

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Letter: Nuclear power opinion does not consider factors

By Staff | *Published July 24, 2019*

In *Another Voice*, July 18, Professor Michael D. Garrick supports the continued use of nuclear power to avoid the limitations he sees in today's wind and solar power for meeting New York's energy needs while averting the climate crisis.

Unfortunately, the organization he co-founded, the Stable Climate Organization, has an outdated view of nuclear power, judging from its web page and Garrick's uncritical view of nukes. The web page references Chernobyl as the nuclear accident that people worry about (needlessly, they say, because the Soviet reactor was a type never built here).

There is no mention of the 2011 Fukushima disaster, at a General Electric-designed reactor with sister plants of the same design throughout the United States, including the Nine Mile Point reactors in New York State.

Stable Climate Organization's optimistic views about the recycling and deep geological burial of nuclear waste reference a 20-year-old report, despite the setbacks to both reprocessing and deep burial in the U.S. over the last 20 years. Those of us concerned about the future of the West Valley Nuclear Fuel Services site are only too aware of those challenges.

Location is everything in real estate, they say, and in nuclear sites as well. At Fukushima, advance warnings about the coastal location being prone to earthquakes and tsunamis were not sufficiently factored into the design. At West Valley, a geologically unstable site was chosen for nuclear reprocessing in the 1960s.

Garrick advocates keeping the accident-prone Indian Point Energy Center on line. The location of Indian Point on the Hudson River is striking – in a densely populated metropolitan area 35 miles north of midtown Manhattan. How would you evacuate the area downstream of a nuclear accident at Indian Point?

William Townsend Ph.D., Amherst



SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Monday, July 29, 2019

WVDP team develops conveyor system to increase safety

July 29, 2019

Springville Journal Staff

WEST VALLEY – A deactivation and decommissioning crew developed a conveyor system at the West Valley Demonstration Project to safely remove asbestos-containing material from inside the main plant process building. The wall plaster on several floors of the building contains ACM, which is being removed in preparation for its future demolition. A total of 56,000 pounds of wall plaster was recently removed from the fourth floor. The main plant was constructed between 1963-1966 as a commercial reprocessing facility to recover reusable plutonium and uranium from spent nuclear reactor fuel.



Three 900-pound lift bags filled with ACM sit on the employee-designed conveyor system used to improve safety and increase efficiency.

To increase safety and limit the amount of contact with asbestos materials, workers helped design, test, and build a conveyor system for the ACM work evolution. Using lessons learned from a previous ACM job, the conveyor system used readily available equipment making it easier and less expensive to build.

“This team took an issue and turned it into an opportunity by putting their knowledge into practice,” DOE-WVDP Federal Project Director Dan Sullivan said. “The safe and compliant disposition of asbestos-containing material is another important step in the progress towards the future demolition of the main plant.”

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Workers filled smaller 25-pound bags with ACM and placed them into much larger 900-pound capacity lift bags. The lift bags were transported on the conveyor system from inside the main plant to an outside overhead crane. The crane lowered each lift bag to the ground, so that a fork truck could place them into a waste container for offsite disposal.

D&D Manager Dale Macklem, commended his crew for their ingenuity in turning an idea into a reality.

“Working with asbestos-containing material is the most physically-challenging work at the site when you include radiological and industrial hazards, layers of protective clothing and warm temperatures. This crew used lessons learned to enhance safety, improve efficiency and reduce exposure to job-related hazards. They put their collective knowledge into practice, and that’s to be commended.”

West Valley Enlists Divers to Inspect, Clean Fire Water Storage Tank



Drew Matteson helps Chris Kunzel safely climb out of the EM West Valley Demonstration Project's fire water storage tank after Kunzel cleaned its interior walls. The certified divers are with BIDCO Marine Group of Buffalo, New York.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Trained divers working on behalf of [EM](#) recently went underwater to clean and inspect a fire water storage tank at the [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#).

“Our team has planned extensively for this underwater work, and conducted several confined space rescue training drills to ensure the safety of everyone involved,” said Pat Douglass, a manager with WVDP cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley. “Whenever you perform high-risk work evolutions, extensive planning, lessons learned, and practice are keys to a safe and successful outcome.”

EM maintains about 300,000 gallons of water in the 40-foot-tall tank in the event of a fire.



EM conducts inspections of a 40-foot-tall fire storage tank at the West Valley Demonstration Project in accordance with National Fire Protection Association requirements.

The divers from BIDCO Marine Group of Buffalo, New York performed all work in accordance with National Fire Protection Association requirements. The inspections and cleaning were done on the exterior and interior of the 55-year-old tank, and the divers took video recordings of their work underwater.

They took readings of the tank's thickness and pitted their measurements against existing structural condition reports to determine if the tank needs to be repaired or replaced. Inspections took place on the tank roof, shell, bottom, roof support column, tank foundation, and other areas. Results of the inspections are pending.

Prior to the inspections and cleaning, EM crews prepared emergency rescue protocols. The divers then entered the tank to check for water clarity and debris buildup before determining the best plan for the inspections and cleaning.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

Another Voice: Wind turbines are vital to our energy future

By Another Voice

Published August 1, 2019

By Larry Beahan

Windmills are beautiful. As a lover of Lake Erie's bluffs, beaches and sunsets, as a former Bennett Beach lifeguard and Learzaks patron, as a current property owner on its shores, I was astounded to read:

On Sept. 19, the Erie County Legislature's Energy and Environment Committee has scheduled a hearing to consider a bill by Legislators Lynne Dixon and John Mills condemning wind turbines on the lake.

They give whereases left and right. When you add them up, compared to the cost of climate change and the risks of nuclear energy to the lake, they amount to no more than:

- Whereas, many land owners consider wind turbines to be an eyesore at best. And therefore,
- Resolved, this honorable body is opposed to building any wind turbines along the shores of Lake Erie.

What'll we do without them?

I just got up from watching "Chernobyl" on HBO. It knocks your socks off with the tale of denial and cover-up around that horrific 1986 nuclear disaster that released the radioactivity of 100 Hiroshima bombs.

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Chernobyl, in the name of clean energy, killed 16,000 people, so far, contaminated 38,000 square miles of Europe with hundreds of years of radioactivity and cost \$68 billion to clean up.

The consequences of the Fukushima catastrophe in 2011 are rated on a par with Chernobyl's. Our own aging Indian Point nuclear power station on the lower Hudson has risks that are comparable to Fukushima. Those risks are compounded by Indian Point's location a few miles north of 20 million people and by the proposed Algonquin Incremental Market, a 42-inch fracked-gas pipeline that would pass within 150 feet of it.

Western New York needs electricity from wind turbines to light and heat our homes, drive our electric cars and buses, power our recovering economy and do it without producing greenhouse gasses or exposing us to the risks of nuclear energy.

Climate change has done too much damage to Western New York already: It has shortened our ski season enough. We can hardly take a hike in the woods for the Lyme disease-bearing ticks. The freaky weather threatens fishing and boating.

West Valley nuclear waste sits on a crumbling bank ready for the next "extreme weather" to dump it into the Cattaraugus and Lake Erie. Toxic algae blooms down the lake at Toledo. I was there a couple of years ago, when the water was too toxic to drink or swim in. Let's not let that happen to Buffalo.

With all this in my mind, the sight of wind turbines becomes sweeter and sweeter to me. May that awful resolution against them die in committee.

Larry Beahan, of Amherst, is conservation chair of the Sierra Club, Niagara Group

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Cattaraugus County IDA sets 6-month moratorium on solar applications

- By RICK MILLER Olean Times Herald

Aug 1, 2019

OLEAN — The Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency Board of Directors voted on Tuesday to enact a six-month moratorium on new solar farm applications.



The moratorium comes after the approval of five solar farms in the county over the past three years.

Three projects have been in Olean. The IDA also has applications for proposed solar farms in Portville and **West Valley**.

And there are more to come, said Corey Wiktor, IDA executive director. There are three or four other solar projects on the horizon in Franklinville, Ellicottville and Allegany, he said.

Wiktor said the IDA has a \$5,000 per megawatt value when it comes to determining payments in lieu of taxes (P.I.L.O.T.) for projects. Across the state, those values range from \$1,200 to \$8,000 and vary in length from 15 to 25 years.

IDA board member Joseph Snyder, who also serves as a county legislator, said the biggest question with solar is what happens after year 15 when the P.I.L.O.T expires and solar farms would be assessed at full value.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Wiktor suggested extending the P.I.L.O.T. to 25 years and increasing the value of the P.I.L.O.T. payments. "It's not more giveaway," he said. "It's more certainty."

"How do we value them?" Snyder asked.

Wiktor said the IDA needs a consultant with experience in the solar energy field to advise it on the best way to proceed.

The IDA also heard from Daniel Martonis, director of the county's Real Property Tax Services Office and Dan Padlo of Olean.

Padlo, who said he'd been approached by four solar companies about leasing his property, advised anyone involved in a solar lease to read it carefully.

Martonis said the P.I.L.O.T.s "are a pittance," compared to the revenues generated by solar farms.

Wiktor said that without the IDA's ability to negotiate a P.I.L.O.T., the solar farms couldn't be built. The taxes would be prohibitive.

The IDA may also want to include some kind of host community payments by solar farm developers, Wiktor indicated.

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



Local activists highlight connection between indigenous and nuclear issues

By KYLE S. MACKIE • 08-09-2019 - 9 HOURS AGO



Representatives from local indigenous and environmental groups gathered ahead of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

CREDIT KYLE S. MACKIE/WBFO NEWS

A celebration of Indigenous Peoples and Nuclear-Free Future Day returns Friday to the Buffalo History Museum. Ahead of the event, local Native Americans and environmental activists explained how the issues of indigenous peoples and nuclear power are intertwined.

Representatives from local indigenous communities, the Western New York Peace Center and Peace Action New York State gathered Tuesday at the history museum's Japanese Garden. Agnes Williams, coordinator of the organization



Indigenous Women's Initiatives, helped hold up two colorful banners that read, "No More Waste" and "Water is Life."

"The nuclear issue is very important to us as indigenous people because we're on the beginning and the end of the nuclear chain, at uranium mining and waste disposal," said Williams, who is a member of the Seneca Nation.

Williams and other speakers discussed the long history of indigenous land around the world and in the U.S. being taken and used for mining, testing of nuclear weapons and then disposal of radioactive waste.

"We thank indigenous wisdom for the guidance," said Victoria Ross, executive director of WNY Peace Center. "All of our issues are connected. We are working to #UniteTheStruggles."

There's at least one local example of nuclear waste disposal going awry: The **West Valley Demonstration Project**, which operated under Nuclear Fuel Services from 1966 to 1972. Despite its brief tenure, the site accumulated more than 600,000 gallons of high-level waste in onsite storage tanks, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. West Valley also had an "alarming" record of worker exposures to radiation.

Jason Corwin, media director for the Seneca Nation, said West Valley "was supposed to be a technological breakthrough for reprocessing this waste into usable fuel again. Instead, it was a huge technological failure."



WBFO has [reported](#) on the continued exposure to radiation in the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Territory as a result of contamination of the Buttermilk Creek. And while cleanup efforts for the West Valley site have been underway since 1980, Corwin said a long-overdue full cleanup is the only acceptable option moving forward.

Another local nuclear waste-related issue discussed Tuesday was the 2017 federal court decision that allowed the transport of liquid nuclear waste from Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario, Canada, to a reprocessing facility in Aiken, South Carolina. That transportation route allegedly crosses the Peace Bridge.

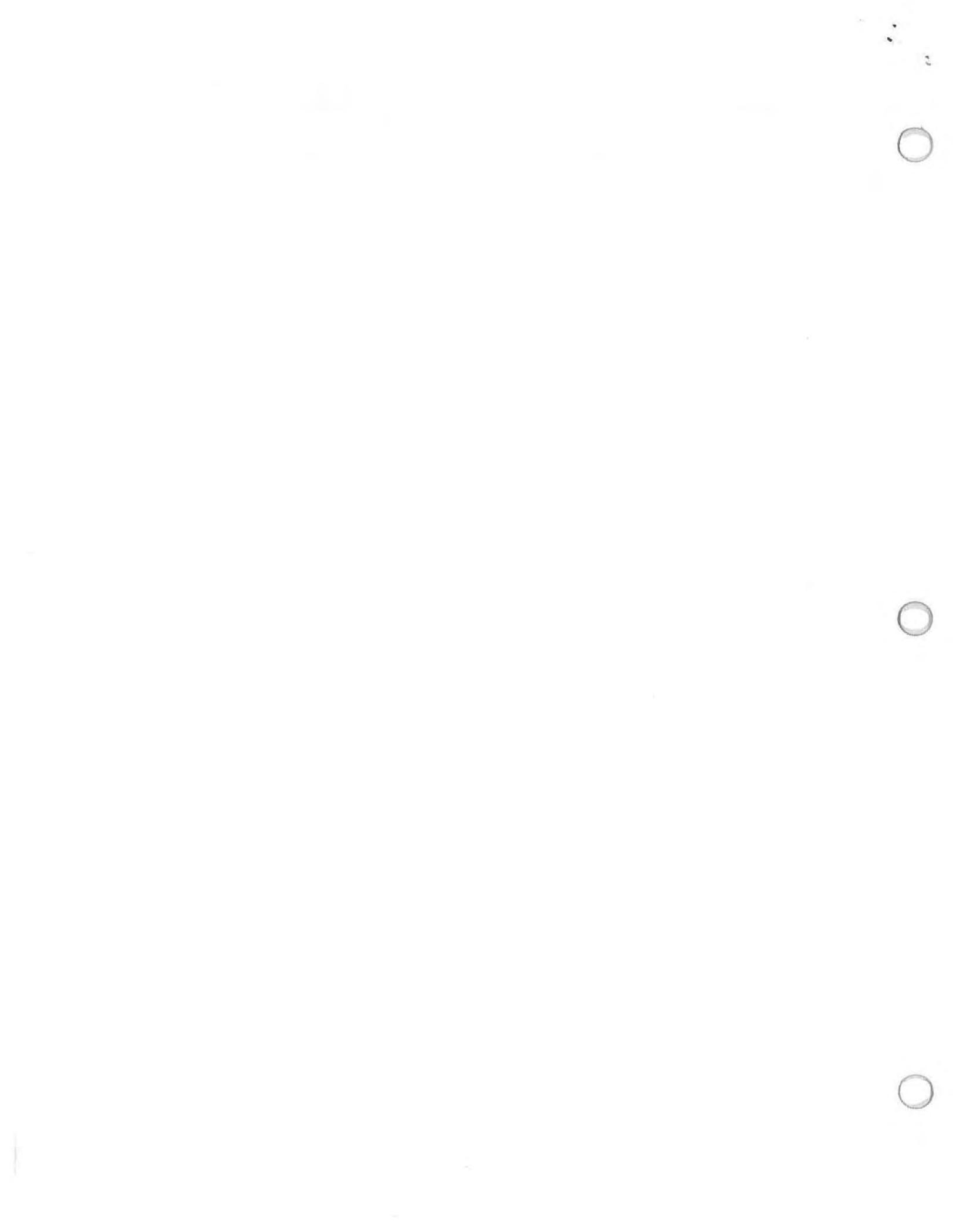
"These trucks are carrying radioactive materials over the water supply for seven states, and they are driving by our communities and our families," said Courtney Annese, a social worker and intern at WNY Peace Center. "This is an unacceptable risk."

WBFO contacted the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority, the U.S. Department of Energy and Representative Brian Higgins' district office for comment, but they have not yet responded.

In May 2017, when The Buffalo News [reported](#) that the first nuclear waste shipment had arrived in South Carolina, federal officials neither confirmed or denied whether the truck carrying it had crossed the Peace Bridge.

Williams, of Indigenous Women's Initiatives, said more information about the connection between indigenous and nuclear issues will be available at Friday's event from 3 to 9 p.m. at the Buffalo History Museum.

"We'd like to have everyone come and listen to our speakers, enjoy the foods, the arts and crafts [and] we have vendors," she told WBFO. She also said the event will give attendees an experience of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Nations) culture, and that it will conclude with a lantern ceremony and interfaith prayer service.



OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Reed visits West Valley site to view results of extra cleanup funds

- By [RICK MILLER Olean Times Herald](#) 1 hr ago



Bryan Bower (left), U.S. Department of Energy director at the West Valley Demonstration Project site speaks with U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, during at site tour Tuesday.
Photo provided

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WEST VALLEY — U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, visited the West Valley Demonstration Project Tuesday, saying it helps justify his support for the nuclear cleanup.

“They wanted to show us the results of what \$75 million a year for seven years looks like,” Reed said after what has become an annual tour.



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"To see firsthand the results of the investments is very helpful for me," the Southern Tier congressman said.

The former vitrification facility that helped convert 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive liquid waste into 275 glass logs is among the facilities that have been removed.

Reed said he also likes to meet with and thank some of the hundreds of site employees.

It was the site of the nation's first and only commercial nuclear reprocessing facility in the northern Cattaraugus County town of Ashford. Nuclear Fuel Services Inc., closed the plant in 1972 for retrofitting, but it never re-opened. It then abandoned the plant. The West Valley Demonstration Project Act of 1980 initiated funding for the site cleanup.

The U.S. Department of Energy, which manages the site, is currently undertaking phase 2 studies for the final cleanup of the site.

The most controversial items will be the removal of underground steel tanks and buried low-level radioactive waste in state and federal landfills adjacent to the WVDP site, as well as the demolition of the Main Process Plant — open air demolition or contained.

The House has pledged to continue to fund the cleanup to the tune of \$75 million a year. The White House has penciled in the same amount in its 2019-2020 budget. "The Energy and Commerce Committee in the Senate is favorable to the bill" as well, Reed said. "We have to get funding to continue each year. The seven-year bill is a very important signal. That's what we need for the Senate."

The funding bill comes up in the Senate in September. With both the House and White House backing the West Valley cleanup funding, "It bodes well for us," Reed said.

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"I'm seeing the physical results of the demolition," Reed said. "This is very helpful for other (DOE) sites like Hanford, Washington. They share equipment. They share best practices."

Reed said his message to the West Valley team led by DOE site director Bryan Bower and CHBWV, the cleanup contractor, was to keep in contact with his office.

"Kudos to the cleanup teams," Reed said after meeting with some of the cleanup workers. "I know it's hard work," he added.

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

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West Valley achieves cost savings through mobile trailer

08/15/2019 - - The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Site saved money, increased safety and increased efficiencies by changing the way it orders and provides its workforce personal protective clothing, such as gloves, coveralls, hats, belts and hoods. This new initiative saves the site approximately \$2,000 a week.

DOE-WVDP and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) worked with an outside vendor to provide a "one-stop shop" for personal protective clothing. The way this works is simple - an order is placed, a one-stop shop mobile trailer is loaded, delivered to the site where it will reside to supply protective clothing for future work activities. This new initiative, the first for DOE EM sites, has resulted in several benefits for WVDP, its employees and the taxpayers.

"It's encouraging that site personnel continuously work to identify solutions that can improve day-to-day operations and facilitate changes that will make the work environment safer and more efficient while at the same uncovering cost-cutting opportunities," Jennifer Dundas, DOE-WVDP safety and site program team leader, said.

The use of the trailer saves money and time by reducing the number of people that are involved to get these items to the end user. In addition, this trailer decreases the potential for injuries to warehouse personnel by reducing the amount of offloading, stocking, and delivery of these items to three locations onsite. Costs for laundering protective clothing have also decreased due to the use of disposable protective wear. The trailer contains six months' worth of stock, thereby eliminating weekly ordering and freight charges. Simply put: One call does it all!

"As a cleanup site, our goal is to reduce legacy risks and its associated footprint," said Cole Green, CHBWV's demolition readiness manager. "The site's warehouse is no exception, as it too has been reduced in size over the years. This new initiative creates more room, which increases our capabilities to store more items or use the space for other site-related needs (i.e., equipment storage during winter). In other words, we've made the warehouse bigger by thinking outside its four walls."

Lessons learned from the first order resulted in a different trailer with a side door for better access, lights, and racks for designated storage areas. These changes provide employees easier access to clothing, better lighting to see, and room to check size and fit.

"This has had a trickle-down effect on how we stock basic necessities such as paper towels and tissues," said Renea Call, CHBWV's warehouse manager. "Previously we had to place orders every time we hit our set minimum quantity due to warehouse space limitations. Now, because this initiative allows more stock room in the warehouse, we can place larger orders, saving on volume and freight. It's a win-win for the site and the taxpayers."

The one-stop shop trailer is currently located near the warehouse, but its mobility allows it to be relocated closer to major cleanup projects in the future. This increases efficiency and personal safety by reducing travel time to and from the job site.



West Valley demolishes fourth ancillary facility associated with vitrification facility

Crews recently demolished the utility room extension building at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The URE was added to the main plant utility room in 1994 and 1995 to provide additional power needed for the vitrification melter that was used to solidify 600,000 of high-level liquid radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002. This recent demolition brings EM's total number of structures removed at West Valley to 63.

The original 30-year old electrical supply system was reaching the end of life and new reliable equipment was needed to support high-level waste vitrification operations. By adding the URE instead of simply replacing the aging equipment, there was no long outage or impact to ongoing site operations.

DOE WVDP Director Bryan Bower commended the team for its work.

"The completion of this work changes the landscape and footprint of the WVDP site and is a reminder of the ongoing progress here."

The URE housed two oil-free air compressors to supply breathing air and instrument air to the site, two boilers to provide steam for heating and process operations, an emergency generator for the site, control room for utility operations and an electrical switch - gear room that supported the building and its equipment.

Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's cleanup contractor, said his employees used their combined knowledge and lessons learned to safely complete this work.

"The CHBWV team continues to make great progress towards the demolition of these historically significant facilities at West Valley with the completion of the URE. Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and environmentally-sound manner."



Photo provided

An excavator is used to demolish and remove two boilers from the utility room extension building. Both boilers were later size-reduced and packaged for offsite disposal.

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SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

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Vol. 151 - Issue 25

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August 15, 2019

Russell wins second Christine Padasak Memorial Autism Awareness 5K run

August 18, 2019

Mark Jagord

SPRINGVILLE – Brett Russell won his second consecutive Christine Padasak Memorial Autism Awareness 5K. The race began and ended at The Children's League on Aug. 3 and also featured a family fun walk. Nearly 300 people took part between the run and the walk with prizes awarded by gender and age groups separated by five-year increments.



Brett Russell won his second Padasak Autism Run.

Mary Lawrence was the top female runner with a 20:37 time and a sixth-place overall finish. Rob Lapensee finished runner-up to Russell for the second year in a row with a 16:43 time. Two other runners were repeat top-10 runners from a year ago that included Zach Peterman and Grady Regan. Peterman finished fourth with a time of 17:57 and Regan finished fifth with a 19:35 time.

Rounding out the top-six was Jared Hecht, who finished third with a time of 17:39.

In the men's brackets, there were a dozen winners that included: Liam Smith (14 and under, 21:43), Russell (15-19), Richard Knight (20-24, 34:51), Mitchell Gage (25-29, 25:28), Michael Carlin (30-34, 33:57), Adam Fisher (35-39, 22:41), Lapensee (40-44), Michael Williams Jr. (50-54, 24:06), Richard Zifra (55-59, 21:43), Kevin Knoll (60-64, 25:25), Richard Betts (65-69, 28:53) and Michael Williams Sr. (75-79, 29:30).



Zach Peterman improved his sixth place finish to fourth place this year by a time 98 seconds better than the previous year.

In the women's brackets, there were also a dozen winners that included: Autumn Pupo (14 and under, 25:12), Erin Murray (15-19, 21:40), Rylic Russo (20-24, 29:05), Kaitlin Gage (25-29, 26:20), Lynne Wendel (30-34, 27:11), Corinne Skeels (35-39, 26:27), Lawrence (40-44), Diane Waterman (45-49, 29:27), Karen Schoehals (50-54, 26:40), Susan Munson (55-59, 22:56), Valerie Sullivan (60-64, 33:40) and Shelly Wojtaszczyk (65-69, 40:22).

Proceeds from the event – which is in its 10th year – went to The Children's

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August 15, 2019



Jared Hecht finished third overall and second in the 15-19 men's age group.

League with a portion specifically to its autism program. Autism is known as a spectrum disorder (ASD) because there is wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms people experience. ASD occurs in all ethnic, racial and economic groups and although it can be a lifelong disorder, treatments and services can improve a person's symptoms and ability to function.

Sponsors of the event included the Kiwanis Club of Springville and Kiwanis International, WNY Dental, Health Systems Safety, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC, West Seneca Police Benevolent Association, Springville Pediatrics, Schroder, Joseph & Associates, LLP, Mass Mutual Financial Group, Haddad Agency, Inc., Springville True Value Hardware, Springville Door & Window, Inc. and Hartloff Benefit Solutions, LLC.

Following the race and walk there was a deluxe pancake breakfast with basket raffles and door prizes. Family activities were held in the park-like setting behind the school that included a bounce house for the day's festivities.

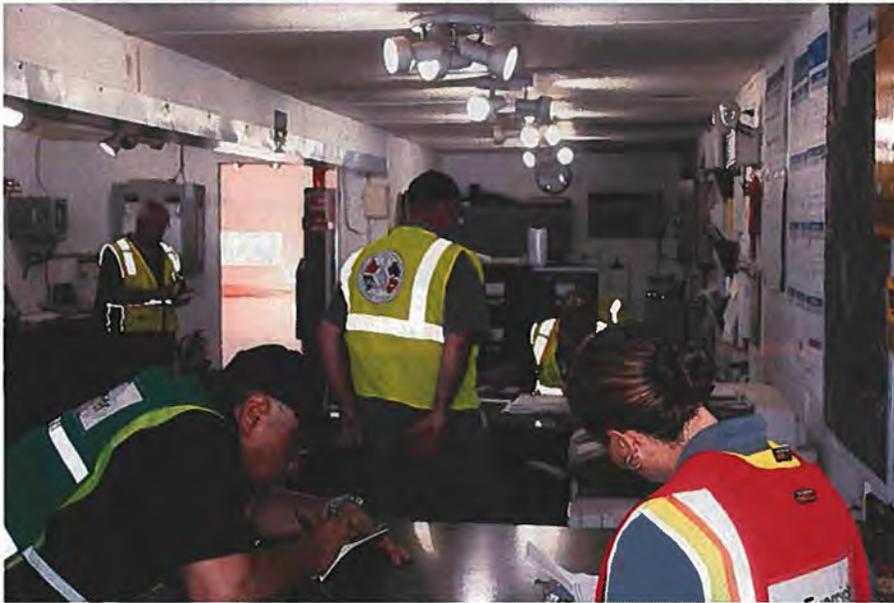
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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions.

2. It is essential to ensure that all data is entered correctly and that the system is regularly updated.



WVDP Helps Lead Full-Scale Exercise to Prepare for Emergency Incidents



The West Valley Demonstration Project's system operations hub serves as an incident command center in the event of an emergency.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) and its cleanup contractor at the [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) recently conducted a full-scale exercise with local emergency response personnel.

WVDP's environmental and radiological controls departments, and the site's emergency medical response, security, and other teams joined with West Valley Fire & Rescue and Cattaraugus County's sheriff's department, special response team, and emergency services personnel for the training, which tested the skills and response of participants in a mock emergency involving intruders to the site intending to cause damage. The Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Bomb Squad also took part in the exercise.



Participants in a simulated emergency response exercise at the West Valley Demonstration Project prepare to enter an office trailer that may contain a mock intruder.



Employees gather in an area of the West Valley Demonstration Project for safety as part of an accountability drill.

EM and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) employees at WVDP helped develop the simulated incident. Five [DOE](#) headquarters employees helped evaluate the response to the scenario. More than 25 law enforcement and 10 fire and emergency medical service personnel from agencies outside WVDP joined the event. Employees from [DOE's Argonne National Laboratory](#) also delivered mock social media and news coverage.

"You can never over-plan for emergencies," CHBWV Event and Emergency Management Manager Kevin Murray said. "To be prepared in our field, you must always be learning, training, and evaluating your performance. I know we can't predict the future, but we can certainly be well prepared for whatever comes our way."

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



Dallasnews.com

08-20-2019 - - Dallas-based engineering firm Jacobs is expanding its nuclear power business with a \$300 million acquisition of a Scottish firm's assets.

Jacobs announced the deal Monday with John Wood Group, an Aberdeen, Scotland-based company that provides a range of services to the energy industry. About 90% of JWG's nuclear holdings are in England, including the U.K.'s largest independent nuclear research facility.

"This acquisition further strengthens Jacobs' position in highly profitable and complementary sectors within nuclear and defense, enhancing our recognized program management skills with deep, technical expertise," said Jacobs CEO Steve Demetriou in a statement.

Jacobs said it expects the deal to close next year after regulatory approvals. JWG would get a \$9 million breakup fee if the acquisition isn't completed.

For JWG, the sale is a debt-cutting move. For Jacobs, it's a way to fortify its existing \$1.2 billion nuclear portfolio and add a team that can help it expand into other areas of Europe and Asia.

"From a growth perspective, the outlook for our nuclear business is strong, with a large long-term pipeline of decommissioning requirements as well as opportunities for development and upgrades to national nuclear infrastructure," Demetriou said in a conference call to discuss the deal. "We see many untapped international opportunities."



In the U.S., nuclear contracts are low-risk because they're reimbursable and can extend for decades, Demetriou said. "Economic cycles are unlikely to impact demand."

Jacobs leads the U.S. Department of Energy's environmental cleanup of the Hanford site in Washington. It's also a partner in managing the Nevada National Security Site, remediation at the Paducah Site in Kentucky and environmental work at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** in New York.

JWG's nuclear business generates about \$285 million in annual revenue. Jacobs said the deal gives it a 2,000-employee workforce with "deep technical expertise with unique engineering and scientific skills" across the nuclear industry life cycle, including construction, decommissioning and operational support.

"We are excited to welcome these talented employees to the Jacobs team," Demetriou said.

With annual revenue of nearly \$15 billion, Jacobs employs about 80,000 people worldwide. The engineering and construction consultancy moved its global headquarters from Pasadena, Calif., to Dallas in 2016.

The acquisition is Jacobs' first since 2017, when it bought Denver-based engineering firm CH2M Hill Companies Ltd., data analytics company Blue Canopy and Aquenta Consulting in Sydney, Australia.

Jacobs shares closed Tuesday at \$83.57, down 0.6%.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Monday, August 26, 2019

CHBWV employees lend a helping hand

August 25, 2019

Springville Journal Staff

SPRINGVILLE – CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley employees, the Department of Energy's prime contractor at the West Valley Demonstration Project, used their day off to roll up their sleeves and work together to make a difference in their community. Employees helped two local non-profits improve their landscaping, building aesthetics and other needed maintenance repairs as part of their continued commitment to the community.



Employees from CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley volunteer to help put up a fence at The Club of Springville.

On Aug. 16, volunteers were split into two teams to perform work at Springville Youth Incorporated and Delevan Head Start. Materials for the work were purchased by the two non-profits and donated by CHBWV employees and local businesses.

More than 15 volunteers painted three classrooms, installed a new wooden fence and weeded, raked and re-mulched a playground. This day was part of United Way of Buffalo and Erie County's Business Meets Community at the Springville location and United Way of Cattaraugus County's Day of Caring at the Delevan location. Support from the community like this is more important now than ever, as competition for limited funding and the need for increased services continues.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Monday, August 26, 2019

"Today's success speaks volumes to the generosity and kindness of our employees and local businesses," Lettie Chilson said, CHBWV Facility Manager and Day of Caring coordinator. "It shows the positive impact that kindness can have on a community."

"I am honored to be a part of an event that makes a difference in our community," Scott Anderson, CHBWV President and General Manager said. "I am also grateful that our employees, who work hard all week, would give a day's worth of their free time for such a worthy cause. This clearly demonstrates the commitment our employees have for their community."

A special thank you to Tree Care of New York and Theo's Pizza in Delevan that supported this event.

WVDP recycles demolition debris for environmental sustainability

WVDP recycles demolition debris for environmental sustainability



Photo provided

A transport truck hauls the large utility room extension building transformer offsite for recycling. Funds from recycling are used to offset cleanup and operational costs for the WVDP.

Cost savings continue at the West Valley Demonstration Project as workers shipped the utility room extension building's large transformer offsite to be recycled. To date, the WVDP has received more than \$14,000 in savings from their recycling efforts.

Crews continue to separate clean materials during demolition projects that can be recycled, which allows those cost savings to be used to offset ongoing cleanup efforts.

"Recycling is part of our commitment to be good stewards of the environment," Department of Energy-WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. "It's the right thing to do and helps save money for taxpayers and the government."

The URE was added to the main plant utility room in 1994 and 1995 to provide additional power needed for the vitrification melter that was used to solidify 600,000 of high-level liquid radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002. Like other activities at West Valley, the WVDP team undertakes comprehensive efforts to segregate clean areas and identify materials suitable for recycling.

Joe Ebert, Site Operations manager of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's cleanup contractor, said, "Performing our cleanup efforts in a safe and environmentally sound manner is a formula for success. West Valley and other DOE Environmental Management sites continue to reduce legacy risks while staying focused on safety and the environment."

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Monday, August 26, 2019

West Valley Demonstration Project Quarterly Public Meeting

Wednesday, August 28, 2019

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Ashford Office Complex

9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY 14171

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will hold a public meeting to provide information on WVDP activities and progress. NYSERDA and DOE will provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

For further information, please contact Joseph Pillittere at Joseph.Pillittere@chbwv.com or (716) 998-4900.



West Valley Gains Insights from Hanford to Prepare for Demolition Project



Employees from West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) receive a briefing from Jason Casper, vice president of Hanford's Plutonium Finishing Plant Closure Project and former vice president of WVDP contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – An EM team from the [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) recently visited the [Hanford Site](#) in Washington state to learn lessons from the [Plutonium Finishing Plant \(PFP\)](#) demolition project to apply to a future teardown at WVDP.

The WVDP representatives toured the PFP site and received a project update. PFP demolition activities resumed nearly a year ago after work was stopped in December 2017 following a spread of low levels of contamination. PFP was the last stop of Cold War plutonium processing on the Hanford Site.



Demolition on West Valley's Main Plant Process Building (MPPB), which was used to reprocess spent nuclear fuel, is scheduled to start in the near future. PFP and MPPB contain similar industrial, hazardous, and radiological risks.

"Being able to share experiences, expertise, and lessons learned is an important element in being a learning organization," EM WVDP Federal Project Director Dan Sullivan said. "Tailoring what we've learned to our comprehensive planning process is a formula for success."



From left, Robert Wade, Plutonium Finishing Plant health and safety director; Tommy Fontaine, industrial and radiation safety manager with West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV); Scott Chase, CHBWV facility disposition operations manager; Jason Meppen, CHBWV radiological operations supervisor; Janice Williams, CHBWV vice president for regulatory strategy; Dan Sullivan, EM WVDP federal project director; and Jamie Prowse, EM WVDP health physicist.



The PFP project implemented a series of corrective actions before resuming lower-risk demolition activities last September. A phased demolition approach, enhanced safety controls, increased worker engagement, and improved oversight, among other actions, have proved effective in protecting workers, the environment, and the public. PFP demolition is expected to be completed early next year.



"The Plutonium Finishing Plant is happy to share our lessons learned in support of similar risk reduction activities at West Valley," said Jason Casper, vice president of the PFP Closure Project for Hanford Site contractor CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company. "The open exchange of information and collaboration among the sites benefits cleanup efforts across the DOE complex."

Tommy Fontaine, industrial safety and radiation manager with WVDP cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, said obtaining insight from lessons learned is a continual activity.

"Our learning has not stopped. It continues everyday as we perform cleanup efforts to reduce legacy risks," Fontaine said. "Hanford and WVDP, along with other sites, will continue to share lessons learned and best practices for the benefit of our employees, the public, and the environment."

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

West Valley demolishes its fourth ancillary facility

08-29-2019



Contributed photo

An excavator is used to demolish and remove two boilers from the Utility Room Extension building. Both boilers were later size-reduced and packaged for offsite disposal.

Crews recently demolished the Utility Room Extension building (URE) at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The URE was added to the Main Plant Utility Room in 1994 and 1995 to provide additional power needed for the vitrification melter that was used to solidify 600,000 of high-level liquid radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002. This recent demolition brings EM's total number of structures removed at West Valley to 63.

The original 30-year old electrical supply system was reaching the end of life, and new reliable equipment was needed to support High-Level Waste Vitrification operations. By adding the URE instead of simply replacing the aging equipment, there was no long outage or impact to ongoing site operations. DOE WVDP Director Bryan Bower commended the team for its work.

"The completion of this work changes the landscape and footprint of the WVDP site and is a reminder of the ongoing progress here!"

The URE housed two oil-free air compressors to supply breathing air and instrument air to the site, two boilers to provide steam for heating and process operations, an emergency generator for the site, control room for utility operations, and an electrical switchgear room that supported the building and its equipment.

Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), EM's cleanup contractor, said his employees used their combined knowledge and lessons learned to safely complete this work.

"The CHBWV team continues to make great progress towards the demolition of these historically significant facilities at West Valley with the completion of the URE. Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and environmentally-sound manner:"



SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

It's time for the Department of Energy to clean up West Valley.

August 31, 2019

Submitted

The following is a guest column from the Town of Ashford Board:

Once again, the Town of Ashford and the West Valley Demonstration Project are on the outside looking in as far as the United States Department of Energy is concerned. A recent DOE proposal for interpreting high-level waste might have cleared the way for relocation of West Valley's high-level waste, but DOE has now updated that proposal to exclude West Valley. Also, DOE could be disposing of the transuranic waste that has been stored at the site since the 1980s, but DOE refuses to dispose of this waste at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, the one disposal site in the nation where it belongs. The Town of Ashford and its residents deserve better.

While DOE continues to treat West Valley and the Town of Ashford differently from its other cleanup sites for cost reasons or because of state-federal disputes, transuranic waste containers on the site, some from the 1980s, are starting to become unstable, and one recently broke apart and leaked. These containers were never meant for long-term storage in this location. One significant weather event could easily compromise other containers which are currently stored in nothing more than a metal building.

The Town of Ashford always rises to the occasion to be an active and supporting partner of DOE. We have patiently waited for decisions to be made, and we regularly work well with local DOE staff. DOE is currently working on a complicated proposal for disposal of West Valley transuranic waste that requires actions by Congress, the US NRC and the State of Texas. But DOE could open a disposal pathway for West Valley's transuranic waste today at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant by simply recognizing the defense work that was done at West Valley.

DOE says West Valley waste is "commercial" waste, which means the West Valley transuranic waste can't go to WIPP, since WIPP only takes defense waste. But 60 percent of West Valley waste came from the nuclear weapons complex, and most of the plutonium and all the uranium recovered at West Valley went back to the defense complex. This means the West Valley wastes should be defined as defense waste. In

fact, West Valley is on DOE's list of "atomic weapons employers," making many West Valley employees eligible for the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program that compensates individuals for a broad range of illnesses received through working at DOE weapons complex facilities. DOE can't have it both ways.

Last year, DOE proposed to change the way it defines high level reprocessing waste, basing it on radiological characteristics, rather than origin. DOE said this change could open up disposal pathways for sites around the nation, expediting the cleanup of nuclear waste sites like West Valley. The Town of Ashford's comments were supportive of DOE's re-interpretation, not only at West Valley, but across the DOE complex, because DOE said it could move the clean-up forward and get waste out of West Valley and other sites.

Now DOE says the West Valley HLW won't be part of this initiative because DOE considers West Valley waste to be commercial waste. The whole point of DOE's proposal to interpret the definition of HLW was to manage the nation's HLW based on its characteristics rather than its origin. But in treating the West Valley HLW differently than the waste at Hanford, Savannah River and Idaho, because they call it "commercial," DOE is doing exactly what they said shouldn't be done.

West Valley deserves the same cleanup priority as every other site where neighbors live next to nuclear waste. It's time for DOE to abandon its outdated position on West Valley waste being commercial waste, treat the HLW like the nation's other HLW and get the aging transuranic waste into the queue for disposal at WIPP.

We are extremely concerned with the concept of "open-air" demolition of the main plant process building given the off-site contamination issues that have occurred at Hanford, Wash.

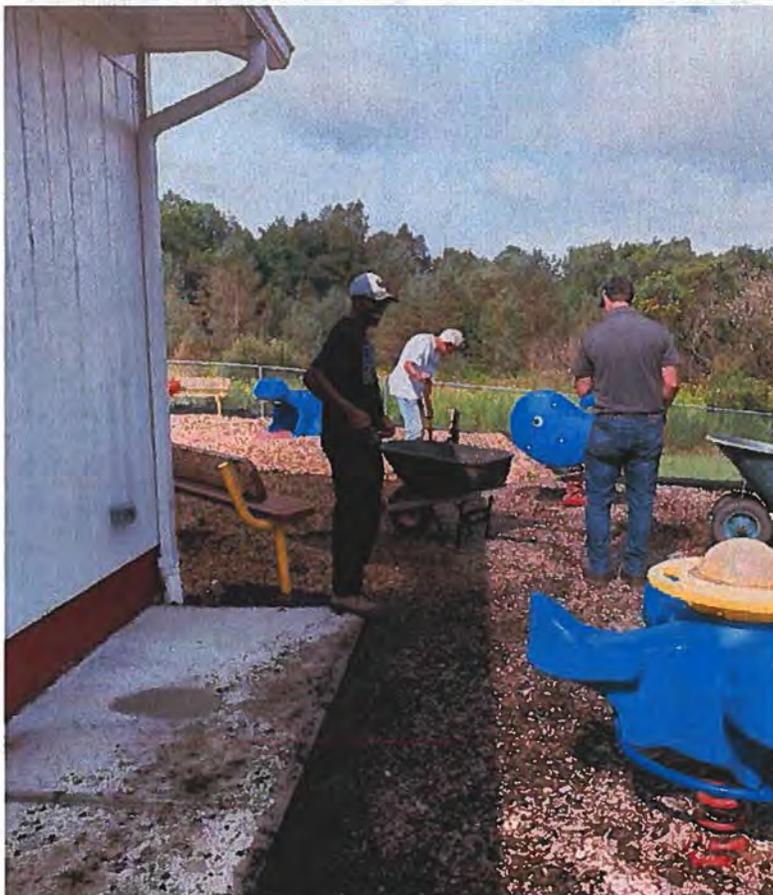
DOE continues to ask the community to do something it is not environmentally or economically suited for. The longer this continues, the higher the cost to the local community and the federal government. Continued delay and disagreement will continue to increase costs while the Town of Ashford deals with the on-going stigma of a nuclear waste dump.



West Valley Employees Paint, Landscape, and Build for Nonprofits

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Employees at [EM West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) recently helped two local nonprofits with landscaping, maintenance, and other work as part of United Way volunteer efforts.

One WVDP team painted three classrooms at Delevan Head Start, and removed weeds, raked leaves, and added mulch to the school's playground. A second team installed a new 120-foot-long wooden fence at Springville Youth, Inc., which offers recreational activities.



West Valley Demonstration Project employees cleared weeds, cleaned, and placed new mulch on the playground at Delevan Head Start.



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West Valley Demonstration Project employees construct a fence at the Springville Youth, Inc. facility.



Lettie Chilson, a United Way Day of Caring coordinator and facility manager with WVDP cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWW), said the volunteering speaks to the generosity and kindness of employees and local businesses.

"It shows the positive impact that kindness can have on a community," Chilson said.

Scott Anderson, CHBWW president and general manager, said he was grateful that employees work hard all week and then give a day's worth of their free time to worthy causes.

"This clearly demonstrates the commitment our employees have for their community," Anderson said.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

Collaboration Results in Reliable Power for West Valley Cleanup



A crew installs electrical equipment at the West Valley Demonstration Project's new switchgear station.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – **EM** workers recently installed a new electrical service and distribution system at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), providing more reliable power to cleanup operations.

"The completion of this work evolution will not only bring many benefits to the future cleanup of our EM site but also to the West Valley community," EM WVDP Deputy Director Craig Rieman said. "This infrastructure upgrade will greatly increase the site's electrical power reliability during future decommissioning and remediation activities now and will provide a reliable source of power for future cleanup activities."

Rieman added that the infrastructure investment will make electrical power more dependable for the surrounding West Valley area, too.



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Workers perform tests at the West Valley Demonstration Project's new switchgear station.

EM and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) collaborated with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the local gas and electricity utility to relocate transmission lines, remove a decades-old electrical substation, and install modern equipment. EM and CHBWV conduct cleanup at the site in cooperation with NYSERDA.

"Our employees and subcontractors did an excellent job in planning and executing this work," said Linda Michalczak, CHBWV projects manager. "This accomplishment speaks volumes on the importance of solid communication, teamwork, and best practices."

Crews installed new poles, overhead power lines, and a protective fence. They also built a new electrical substation and switchgear station.

The latest electrical service and distribution system upgrades add to other recent infrastructure improvements at WVDP, including a data center, potable water system, and natural gas distribution system.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

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September 5, 2019

NYSERDA opens archery deer hunting at the WNY Nuclear Service Center

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will offer its annual deer hunting program at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center in the town of Ashford Oct. 1 through Nov. 15.

Approximately 1,500 acres will be open for hunting; participants must register for archery hunting online. Scouting will be available Sept. 21, 25 and 28; participants must register online for scouting. Crossbows will be allowed the last two weeks of archery season (Nov. 2 through 15).

NYSERDA's program is open to anyone with a valid 2019-20 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Big Game or Sportsman License and allows up to 10 hunters per area per day to hunt each scheduled day on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hunters must complete an online West Valley Deer Hunting Application to participate in this year's program from NYSERDA's West Valley deer hunting website.

An application must be completed to participate in NYSERDA's program; preapproval is mandatory. As per DEC regulations, licensed Junior bowhunters (aged 12-13) must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or "youth mentor" who is at least 21 years of age. Junior Hunters (aged 14-15) must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or person 18 years or older. No minors under age 12 will be allowed in the field.

For additional information regarding this program, visit NYSERDA's West Valley deer hunting website NY or contact the Deer Hunting Coordinator, Alita Dueringer, at 942- 9960, extension 4990.



West Valley Workers Receive Impromptu Fire Safety Training



John Rendall, deputy general manager with CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, uses a fire extinguisher simulator to put out a mock fire at EM's West Valley Demonstration Project.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) and its cleanup contractor at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) recently held unannounced safety exercises for employees using a fire extinguisher training simulator.

Representatives from CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley's (CHBWW) training and emergency management departments drove around the site asking employees to participate in a simulated fire scenario at random. Workers described actions they would take in the event of a fire, using the simulator to extinguish a vehicle fire.



"The use of the simulator gives practical hands-on training to our workforce versus the traditional methods of videos and discussion-based training," said Kevin Murray, CHBWW's emergency preparedness manager and captain of the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company.

The employees tested their knowledge and abilities gained from general employee training, daily safety sharing, mentoring, and required reading.

"In emergency situations, you always fall back to your training," Murray said. "Now these employees have training that they can fall back on and hopefully will be better prepared to deal with an emergency situation. In the end, training is all about learning, practicing, and applying."

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

(Continued from page 2)

Continuing to Move Forward – Executive Director’s Message

1. *Portsmouth School Issues.* In May, we learned that local community representatives in Piketon, Ohio (near DOE’s Portsmouth site), were concerned about the potential presence of manmade radioactive materials inside a local middle school. Over the Memorial Day weekend, DOE deployed a team of certified health physicists to collect samples for analysis from the school. DOE’s analysis found no manmade isotopes and no enriched uranium. These results are consistent with those from the Ohio Department of Health. The local community is moving forward with a third-party sampling effort that DOE has committed to fund.
2. *Oak Ridge – Should a New Landfill be Sited at the Proposed Location?* The City and surrounding community have raised health and safety concerns over the landfill siting and have requested a DOE response to these concerns... and asked...and asked. ECA followed up to ask for a reply as well. DOE uncharacteristically remains silent as officials wait for their own conflict with EPA and the State over the landfill siting to be resolved—any day now. The City has raised legitimate issues and the lack of DOE response only raises concerns (see story on page 1).
3. *Contracts.* EM is continuing to move forward with “End State Contracting” (a confusing name but a clear concept). Implementing the program over the year will continue to be a time-consuming focus of the organization. The contracting method is a single award Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract for each acquisition with the ability to issue both Cost-Reimbursement (CR) and Firm-Fixed-Price (FFP) Task Orders (TO) – as projects are identified by DOE. This model will be applied to Hanford Central Plateau Cleanup Contract and Tank Waste Cleanup Contract, Oak Ridge Reservation Cleanup Contract, Nevada Environmental Program Services, Portsmouth, **West Valley Phase 1B D&D and Soil Remediation**, and the Idaho Cleanup Project. Note that DOE announced it will extend the current contracts at Hanford for both radioactive-waste tank operations and Central Plateau cleanup.

4. *High-level Waste Definition.* The Department won’t say it but SRS is the test case to see if this new definition of HLW works – and it would be surprising if it did not work. Remember – this does not change the risk of the item that is being defined as HLW or another type of waste – instead DOE would define the waste on *content versus how the waste was created*. It seems to make sense to ECA members. However, there remains significant concern on how this would be implemented by several states and where the waste would be disposed. ECA continues to be engaged and would like to see the conversation – despite political concerns – continue at the state, federal and local level.
5. *Infrastructure.* Although infrastructure is often ignored, DOE EM and NNSA need new infrastructure since most of it at the sites is between 50-75 years old. It is crumbling. DOE/NNSA/Science/NE need to start to recognize the issue beyond the sites they manage.

Last year when the Hanford Tunnel roof collapsed on top of stored radioactive waste, a quote which should make us all focus on infrastructure was “*The risk of failure, based on Department of Energy nuclear safety standards, has increased from ‘unlikely’ to ‘anticipated,’...*” We have sites around the DOE/NNSA complex with similar issues.

Do the sites know and have they quantified their infrastructure needs? What if the water and wastewater facilities serving the facilities goes down? We continue to wonder if DOE/NNSA is prepared. For example, for five years the City of Oak Ridge continues to identify for the Office of Science and NNSA that they have a 75-year old water plant built by the Atomic Energy Commission serving a multi-billion dollar defense facility.

DOD is reviewing its infrastructure and resilience for needed upgrades and to address energy and physical security threats. What happens if the power goes out at Y-12, Los Alamos, Pantex, SRS, INL, etc., for more than 3 days? Has DOE/NNSA even done such an exercise (like DOD is doing at many of its key bases)?

The communities have offered financing and any other partnerships that are needed to assist DOE/NNSA to improve their facilities. Good models of facilities that have been improved with private and public partnerships include ORNL, PNNL, LANL and others. For example, SRNL has a potential

(Continued on page 4)



OP-ED: TOWN OF ASHFORD CALLS ON DOE TO INCLUDE WEST VALLEY CLEANUP IN HLW INTERPRETATION

It's time for the Department of Energy to clean up West Valley.

Once again, the Town of Ashford and the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) are on the outside looking in as far as the United States Department of Energy (DOE) is concerned. A recent DOE proposal for interpreting high-level waste might have cleared the way for relocation of West Valley's high-level waste, but DOE has now updated that proposal to exclude West Valley. Also, DOE could be disposing of the transuranic waste that has been stored at the site since the 1980s, but DOE refuses to dispose of this waste at WIPP, the one disposal site in the nation where it belongs. The Town of Ashford and its residents deserve better.

While DOE continues to treat West Valley and the Town of Ashford differently from its other cleanup sites for cost reasons or because of state-federal disputes, transuranic waste containers on the site, some from the 1980s, are starting to become unstable, and one recently broke apart and leaked. These containers were never meant for long-term storage in this location. One significant weather event could easily compromise other containers which are currently stored in nothing more than a metal building.

The Town of Ashford always rises to the occasion to be an active and supporting partner of DOE. We have patiently waited for decisions to be made, and we regularly work well with local DOE staff. DOE is currently working on a complicated proposal for disposal of West Valley transuranic waste that requires actions by Congress, the US NRC, and the State of Texas. But DOE could open a disposal pathway for West Valley's transuranic waste today at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) by simply recognizing the defense work that was done at West Valley.

DOE says West Valley waste is "commercial" waste, which means the West Valley transuranic waste can't go to WIPP, since WIPP only takes defense waste. But 60% of West Valley waste came from the nuclear weapons complex, and most of the plutonium and all the uranium recovered at West Valley went back to the defense complex. This means the West Valley wastes should be defined as defense waste. In fact, West Valley is on DOE's list of "atomic weapons employers," making many West Valley employees eligible for the Energy

Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program that compensates individuals for a broad range of illnesses received through working at DOE weapons complex facilities. *DOE can't have it both ways.*

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West Valley deserves the same cleanup priority as every other site where neighbors live next to nuclear waste. It's time for DOE to abandon its outdated position on West Valley waste being commercial waste, treat the HLW like the nation's other HLW, and get the aging transuranic waste into the queue for disposal at WIPP.

We are extremely concerned with the concept of "open-air" demolition of the main plant process building given the off-site contamination issues that have occurred at Hanford, WA.

DOE continues to ask the community to do something it is not environmentally or economically suited for. The longer this continues, the higher the cost to the local community and the federal government. Continued delay and disagreement will continue to increase costs while the Town of Ashford deals with the on-going stigma of a nuclear waste dump.

This article was written by representatives from the Town of Ashford.

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