

## WVDP successfully demolishes former laundry facility

By reporter@springvillejournal.com | on April 23, 2019

Springville Journal Staff

WEST VALLEY – EM and its cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC recently completed the demolition of the former laundry facility at the West Valley Demonstration Project. This is the third of seven ancillary support structures to be demolished under the current contract. Laundry operations stopped in 2012 when it was outsourced to a private contractor as a cost-savings measure.



Crews begin demolition on the laundry facility.

“This accomplishment allows the workforce to continue with the demolition of the remaining ancillary structures as the footprint and associated legacy risks are reduced,” DOE-WVDP Assistant Director Craig Rieman said.

Using a large excavator and shear attachment, workers safely demolished the laundry facility after taking extra precautions when removing the hot side duct work. The hot side was used to clean potentially contaminated clothes worn during reprocessing and cleanup operations.

“The WVDP team continues its planned and deliberate demolition approach as they work towards the safe and compliant completion of this contract milestone.” Scott Anderson, CHBWW President and General Manager said.

This support structure was originally built in 1964 as the site’s maintenance building. It later became the laundry facility in the early 1970s. The 1,456 square feet building was constructed of concrete block, along with a steel frame and concrete slab on grade.

April 18, 2019

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Photo provided

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## Native Offerings Farm named Cattaraugus County farmer of the year

By ANDREW MOWRER, Olean Times Herald, Apr 11, 2019



Native Offerings Farm owners Deb and Stew Ritchie (from right) accept the Cattaraugus County farmer of the year award Wednesday night at the Cattaraugus County Farmer-Neighbor Dinner.

WEST VALLEY — A full house of 360 farmers and their neighbors met at the West Valley Fire Hall Wednesday night to honor Cattaraugus County farmers at the eighth annual Farmer-Neighbor Dinner.

The event brought area farmers and their non-farming neighbors — both local and from surrounding areas — together to reflect on the previous year's achievements and look forward to the future of the local agricultural industry.

Although event speaker Chris Baker, Director of Cattaraugus County Department of Emergency Services, was unable to attend the event due to unforeseen travel issues, event organizer Crystal Abers spoke.

There are many challenges but there are also opportunities for Cattaraugus County," Abers said, the reason being "Ag is alive and growing."

Dinner, which was prepared by the West Valley Fire Department kitchen crew, included items exclusively grown in local venues including beef and pork from Ford Brothers Wholesale Meats in Ashford Hollow, mashed potatoes from WiLean Farm in East Otto and many vegetables like carrot disks and Brussels sprouts from Native Offerings Farm in Little Valley.

The Farmer of the Year award was presented to Stew and Deb Ritchie of Native Offerings. As a history student at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Stew Ritchie became aware of his eating habits and developed an interest in organic food production. Because there were no course offerings in organic farming at the time, he worked for a few years after college on organic farms to learn the trade.

Deb Ritchie used her Environmental Science degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry to pursue a career in environmental education, which led her to Grindstone Farm in Pulaski, where her future husband happened to work.

The two married and gradually developed their organic vegetable farm, eventually becoming Native Offerings Farm. The farm was certified Naturally Grown from 2005 to 2015, and in 2015 became certified organic. Native Offerings also raises rotational grazed beef and, in 2018, began production of industrial hemp with a recently obtained licence to grow in New York.

Other candidates honored include Chuck and Phyllis Couture, who received the Friend of Agriculture award for their contributions to agricultural activities in Cattaraugus County since moving to the area in 1968.

Chuck Couture has made contributions as an agriculture teacher and Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisor. Phyllis Couture taught Home Economics and Horticulture at Springville, then opened Fox Valley Flowers with locations in Ellicottville and Salamanca.

## Vitrification demolition, waste disposition completed at WVDP

By reporter@springvillejournal.com | on April 01, 2019

Max Borsuk

WEST VALLEY – Work at the West Valley Demonstration Project continues to move forward, with crews recently completing another accomplishment in its decommissioning. CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC crews at the WVDP completed the disposition of waste from the vitrification building and the installation of a weather protective cover to signify the end of physical work with the vitrification building.



Workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project pull and smooth out the polyethylene weather protective cover over the vitrification facility concrete slab.

The vitrification building, which was used to solidify radioactive liquid high-level waste stored at the WVDP from 1966 to 1972, started being demolished on September 11, 2017 and was completed on September 20, 2018. After demolition, a weather protective cover was recently installed to preclude water infiltration into the below-grade portion of the facility.

Disposition of demolition waste from the vitrification facility was completed last month after 416 intermodal containers and 42 specialty containers were shipped offsite. Completing the vitrification facility represented the largest and most complex demolition of a radioactively contaminated facility to date at the site, according to CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, and allows workers to move forward with remaining work as they prepare for the next phase.

“It feels great. All the planning and the team involved taking something that needed to be cleaned up is now gone,” CHBWV Communications Manager Joseph Pillittere said. “We are really changing the footprint of the site, not to mention reducing the legacy risks that were there and allows the continuation of the cleanup toward final closure of the site.”

Completing work at the vitrification facility and doing the work safely has been a priority for CHBWV crews. Pillittere is grateful for the hard work the crews at the WVDP have completed so far and the safety precautions taken on a daily basis.



A crew prepares a waste container for vitrification facility demolition debris.

“Think about what we had to do with the changing weather, changing conditions and what they were working with. With industrial and radiological hazards, they were able to do that safety and compliantly in terms of taking that building down while protecting workers, the public and the environment all at the same time,” Pillittere said. “That’s a huge accomplishment for the team.”

Demolition of the vitrification facility helps CHBWV crews move closer to the completion of its two remaining milestones. Milestone three, which included the demolition of the vitrification building, still consists of the demolition of the main plant process building and its support buildings. Plans to demolish the main plant is back on schedule for CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley crews, along with four main plant support buildings left to be demolished.

Milestone four 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, with additional demolition to be completed this year.

“[CHBWV crews] are very methodical in their approach, they are very deliberate and it shows through their safe planning and teamwork,” Pillittere said.

Upcoming work at the WVDP includes preparations for the demolition of the low-level wastewater treatment – O2 pad, additional deactivation work within the main plant and preparations for work on the waste tank farm and old liquid pretreatment system.

# Bottom line

The Hill

By Alex Gangitano - 04/01/19 07:35 PM EDT 2

ENVIRONMENT. Texas-based environmental protection group **Waste Control Specialists** recently hired **BlueWater Strategies** to work on reauthorizing the West Valley demonstration project, according to disclosures. West Valley is an operation to dispose of radioactive waste. McKie Campbell, former staff director of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, will work on the account.