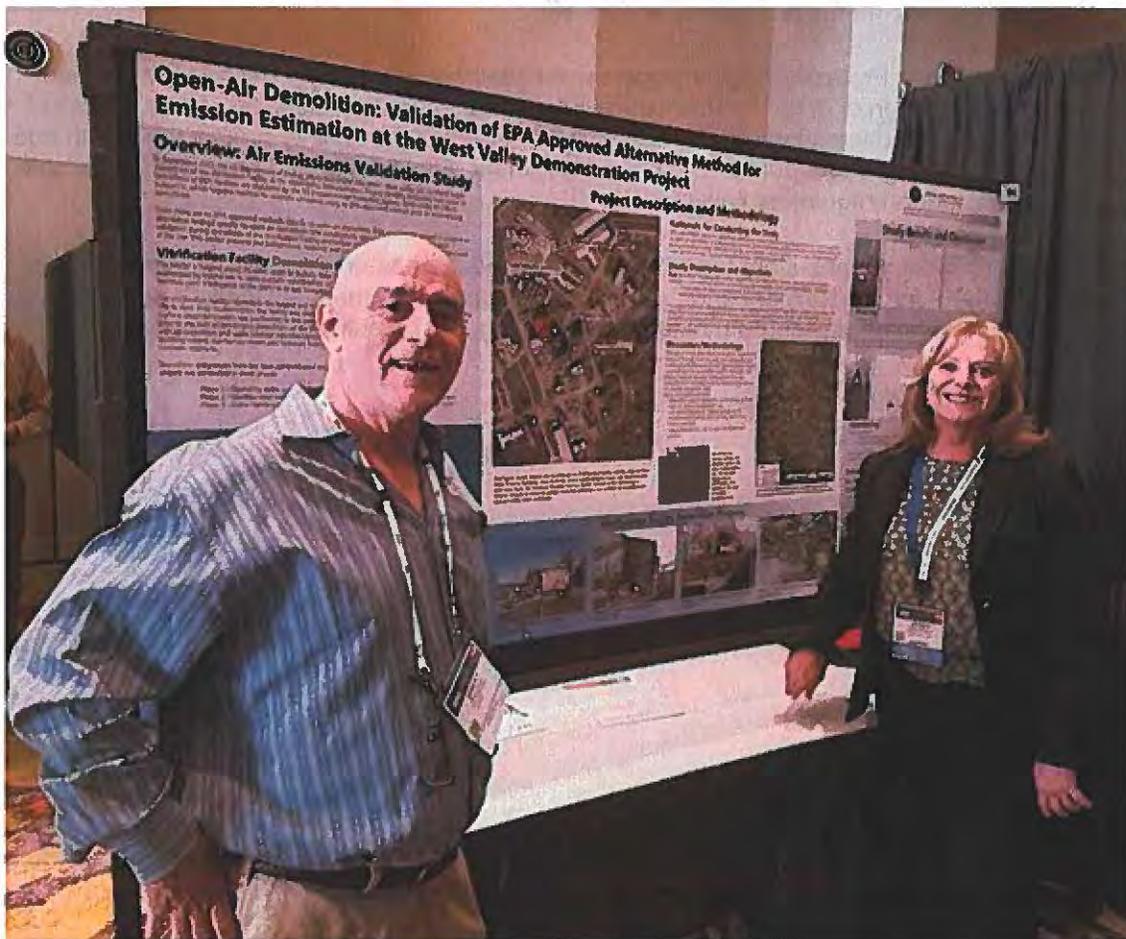


West Valley Contractor Receives Blue Ribbon at Waste Management Symposia



CH2MHILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) Regulatory Strategy Vice President Janice Williams and Brent Blunt, a consultant to CHBWV and subject-matter expert on air monitoring and modeling, stand in front of CHBWV's informational poster at this year's Waste Management Symposia in Phoenix.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Waste Management Symposia (WMS) awarded EM's West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) cleanup contractor a blue ribbon this month for its professional poster session on a unique air monitoring method used during an open-air demolition project.

This was a team effort that involved several months of planning," CH2MHILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) Regulatory Strategy Vice President Janice Williams said of the air monitoring project. "I'm proud of this accomplishment on behalf of the WVDP team. We are committed to performing our work in a safe and environmentally sound manner by implementing safe, innovative, and regulatory compliant cleanup practices in everything we do."

WMS awarded a blue ribbon to one presentation in each of 10 poster sessions over four days during its 2019 conference in Phoenix. Judges used 10 criteria to rate each poster and presenter, including subject-matter objectives, methods, content, and results.

CHBWV's Environmental Protection Agency-approved alternative method for emission estimation was used during demolition of WVDP's Vitrification Facility completed on Sept. 20. Air monitors set up around and inside the demolition area successfully recorded data on air to protect the health and safety of employees, the general public, and the environment. All worksite and perimeter air sample results were below federal regulatory limits.

Williams and Brent Blunt, a consultant to CHBWV, presented the poster on research, planning, and implementation efforts for the air monitoring at WVDP. Williams and others at CHBWV developed the innovative monitoring approach from extensive modeling, best practices, and lessons learned.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

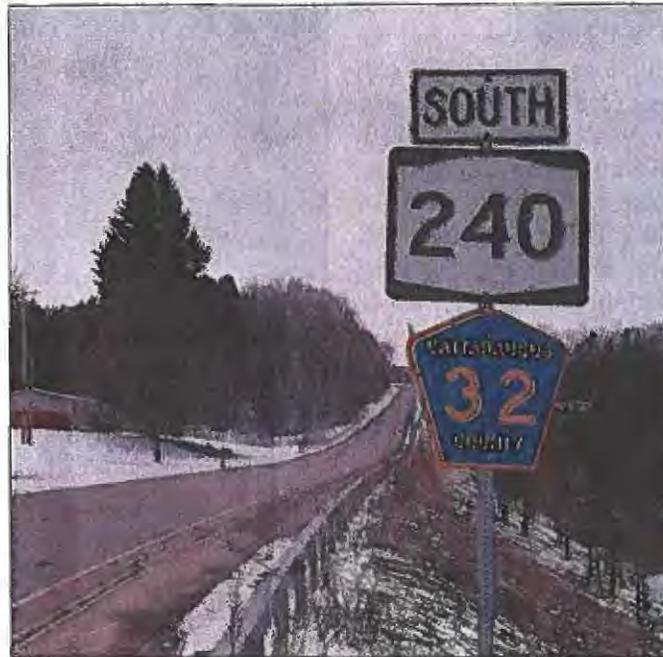
Project updates discussed in Ashford

Max Borsuk
Associate Editor

The Ashford Town Board heard updates on a number of projects within the town and opportunities for other future projects. The town board, at its March 13 meeting, addressed infrastructure projects in the town, possible grant opportunities and upcoming projects and goals from the planning board.

Cattaraugus County Commissioner of Department of Public Works Kathleen Ellis and Director of Engineering for Cattaraugus County Department of Public Works Mark Burr updated the board on upcoming infrastructure projects this year. Drainage issues on Peters Road, bank erosion in the Hamlet of West Valley, a paving project on Route 240 between the Cattaraugus County line and Gooseneck Road, a shared salt shed between Ashford and Cattaraugus County and a footbridge to connect sidewalks in West Valley are planned this year.

Cattaraugus County Legislatures Joseph Boberg and Richard Helmich reported on possible funds available for the town. The town applied for, but was not able to



Journal file photo

Route 240 in Ashford, where a paving project will take place this year.

get a grant for a boat launch in the town last year, which Boberg reported matching funds could be available and the town should look into reapplying. Helmich also urged the town to submit more projects to the Legislature and submit more distressed properties to the Cattaraugus County Land Bank.

"We are always looking for projects to take to the Legislature and try to bring money our way," Helmich said. "We are trying to encourage all the towns to let us know about potential projects ... we may find some monies."

Ashford Planning Board Chairperson Andrea Mellon made a presentation to board members about the planning board's goals for 2019. The planning board will be focusing on completing the comprehensive master plan with a major focus on the Route 219 and Route 240 corridors. To help with its goals, the planning board is working on a Community Revitalization Grant for the town, with a plan to purchase brochures and banners to emphasize important areas in Ashford.

"If there is a cultural or art activity ... if there is a historical significant thing,

we have the [Western New York Southtown Scenic Byway] ... and are working to have some uniqueness from our community highlighted," Mellon said.

Discussions between the planning board and the West Valley Central School District have begun about a proposed farmers market within the town. Along with the farmers market, the planning board is looking to improve communication with WVCS and the West Valley Chamber of Commerce.

In other board news:

– The board approved the bid from MRC Disposal, Inc. for 2019 town trash pickup at the cost of \$12,300.

– New York State Energy Research and Development Agency Director of West Valley Demonstration Project Paul Bembia reported the town and NYSEERDA have finalized an agreement for the proposed solar farm facility on NYSEERDA property.

– Code Enforcement Officer Larry Feldman reported friendly letters have been sent to town residents regarding yard cleanup.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Concord moves forward with Solarize partnership

Max Borsuk
Associate Editor

Town of Concord residents who are interested in installing solar panels at their homes will soon have the opportunity to save money. The Concord Town Board, at its March 14 meeting, approved the town signing a partnership agreement to join the Solarize movement from Green Springville.

Solarize is a New York State Energy Research and Development Agency program that brings potential solar customers together to help lower costs. Green Springville, along with the town and the University of Buffalo Regional Institute, will be working together to vet installers for residents to use for solar panel installations. If residents or businesses sign up for an installation through the solar installer, they are eligible for a lower group rate below market prices.

"What we are trying to do is bring together a solar installer ... with the knowledge that they are going to be installing many solar installations around Southern Erie," Green Springville President Reed Braman said. "They are going to offer us their best price ... so based on the results from other Solarize programs, it tends to be a



15 to 20 percent discount."

Concord will be joining other local municipalities including Colden, Boston, Eden, Evans and North Collins in Green Springville's Solarize initiative. Green Springville will be working with NYSERDA, organizing the program, hosting outreach events and "doing most of the heavy lifting," Braman said, so the program can benefit as many people as possible.

"I think we have a real plus here because we have Green Springville right here to help us with it which the other towns won't have," Concord Supervisor Clyde Drake said.

Green Springville is also planning on adding another option to its Solarize campaign called Solar for All to help residents that have lower incomes. Residents with low to moderate incomes would be able to fill out a document that would make them eligible for the program, where a credit would be applied to their electricity bill.

"There are some fac-

tors in who solar benefits and one of those factors is income. Whether it's low to moderate income or a fixed income, then generally people don't have access to solar," Braman said. "Essentially if you qualify for HEAP, then you would already be qualified for Solar For All. It is a very easy way for people who qualify to take part in buying solar energy."

Sending a scoping document to NYSERDA, which includes the partnership agreements from all the interested towns is the next step in the process for Green Springville. Once approved, Green Springville would put out a request for purchase to solar installers, conduct interviews and select installers for Solarize. Promoting the program and hosting an open house event in all participating towns will later start to help answer questions and concerns from residents.

In other board news:

- Drake announced the town, the Village of Springville and Springville Center for the Arts are working on a new partnership for summer concerts in Springville.

- The board approved Springville-Griffith Institute to use the baseball diamonds at Concord Town Park for its baseball seasons.

The Town Board will next meet Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

West Valley achieves more than one million work hours without a lost-time accident

By reporter@springvillejournal.com | on March 17, 2019

WEST VALLEY – The CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley Team recently achieved more than one million work hours without a lost-time accident or illness. From April 17, 2017 through Dec. 31, 2018, CHBWV and subcontractors have worked 1,006,929 work hours without a lost-time accident or injury.



A multidisciplinary group of employees receive in-house confined space rescue training at an onsite excavation work zone.

"This and other work at the West Valley Demonstration Project only happens because of the skills and commitment of our employees to complete work in a safe and compliant manner," DOE WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. "This work, safely performed, brings many benefits to the ongoing cleanup and future closure of our EM site."

Scott Anderson, president of CHBWV, EM's WVDP cleanup contractor, commended the team for its achievement.

"I am truly proud of this team accomplishment, and sincerely thank everyone for their diligence in completing high-risk and challenging work in a safe and compliant manner," Anderson said. "This is

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL



not the result of one person or one group, but a collective sense of teamwork, shared values and watching out for one another.”

Consider for a moment what this means. One million safe work hours while working among heavy construction equipment, in areas with radiological, industrial and hazardous materials, in changing conditions, and in all sorts of weather for 616 days.

“All personnel working onsite should be extremely proud of this accomplishment.” Jennifer Dundas, DOE-WVDP Safety and Site Programs Team Leader said. “Safety must be at the forefront every day, especially when working in and around challenging and high-risk areas. Employee involvement and a proactive approach to safety promotes a safety culture that is continuously improving the work environment and reducing risk. Our WVDP Team has demonstrated that commitment by attaining more than one million work hours without a lost-time accident or injury.”

Ken Whitham, vice president of CHBWV Safety, Quality, Health and Security, reiterated the same sentiment.

“Every employee demonstrates their commitment on making safety a personal value in everything they do – each and every day,” he said. “It was through this continued dedication, commitment, and practice that helped the CHBWV Team achieve this important milestone.”

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration defines a lost-time accident as an OSHA-recordable incident in which an employee is not able to return to work or is assigned restricted work on the day or shift following the incident.

House passes Reed bill securing \$75M a year for West Valley cleanup

March 13, 2019

ASHFORD — U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, announced last week the House had passed his bill to authorize \$75 million annually for the West Valley Demonstration Project through 2026 to secure and remove nuclear waste from the site passed the House of Representatives.

"We are proud to be an unrelenting advocate for West Valley and care about ensuring a fair amount of funding for the complete and total cleanup of this nuclear site," Reed said. "This bill offers clarity for our friends and neighbors and ensures the health and safety of our environment for years to come.

"We urge our colleagues in the Senate to quickly pass our bill to reauthorize this vital nuclear cleanup project," Reed added.

"This is certainly good news for the continued cleanup of the West Valley Demonstration Project," said Scott Anderson, president and general manager of cleanup contractor CHBWV.

"Funding at the \$75 million level supports the capacity to accelerate cleanup, eliminate potential environmental threats, and reduce the Department of Energy footprint and life-cycle costs," Anderson said. "CHBWV remains committed to conducting cleanup in a way that protects the health and safety of workers, general public and the environment while reducing environmental legacy risks."

"The Town of Ashford is extremely grateful to Congressman Tom Reed for his efforts in getting this legislation introduced and passed," Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis said.

"With dedicated funding and an understanding of possible disposal pathways, DOE, New York State, and the Town of Ashford can now begin to better plan for the future of the West Valley Demonstration Project," Davis said.

"Without Congressman Reed's determination and problem-solving attitude, the town of Ashford would continue to have to fight for funding on an annual basis," the supervisor said.

Reed said he's continuing to work with stakeholders, including the West Valley Citizen Task Force, to successfully achieve the goal of complete cleanup.

House passes Reed bill securing \$75M a year for West Valley cleanup

Mar 8, 2019 Updated Mar 8, 2019

ASHFORD — U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, announced Wednesday the House had passed his bill to authorize \$75 million annually for the West Valley Demonstration Project through 2026 to secure and remove nuclear waste from the site passed the House of Representatives.

"We are proud to be an unrelenting advocate for West Valley and care about ensuring a fair amount of funding for the complete and total cleanup of this nuclear site," Reed said. "This bill offers clarity for our friends and neighbors and ensures the health and safety of our environment for years to come.

"We urge our colleagues in the Senate to quickly pass our bill to reauthorize this vital nuclear cleanup project," Reed said.

"This is certainly good news for the continued cleanup of the West Valley Demonstration Project," said Scott Anderson, president and general manager of cleanup contractor CHBWW.

"Funding at the \$75 million level supports the capacity to accelerate cleanup, eliminate potential environmental threats, and reduce the Department of Energy footprint and life-cycle costs," Anderson said. "CHBWW remains committed to conducting cleanup in a way that protects the health and safety of workers, general public, and the environment while reducing environmental legacy risks."

"The Town of Ashford is extremely grateful to Congressman Tom Reed for his efforts in getting this legislation introduced and passed," Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis said.

With dedicated funding and an understanding of possible disposal pathways, DOE, New York State, and the Town of Ashford can now begin to better plan for the future of the West Valley Demonstration Project," Davis said.

"Without Congressman Reed's determination and problem-solving attitude, The Town of Ashford would continue to have to fight for funding on an annual basis," the supervisor said.

Reed said he's continuing to work with stakeholders, including the West Valley Citizen Task Force, to successfully achieve the goal of complete cleanup.

March 7, 2019

WVDP exceeds cost-savings goal in three months



Photo provided

A Buffalo Fuel Corporation truck leaves the West Valley Demonstration Project with a shipment of low-level legacy waste. This contract was obtained through the use of SCMC's eSourcing tool.

The West Valley Demonstration Project Site saved more than \$600,000 in the first quarter of fiscal 2019 by utilizing procurement tools provided by the Supply Chain Management Center. SCMC is a Department of Energy program that helps Office of Environmental Management contractors find better prices for goods and services and makes the buying process easier, more efficient and more effective.

Cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley has already exceeded its fiscal 2019 SCMC strategic sourcing cost savings goal by 10 percent as it applied sourcing tools such as real-time online reverse auction software to obtain transportation services for offsite waste disposal and a mobile generator.

"Our Procurement Team does an excellent job in preparing requests for proposals that obtain the best results for our cleanup efforts and taxpayers," said David Pritchard, Manager of Prime Contract, Procurement and Records. "They are always finding creative ways to utilize the SCMC eSourcing tool to ensure the best price from qualified subcontractors and suppliers. It is truly a team effort."

CHBWV and other prime contractors across the DOE complex use SCMC tools to lower costs and create efficiencies. EM's WVDP site achieved

93 percent of its latest savings through the eSourcing tool, which is used for reverse and forward auctions. In the past six years, CHBWV has conducted 52 auctions for equipment rentals, waste containers, laboratory services and other items and services – and used the other SCMC tools for a total savings of nearly \$5.6 million.

In employing the eSourcing tool, CHBWV's Procurement Team sends out a request for proposal to prospective bidders. Auction details are provided and on the date of the event, the bidders actively compete for the requested products and services. The purchase order is then awarded to the lowest priced supplier that meets the minimum technical requirements.

The majority of EM WVDP's remaining savings for the first quarter of fiscal 2019 came from credit card transactions by CHBWV cardholders who purchase items that cost less than \$3,000 and blanket purchase order releases for recurring needs through agreements with suppliers. Those two tools allow for up to \$50,000 in savings per quarter.

Additionally, the site benefits from the utilization of SCMC multi-site and enterprise-wide commodity agreements and an online marketplace with electronic catalogs. These tools represent less than one percent of the overall savings.

Federal bill that would authorize \$75 million annually for West Valley cleanup clears U.S. House

By [Dan Miner](#) – Reporter, Buffalo Business First
Mar 6, 2019, 10:57am EST Updated 57 minutes ago

A bill that would mandate the federal government spend \$75 million each year to clean the toxic waste site in West Valley has passed the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill mandates that amount be spent each year between 2020 and 2026. It was introduced by U.S. Reps. [Brian Higgins](#), D-[Buffalo](#), and [Tom Reed](#), R-[Corning](#). It will now go to the U.S. Senate., where Sens. [Charles Schumer](#) and [Kirsten Gillibrand](#) have backed funding efforts in support of the cleanup.

The West Valley Reprocessing Plant is the only commercial reprocessing facility for nuclear fuel in U.S. history, according to a previous news release from [Schumer](#) and [Gillibrand](#). It was operational between 1966 and 1972, and millions of gallons of highly radioactive waste remain at the site.

The West Valley Demonstration Project Act was signed into law in 1980 and required the U.S. Department of Energy to solidify and dispose of the high-level waste and decommission the facilities used in the process.

DOE has estimated that the site needs \$75 million each year to keep the cleanup on track, though Congress only allocated \$59 million in 2011, \$66 million in 2012, \$61 million in 2013, \$66 million in 2014, \$60 million in 2015 and \$59.2 million in 2016. The full \$75 million has been allocated in each of the past three years.

THE BUFFALO NEWS

House reauthorizes West Valley Demonstration Project

By Jerry Zremski | Published March 6, 2019 | Updated March 6, 2019

WASHINGTON – The House, by voice vote, reauthorized federal funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project for the fiscal years 2020 through 2026. The bill will allow Congress to set aside \$75 million a year for the nuclear waste site, although lawmakers will have to approve that funding again in appropriations bills in each of the next seven years.

"We urge our colleagues in the Senate to quickly pass our bill to reauthorize this vital nuclear cleanup project," Rep. Tom Reed, a Corning Republican who sponsored the reauthorization bill, said Wednesday.

Rep. Brian Higgins, a Buffalo Democrat, also pushed for the measure's passage.

"The long-term clean up at West Valley, which sits 30 miles from Lake Erie and at the foot of a tributary stream, will prevent harmful contamination to the region," Higgins said.

The West Valley facility processed used nuclear fuel between 1966 and 1972, and the federal government assumed responsibility for the site's decadeslong cleanup in 1980.

Crew Installs Protective Cover, Marking West Valley Demolition Project Milestone



Crew members work together to roll the cover over the Vitrification Facility concrete slab.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) Site has finished installing a protective cover over the Vitrification Facility site, signifying the end of physical work associated with the [demolition project](#).

The weather-shielding cover over the remaining concrete slab prevents water infiltration into the below-grade portion of the facility.

The facility was a three-story, 10,700-square-foot structure made of steel, reinforced concrete, and metal siding. Its footprint was 133 feet long by 102 feet wide. It is one of two vitrification facilities to have operated in the U.S., and the first one to complete its mission. The teardown was completed in September.



Workers pull and smooth out the cover over the Vitrification Facility concrete slab. The Main Plant, which is in the process of being deactivated, is in the background.

"The WVDP team continues to eliminate potential environmental threats and reduce the site's footprint. Their safe and compliant work demonstrates their deliberate and methodical approach to decommissioning," said Dan Sullivan, EM WVDP federal project director for the Vitrification Facility demolition.

"The installation of this cover signifies months of planning, safe execution, and reducing environmental risks," said Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's WVDP Site cleanup contractor. "I am proud of our team and what they continue to accomplish."



The Vitrification Facility demolition area after installation of the cover. The Main Plant, which is in the process of being deactivated, is in the background.

Prior to the demolition, crews removed approximately 10,000 cubic feet of material from the facility, including a 195-ton melter and two tanks each weighing more than 150 tons.

In the demolition phases, workers first removed exterior parts of the facility with the least contamination. They later took down the heavily reinforced concrete process cell and remaining in-cell equipment. In the final phase, they demolished the crane maintenance room and transfer tunnel, each with doors weighing 100 tons and 60 tons, respectively.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

West Valley Site Safely Completes Disposition of Vitrification Facility Waste



Crews at the West Valley Demonstration Project Site load and move demolition debris from the Vitrification Facility demolition work area.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – **EM** and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) have safely completed the disposition of waste from the demolition of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Site's vitrification plant.

"The safe and compliant disposition of Vitrification Facility demolition waste is another important step in the progress towards site cleanup," EM WVDP Site Director Bryan Bower said.

Crews shipped nearly 460 containers of waste by train and truck to off-site disposal facilities.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 8 | Feb. 26, 2019



A CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley waste operations crew prepares a waste container for debris from the Vitrification Facility demolition.

Peggy Loop, vice president of CHBWV waste and site operations, commended the team for the accomplishment.

Demolition of the 50-foot-tall, 10,000-square-foot facility represented the largest and most complex demolition of a radioactively contaminated facility at the WVDP Site to date. Crews completed the teardown Sept. 20 last year.

The facility was used to solidify radioactive liquid high-level waste stored at the WVDP Site. This waste was generated at the site from 1966 to 1972 during commercial reprocessing of spent fuel.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



WVDP Exceeds Fiscal 2019 Cost Savings Goal in Three Months



A Buffalo Fuel Corporation truck leaves the West Valley Demonstration Project Site with a waste shipment for disposal. The subcontract with the company was obtained using the Supply Chain Management Center's eSourcing tool.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – The [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) Site saved more than \$600,000 in the first quarter of fiscal 2019 by using procurement tools provided by the [Supply Chain Management Center \(SCMC\)](#), a [DOE](#) program that helps [EM](#) contractors find better prices for goods and services and makes the buying process more efficient and effective.

By achieving those savings in the first three months of the fiscal year, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), EM's WVDP Site cleanup contractor, exceeded its fiscal 2019 SCMC strategic sourcing cost savings goal by 10 percent. CHBWV surpassed that goal by applying sourcing tools such as real-time online reverse auction software to obtain a mobile generator and transportation services for offsite waste disposal.

"Our procurement team does an excellent job in preparing requests for proposals that obtain the best results for our cleanup efforts and taxpayers," said David Pritchard, CHBWV manager of prime contract, procurement, and records. "They are always finding creative ways to utilize the SCMC eSourcing tool to ensure the best price from qualified subcontractors and suppliers. It is truly a team effort."

CHBWV and other prime contractors supporting EM across the DOE complex use SCMC tools to lower costs and create efficiencies. CHBWV achieved 93 percent of its latest savings through the eSourcing tool, which is used for the auctions. In the past six years, CHBWV has conducted 52 auctions for equipment rentals, waste containers, laboratory services, and other items and services, and used other SCMC tools, for a total savings of nearly \$5.6 million.

Using the eSourcing tool, CHBWV's procurement team sends a request for proposals to prospective bidders. Auction details are provided and on the date of the event, the bidders compete for the requested products and services. The purchase order or subcontract is then awarded to the supplier with the lowest price that meets technical requirements.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

The Post-Journal

Reed Pushing To Keep Funding At W. Valley Site

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, wants to keep funding the West Valley demonstration project while also commissioning a federal report to get a better handle on what remains on the site and what can be done to remediate the site.

Reed introduced H.R. 1138 Tuesday in the House of Representatives. It was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. No votes have been scheduled. Reed proposed similar legislation last year that was passed by the House but was not passed in the Senate.

That legislation, H.R. 2389, authorized appropriations for ongoing cleanup activities at the West Valley Demonstration Project, a nuclear waste remediation site in New York. The bill also would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to the Congress on options for disposing of the site's radioactive waste.

Reed is asking for \$75,000,000 for fiscal years 2019 through 2025. In addition to the funding, Reed's legislation requests, within 18 months of the legislation's passage, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report that describes:

- the volumes, origins, and types of radioactive waste at the Western New York Service Center in West Valley, New York;
- what options have been identified for disposal of each such type of radioactive waste;
- what is known about the costs of, and timeframes for, each such option;

- the benefits and challenges of each such option, according to the State of New York and the Department of Energy; and as of the date of enactment of the legislation's passage:
- how much has been spent on the disposal of radioactive waste associated with the demonstration project prescribed by section 2(a) of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act; and
- what volumes and types of radioactive waste have been disposed of from the Western New York Service Center.

The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for remediating sites contaminated with radioactive waste and other environmental hazards stemming from federal activities related to the production of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy research.

ECA Files Comments Supporting DOE Efforts to Evaluate Proposed HLW Interpretation NRC, States and Locals Agree More Information and Engagement Needed

On January 9, 2019, the three-month public comment period for the Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed interpretation of the statutory term high-level radioactive waste (HLW) closed.

In its submission, the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) states, "a renewed sense of urgency and a willingness to consider technically defensible alternatives based on science is necessary and paramount. ECA believes DOE's proposal on the interpretation of HLW could present such an alternative."

ECA published an FAQ on DOE's interpretation of HLW in the October/November 2018 bulletin.

ECA noted strong support from its local government and community members for DOE's efforts to move forward with its proposed interpretation of the definition of the statutory term "high-level radioactive waste" (HLW) as set forth in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. By shifting to base disposal decisions on actual radiological characteristics and risk to human health arising from the waste, rather than artificial former policy standards that base waste classification on origin, ECA expects DOE could:

- Reduce years of DOE operations and risks to current host communities;
- Accelerate Hanford, Idaho, **West Valley** and Savannah River tank retrievals and closures;
- Decrease the number, size and duration of storage facilities pending availability of a permanent deep geologic HLW repository; and
- Save taxpayers an estimated \$40 billion or more on DOE's Office of Environmental Management program's remaining lifecycle costs.

However, ECA emphasizes that as part of making any clarification, DOE first needs to provide more information, specifically data and policy direction. Currently every site has questions regarding the change in interpretation, including the actual impact to each site and community that would be affected; the feasibility of amending existing consent orders, permits and agreements with the states; and potential cost and cost savings. This information is necessary in order to build trust, build support, and avoid legal challenges.

In support of moving forward, ECA offers DOE seven near-term recommendations: 1. DOE must be transparent and meaningfully engage host communities, state regulators, Tribes and the broader public in the decisionmaking process.

2. DOE should complete and release an evaluation of the feasibility, costs, and cost savings of classifying covered defense nuclear waste as other than HLW, such as outlined in Section 3139 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 . <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2810/text/pcs>

3. DOE should revise its radioactive waste management policy (DOE Order 435.1) to clarify that waste will be managed and dispositioned according to its characteristics, not its origin.
4. DOE must work directly with the State of New Mexico on a permit modification for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to remove the blanket prohibition on tank waste and wastes managed as HLW so that if it meets the applicable requirements it can be disposed of at WIPP.
5. DOE (and Congress) should provide full funding for WIPP capital asset projects to resume the full range of waste disposal capabilities and ultimately increase capacity.
6. DOE should begin work on a number of pilot projects and waste management policy evaluations to better understand alternative approaches and inform future policy decisions.
7. DOE must analyze the impact at each site and communicate it to the public.

See ECA's full comments <http://www.energyca.org/s/ECA-Comments-on-DOEs-Interpretation-of-HLW-January-9-2019.pdf> on DOE's proposed HLW Interpretation.

ECA's request for additional data and analysis was widely shared in other comments submitted on the proposal. At the state level, there were also a number of common concerns.

The State of Washington voiced the strongest opposition, including a letter signed by Washington Governor Jay Inslee and Attorney General Bob Ferguson "urging [DOE] to abandon the current proposal," recommending instead that DOE "engage directly with states, like Washington, that house DOE Environmental Management facilities on any issues of waste reclassification or treatment."

The State of Idaho expressed concern over the appearance that DOE's proposal appears to "imply unilateral authority to determine what wastes are to be considered as HLW and non-HLW, irrespective of the position held by the states which host the affected waste streams," a concern echoed in comments by the State of Oregon and the State of Washington.

Similarly, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SDHEC) notes their position that, "the proposed DOE interpretation does not and must not exempt HLW in South Carolina from currently applicable SCDHEC permits, orders, agreements, and approved closure plans." All four also questioned how existing legal agreements would be impacted and honored, and noted the need for more information on the impact at each site (in regards not only to what might be shipped offsite, but also what might ultimately remain on-site). As noted by the State of Nevada, the "set of statements lack requisite specificity and clarity needed to evaluate and compare the range of reasonable and appropriate disposal options for reprocessing wastes."

Environmental groups have expressed opposition, worried that the proposal will lead to lesser cleanup. For example, Geoffrey Fettus, at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) said under the proposal DOE is "unlawfully proposing to give itself the authority to 'reinterpret' what is high-level radioactive waste" and asserted that it will pose increased public and environmental risk. NRDC worked with a coalition of public interest groups around Hanford, where the majority of DOE's reprocessing wastes reside to gather 2,000 comments and petitions urging to DOE to drop its proposal. Meanwhile, the

Editorial Board of a local newspaper, the Tri-City Herald, issued its support to consider DOE's proposal, noting, "We join with other Tri-City leaders, scientists and engineers close to the issue who say nuclear waste should be defined by its characteristics and risk, and not its origin."

The staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) also provided comment to DOE, also raising the issue of DOE's authority. According to an article in The Energy Daily, "NRC staff said that 'the law explicitly gives NRC—not DOE—the authority to decide what other nuclear wastes are sufficiently dangerous as to require disposal in a deep repository to protect public health and the environment...'" In addition, NRC staff expressed concerns about the impact on disposal of Class C waste, and the extent to which DOE's proposed interpretation may not require DOE to remove the key radionuclides to the 'maximum extent practical,' from the tanks at Hanford. NRC staff does, however, outline suggestions on how best to address these concerns.

As DOE continues to review comments and determines how best to proceed, what is clear from the public comment period is the need for more data before there can be support for implementing DOE's proposed HLW Interpretation. Section. 3139 of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act called on DOE "to conduct an evaluation of the feasibility, costs and cost savings of classifying covered defense nuclear waste as other than high-level waste without decreasing environmental, health or public safety requirements." That report is now one year past due, but based on the comments reviewed thus far, preparing it, sharing it and engaging meaningfully with impacted stakeholders is clearly the next step.

See also:

***Comments from the State of Oregon ***

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/safety-resiliency/Documents/2018-12-28-ODOE-Letter-Reclassify-Waste.pdf>

*** Comments from the State of Washington***

https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/FinalStateCommentsonHLW-FRNotice_1-4-19.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

*** Letter from Washington Governor Inslee and Attorney General Ferguson ***

https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Gov-AG-DOE-LtrCommentsRe_ InterpretationofHighLevelWaste.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

***Tri-City Editorial, "Not all nuclear waste is the same. It shouldn't be treated that way." January 25, 2019. ***

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/opinion/editorials/article225059070.html>

*** NRC Staff Comments***

<https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML1901/ML19010A136.pdf>



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 5 | Feb. 5, 2019

West Valley Achieves One Million Work Hours Without Lost-Time Accident



WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – EM's cleanup contractor at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Site recently surpassed one million work hours without a lost-time accident or illness. "This and other work at the West Valley Demonstration Project only happens because of the skills and commitment of our employees to complete work in a safe and compliant manner," EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) and its subcontractors. "This work, safely performed, brings many benefits to the ongoing cleanup and future closure of our EM site." CHBWV crews pictured here use a large crane to load a section of a shield door from the site's vitrification plant during demolition activities. Workers successfully demolished the 10,000-square-foot plant in September, marking EM's largest and most complex environmental cleanup achievement at the site to date.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



WVDP shares equipment with SPRU resulting in cost savings



Photo provided

A transport truck delivers an excavator to the West Valley Demonstration Project for use in demolition activities.

Two Department of Energy Environmental Management sites have saved more than \$1.8 million by sharing heavy-duty equipment for large demolition activities, and the savings continue to grow.

In December, workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York received an excavator from the EM program at Separations Process Research Unit in Niskayuna. EM workers at SPRU also delivered a heavy-duty hydraulic hammer and shears to the site in October. EM received two larger excavators at WVDP last week under this arrangement.

“Working together, these two DOE-EM sites found a way to increase cost-savings. Many times, innovation results just from thinking differently about how we conduct our business, and this is a good example,” EM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Gilbertson said.

“West Valley and SPRU figured that out in this case. We need to continue our efforts to enhance safety, reduce risks, and increase cost-effectiveness,” Gilbertson continued.

WVDP shares equipment (continued)

Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's cleanup contractor, commended the team for its work.

"Sharing equipment and lessons learned between sites is a formula for success," Anderson said. "Our employees will continue to work with other EM sites in reducing risks in a safe, cost-effective and environmentally compliant manner.

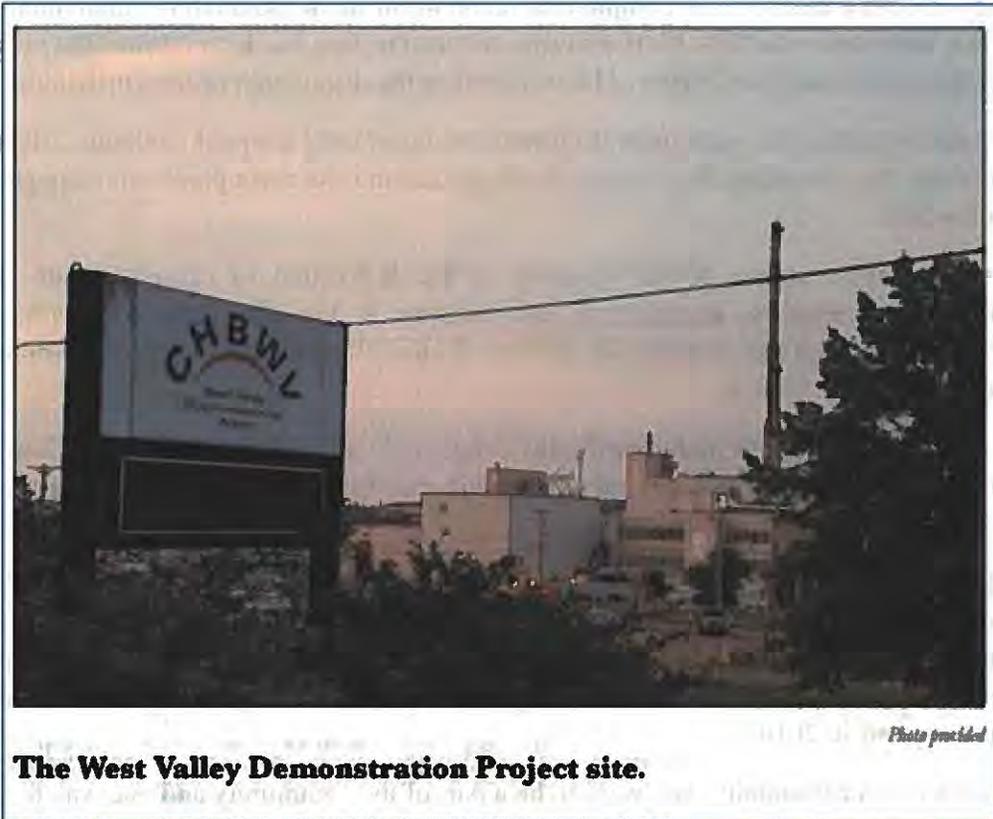
The equipment will be used in the demolition of five ancillary structures surrounding the main plant process building and 19 other facilities at WVDP including trailers, an old sewage treatment plant and water and septic tanks.

"This is a collective effort by everyone involved," Steven Feinberg, EM's SPRU federal project director said. "Cost savings and increased productivity among DOE's EM sites are the results of working together.

"We are glad to be a part of this initiative."

Work continues at WVDP in 2019

Max Borsuk Staff Reporter



The West Valley Demonstration Project site.

Workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project continue to move forward in their efforts to decommission the West Valley Nuclear Service Center and build on the success from last year. New projects and goals have been set for 2019 as crews continue work on the site.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC crews continue working through their four milestones as they continue to complete phase one of decommissioning the West Valley Demonstration Site. An accomplishment for 2018 was completing its second of four milestones – the disposal of legacy waste – seven months ahead of schedule. Workers are looking to make further progress on other milestones this year.

“The CHBWV team continues to perform its work in a safe and compliant manner,” CHBWV Communications Manager Joseph Pillittere said. “The completion of this work further changes the landscape and footprint of the WVDP site and is a reminder of the ongoing progress here.”

Work continues at WVDP in 2019 (continued)

Milestone three for CHBWV is to complete the demolition and removal of the main plant process building and vitrification facility. Workers were able to complete the demolition of the vitrification facility in 2018 and a goal for 2019 will be to complete the disposition of the vitrification waste.

While the demolition of the main plant is currently delayed until the next contract, CHBWV will be demolishing the remaining five support buildings around the main plant and disposing of the demolition waste.

The fourth milestone at the WVDP consists of the disposition of remaining site facilities, completing site operations, maintenance and utilities at the site. CHBWV workers have demolished and restored the areas for 28 of 47 facilities; plans for 2019 include completing the demolition for another 15 sites.

“We are getting the work done, reducing the environmental risks, making the footprint here smaller and preparing the site for the next part of cleanup efforts,” Pillittere said. “Everything we do here is going to benefit the future cleanup efforts.”

Helping the community along with the decommissioning work has always been a goal of CHBWV. CHBWV supported a variety of initiatives in 2018 including collecting 108,000 pounds of food in its annual food drive, donating \$18,000 to the United Way and other community donations to West Valley Fire District #1, Bertrand Chaffee Hospital and Mercy Flight, with plans to continue community support in 2019.

“When you are in a community, you want to be a part of the community and one way to be a part of that community is finding ways to make a difference,” Pillittere said. “We want to be a part of that community and want to be a good neighbor.”

Safety is something stressed at the West Valley Demonstration Project on a daily basis and workers look to continue their positive track record into this year. Pillittere appreciates all the hard work and safety precautions the CHBWV crews have accomplished in 2018 and he hopes to continue that trend with the 2019 projects.

“It is all about safety. If we are not safe then we are not productive,” he said. “Our workers enjoy what they do and there is a sense of pride when we can look at something, plan for it, put everything in place, have the right tools and you go in and complete that job.” Photo provided The West Valley Demonstration Project site.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

West Valley Chamber continues to help community

January 29, 2019

Max Borsuk

WEST VALLEY—Helping people within the community has always been a goal of the West Valley Chamber of Commerce for over 50 years. With a variety of services offered throughout the organization, the Chamber of Commerce looks to continue that goal and grow to help even more people in the future.



The West Valley Chamber of Commerce consists of around 60 members who have a business in either West Valley, Ashford or one of the surrounding communities and is always looking for new members. The Chamber meets monthly throughout the year to keep its members updated on happenings within the community and hosts services including Christmas baskets for seniors and a disaster relief fund to help residents facing hard times.

“Businesses have been very good at keeping their membership,” West Valley Chamber of Commerce President Chuck Couture said. “Many have been with us for a long time.”

West Valley Chamber of Commerce President Chuck Couture shows off the community birthday calendar.

The Chamber provides about 80 baskets during the Christmas season to senior citizens throughout the West Valley area. Baskets include items from assorted fruits to candies and the chamber offers both a single basket and a double basket for couples. The disaster relief fund gifts \$100 to people in the community who are going through a traumatic time, which Couture said is greatly appreciated in the community along with the baskets.

JOURNAL

SPRINGVILLE



"The people in the community really appreciate [the Christmas baskets and relief fund]," Couture said. "If someone knocked on your door and saw a person standing there with a basket, it kind of overwhelms them at times. But when you say it is a gift from the Chamber, it is really appreciated ... during a time of year where a lot of things are going on."

Keeping members up to date on what's happening in the community and doing what they can do promote members is another big goal of the West Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber offers a community birthday calendar, where residents can list birthdays, anniversaries and members can take out an advertisement for their business. Money from the cost of the ad, birthday listings and chamber dues goes toward helping fund the baskets, relief fund and other chamber offerings.

Meetings for the Chamber of Commerce move around to different restaurants or businesses throughout the community to help showcase the offerings within the area. Reports from West Valley Central School, the Town of Ashford and **West Valley Demonstration Project** are also given to help keep people informed on what's going on around them.

"One of the big goals is to keep in touch with what's going on around us," Couture said.

Those interested in joining the West Valley Chamber of Commerce can contact Couture at 942-3710 or cpcouture@hotmail.com.



OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Open-air demolition delayed at West Valley Main Process Building

- By RICK MILLER, Olean Times Herald

01/24/2019

ASHFORD HOLLOW — The open-air demolition of the Main Process Building at the West Valley Demonstration Project has been delayed indefinitely.

Contractor CHBWB has been asked by the U.S. Department of Energy to look into cleaning up areas not included in the original Phase I contract while the demolition of the Main Process Building is on hold.

Scott Anderson, CHBWB president and general manager, told members of the West Valley Citizens Task Force on Wednesday the Main Process Building was 95 percent deactivated. "We've still got some challenges," he added.

Bryan Bower, the Department of Energy director at the West Valley Demonstration Project nuclear cleanup, said that while the Main Process Building was included in the current contract, DOE officials are "re-thinking open-air demolition."

Cleaning up below-grade cells that were not part of the current contract will lessen the amount of radioactive material in the building and keep crews working, Bower said.

Anderson said crews will focus instead on seven ancillary buildings surrounding the Main Process Building. They are also working to rebuild infrastructure including natural gas and electrical lines that are more than 50 years old.

The U.S. Department of Energy delayed the open-air razing of the Main Process Building — where spent nuclear fuel from nuclear power plants was reprocessed from the mid-1960s until 1972 — following an unexpected release last year of radioactivity during demolition in Hanford, Wash.

Bower said he could not discuss any timetable for a decision on whether an open-air demolition would be carried out.



OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Anderson told Citizen Task Force member Raymond Vaughn that the Hanford release had left DOE officials nervous over open-air demolition.

He said that Western New York winters make demolition more difficult. The demolition of the vitrification building showed that "maybe you need a structure to work in, maybe not," he said.

Bower said no decision had been made on whether the demolition would be open-air or not. The DOE is seeking requests for proposals on what to do with below-grade cells.

"There are a handful of cells in the main plant that make us nervous," Bower said.

Citizen Task Force member Joseph Pati asked whether the hole in the roof left after removal of the remaining stack on the Main Process Building had been repaired.

"To some extent," replied Anderson. There are some areas of the roof where officials would like to put a temporary patch to keep water out of the plant.

Bower also said the government shutdown had not impacted the cleanup at the nation's first commercial nuclear reprocessing plant. The DOE is not among the federal departments involved in the partial shutdown that began Dec. 22.

Work continues toward a preferred alternative for Phase II cleanup at the West Valley site. That draft recommendation is probably two years away.

The Citizens Task Force has called in the past for a full cleanup of the site including removal of underground tanks that once held 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive liquid wastes, as well as the removal of state and NRC-licensed disposal sites.

(Contact reporter Rick Miller at rmiller@oleantimesherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, @RMillerOTH)