

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

IDA accepts HoliMont application for sales tax breaks to get back on the grid

By RICK MILLER Olean Times Herald

ELLICOTTVILLE — HoliMont wants to get back on the grid.

After nearly two decades of operating its own powerhouse, providing electricity to operate North America's largest private ski resort, HoliMont operators are looking to again purchase power from National Grid.

Ed Youmans, general manager, presented a request to the Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency for sales tax exemption for \$948,000 in purchases, including about \$450,000 to get back on the grid. The sales tax breaks for the project are about \$76,000.

HoliMont comptroller Sue Quattrone said it is one of the larger projects the resort has proposed in recent years.

The resort has about 30 employees with an annual payroll of \$2.2 million. About \$770,000 of the upcoming project is machinery and equipment costs, \$90,000 for the building and \$80,000 for office equipment.

In addition, Youmans said snowmaking equipment and a new grooming machine were also part of the package, as was a new point-of-sale system, two shuttle buses, general slope work and the widening of ski runs.

Youmans said the natural gas-fueled generator limited the resort's snowmaking when the chairlifts were operating. Getting electricity delivered by National Grid will change that.

"I think we are going to be a pretty good customer for them," he said.

The generation plant has been a boon to the resort, Youmans said, although it is not easy to maintain.

"These machines are not new," he said. "We could still throw a switch any time we need the generator plant."

The new connection to the grid, once it is finished in November, will mean the most at the beginning of the season when the resort looks to use snowmaking on as many of the slopes as possible.

Youmans said the connection to the grid will involve construction of a 20-foot by 40-foot building.

After the IDA board accepted the HoliMont application, executive director Corey Wiktor said a public hearing would be held on the project before next month's IDA meeting.

The IDA also voted to spend up to \$5,000 to hire a consultant to review its payment in lieu of taxes (P.I.L.O.T.) policy regarding solar projects.

Last month the IDA voted for a six-month moratorium on applications for tax breaks for solar projects.

The county has operating three solar projects in the city of Olean. Two others in West Valley and Portville have been approved for construction, while five or six are waiting in the wings, including a large 160-acre site in Franklinville, two 75-acre sites in Great Valley and two 3- to 5-megawatt projects in Machias, Wiktor said.

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The solar power study is expected to recommend how the IDA should proceed with respect to how much per megawatt should be included in P.I.L.O.T. payments. And how long the P.I.L.O.T.s should be for solar. The terms are now 15 years. It's unlikely a solar farm operator would continue to run it if the solar panels were on the tax rolls.

"The developers say they can't afford more than \$5,000 a megawatt," said IDA chairman Thomas Buffamante. That is what the study hopes to find out, he added.

Wiktor said the length of the P.I.L.O.T.s might affect the amount of money available for the municipality, county and school district to share.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will support longer P.I.L.O.T. terms, Wiktor said.

Two applications for projects are expected next month, Wiktor told the board: The \$4 million Phase 2 of Field of Dreams, the new assisted living facility in Allegany, and a \$450,000 Four Mile Brewing Co. project involving more equipment.

An adaptive reuse application for two North Union Street buildings in Olean are also possible, Wiktor said.

The IDA board also heard from Valessa Souter-Kline, project manager for the 340-megawatt Alle-Catt Wind Farm spanning five towns in three counties including Farmersville and Freedom in Cattaraugus County.

The 117-turbine Alle-Catt project would site 23 turbines in Farmersville and 34 in Freedom, Souter-Kline said. The developer, Invenergy, was looking at 400 prevailing wage local construction.

One IDA member, Vergilio "Dick" Giardini, who is a county legislator, asked if contractors wouldn't bring workers from other states to build the wind turbines.

"I want to see local people," he added.

The Cattaraugus County Legislature voted last year to recommend that the IDA not grant tax breaks to large wind projects. The turbines would be 600 feet tall from ground to blade tip.

Concord board hears updates on Genesee Road Solar

Max Borsuk
Editor

As the proposed Genesee Road Solar Energy Center in Concord and Sardinia continues to move forward, the Concord Town Board, at its Sept. 12 meeting, heard updates on the project. Ryan Storke from Storke, LLC made a presentation to the board about the Solar Energy Center and what could be coming to the town.

The Genesee Road Solar Energy Center would be a 350 megawatt project by EDF Renewables in partnership with Storke, LLC. The solar panel project would be located in the towns of Concord and Sardinia, with a final project size of approximately 2,500 acres. The project has been submitted into the 2019 New York State Energy Research and Development Agency Large Scale RFP, which is scheduled to be awarded in December.

Storke reported that the open house event on Aug. 7 at the East Concord Fire Hall was well attended by the community. Residents were able to see information on the proposed project and ask questions about what the project will entail for the town. Additional meetings will be scheduled, with the next one being in either October or November.

"We appreciate anyone who came out to [the open house]," Storke said. "About 50 people showed up and there were very thoughtful questions as we went around the boards."

Studies have been completed for the integration of sheep from local farms into the Genesee Road Solar Energy Center for vegetation management and to limit mechanical mowing. The project is also planning on planting clover or other ground cover to stimulate foraging bees and butterflies and producing honey at the site with the bees.

The project is currently in the pre-application phase, Storke said. If everything in the application, hearings and decision phases goes correctly, construction is set to start in spring 2022 and completed by the end of 2023.

In other board news:

- The board approved a resolution honoring the Concord American Legion Post 431 for its 100th anniversary. Supervisor Clyde Drake will present the proclamation to the American Legion at an upcoming event.
- The board awarded a bid to Bill Bognar Excavating in the amount of \$23,900.90 for sewer repairs at Craneridge.

The Town Board will next meet Thursday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Town of Colden earns Clean Energy Community Designation

The Town of Colden has announced that it has been designated a Clean Energy Community by the New York State Energy Re - search and Development Authority, recognizing its leadership in reducing energy use, cutting costs and driving clean energy locally.

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in Au - gust 2016, the \$16 million Clean Energy Communities initiative supports local government leaders across the state by providing grants to eligible municipalities to implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development projects in their communities. Clean Energy Communities support Governor Cuomo's Green New Deal, a clean energy and jobs agenda that puts New York State on a path to a carbon-neutral economy as well as the State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the most aggressive climate change program in the nation, by demonstrating the importance of communities in helping New York reach its goal for greenhouse gas emissions to be reduced 85 by 2050 and a carbon-free electricity sector by 2040.

The Town of Colden received the designation for completing four of 10 high-impact clean energy actions identified by NYSERDA as part of the Clean Energy Communities initiative. To earn the Clean Energy Community designation, Colden completed the following high-impact clean energy actions:

- Streamlined the local approval processes for so - lar projects through adoption of the New York State Unified Solar Permit.
- Converted streetlights to energy efficient LED technology.
- Completed energy code enforcement training on best practices in energy code enforcement for code compliance officers and other municipal officers.
- Adopted a benchmarking policy to track and re - port the energy use of the Town's municipal buildings.

Supervisor James De - Pasquale commented that, "Colden's government has been supporting the NYSERDA's Clean Energy Community initiative since it was recommended by the Colden Planning Board many months ago. As a community in rural Erie County we feel it is important to be a leader in this area, due to our limited rural infrastructure, and our desire to save our citizens money through efficient use of energy within our town. In addition to all of the high impact actions which Colden has completed to date, we are presently part of a consortium of five rural towns. These towns are part of the Green Springville Solarize Southtowns initiative. Under the Solarize PV campaign, citizens in the participating towns can obtain discounted solar installations for their homes or businesses. Projects must be completed before the expiration of the NYS Net Metering provisions, the other changes to tax credits, and other factors which go into effect in January 2020. The Solarize PV program is also available

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for commercial as well as agricultural residents of Colden. Our Solarize Southtowns campaign is also the first one in New York State to include the newest 'Solar For-All' high impact action. That action allows income qualified families to save on their monthly utility bills through the use of bulk purchased solar energy generated at Solar Farm facilities in Western New York. These are all terrific incentives for the citizens, farmers and businesses of Colden."

Colden citizens or businesses who would like to discuss the features and availability of the ongoing Solarize Southtowns campaign should contact the Town Clerk's office (941-5012, christina.kerlin@townofcolden.com) or the Colden Planning Board Chairman (537-3278, walter.kammer@townofcolden.com). Information will be supplied upon request.

"Congratulations to the Town of Colden for taking this important step towards a cleaner and more renewable energy future," Alicia Barton, President and CEO, NYSERDA said. "Today's announcement is another reminder that New York communities are ready and willing to act against the negative effects of climate change and support Governor Cuomo's ambitious Green New Deal vision of building a near zero-carbon future for New York."

Cities, counties, towns and villages that complete at least four of 10 high-impact clean energy actions are designated Clean Energy Communities and are eligible to apply for funding of up to \$250,000 with no local cost share and the option of receiving up to 25 percent paid in advance to support additional clean energy projects. At least two of the four actions must have been completed after Aug. 1, 2016. NYSERDA is accepting applications for funding on a rolling basis through Sept. 30, 2019 or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. Funds are being provided through the Clean Energy Fund and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Additional clean energy action items communities can take to achieve designation include:

- Implementing Community Choice Aggregation so residents can gain greater choice and control over energy use as a group.
- Installing an electric vehicle charging station.
- Performing energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades including installing new LED lighting and heat pumps in municipal buildings to achieve a 10 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Participating in a community-based Solarize campaign to reduce solar project costs through joint purchasing, this is an ongoing initiative in Colden.
- Earning Climate Smart Communities Certification through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for developing a comprehensive program to reduce its carbon footprint and improve the environment.

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– Establishing an Energize NY Finance Program that enables long-term, affordable Property Assessed Clean Energy financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at commercial buildings and not-for-profits.

NYSERDA's local Clean Energy Coordinator Jason Kulaszewski, from the University at Buffalo's Regional Institute, was able to provide technical assistance at no cost to the community to develop and prioritize clean energy goals, provided resources and helped with available funding associated with the various actions.

For more information on Clean Energy Communities, visit www.nyserda.ny.gov/cec. Local government officials or employees in Western New York can contact our local Clean Energy Coordinator at jasonkul@buffalo.edu for assistance navigating the program.



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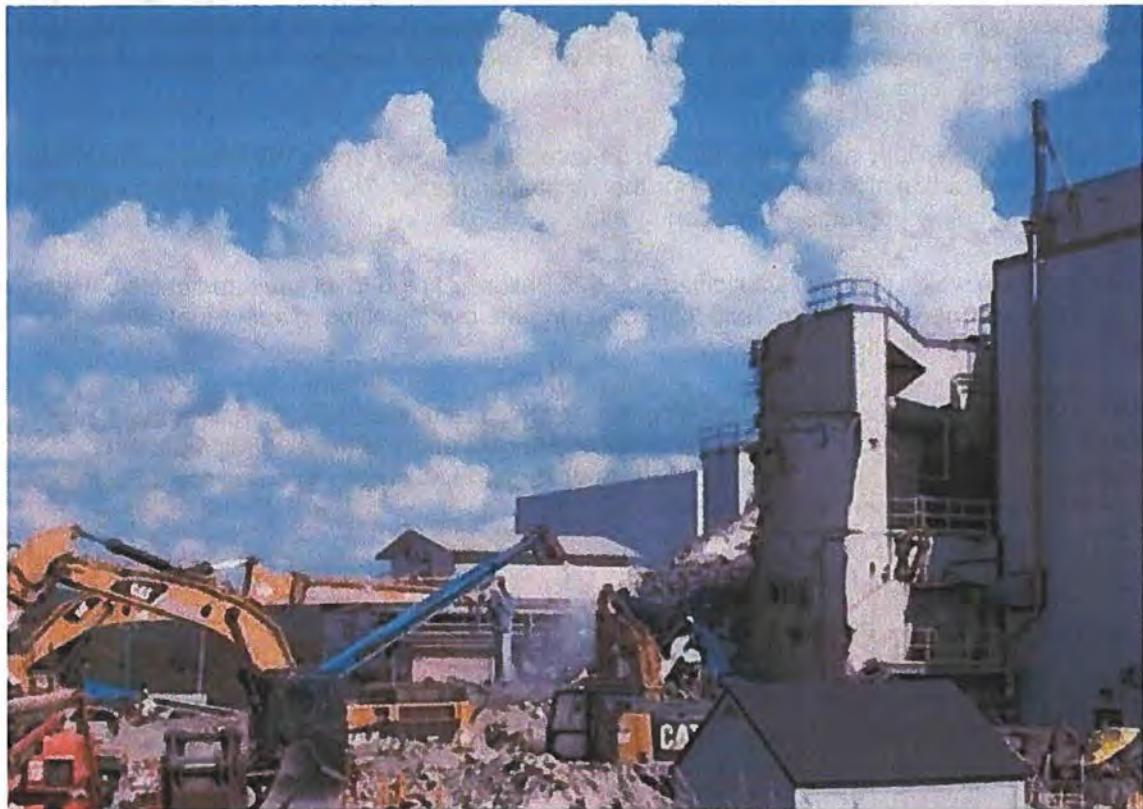
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CELEBRATING
30 YEARS

30 YEARS OF IMPACT
30 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
30 YEARS OF SUCCESS

EM Update | Special Anniversary Edition

Vit Facility Demolition is West Valley's Signature Achievement - So Far



Heavy equipment breaks through the reinforced concrete of the WVDP Vitrification Facility in the final phase of demolition. This is the only vitrification facility in the US that was built, operated, and demolished.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – In 2018, EM and its cleanup contractor safely completed the demolition of the 50-foot-tall, 10,000-square-foot Vitrification Facility at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

The take-down of the Vitrification Facility represented the largest and most complex demolition of a radioactively contaminated facility at the WVDP to date, and was a key accomplishment in the progress to decommission the site.



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30 YEARS OF SUCCESS

EM Update | Special Anniversary Edition

The undertaking by EM and CH2M Hill BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) demonstrated that robust engineering controls and monitoring techniques can accomplish the safe removal of nuclear facilities, while protecting the workforce, public, and the environment.

"The WVDP team was deliberate in the planning and execution of this critical workscope, which resulted in the safe and compliant demolition of the Vitrification Facility," said Bryan Bower, EM WVDP Director. "I am proud of the work they have accomplished in reducing legacy risks at the site."

The Vitrification Facility was used to solidify radioactive liquid high-level waste stored at the WVDP. It was originally constructed in the 1980s as a non-radioactive testing area for the vitrification melter. The facility was later expanded and converted into a full-scale remotely operated vitrification facility.

Designed with reinforced concrete walls, the facility solidified 600,000 gallons of high-level liquid radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002. This waste was generated from 1966 to 1972 during the reprocessing of spent fuel by Nuclear Fuel Services, the former operator of the site.

Demolition of this facility began in September 2017. The first phase involved removing the outer sheet metal and steel portions of the facility with the least radiological contamination. Using a variety of heavy equipment and specialized tools, workers tore down three sides of the facility, including operating aisles, a control room, restrooms, truck bays, stairways, and tool and equipment storage rooms.



A view of the Vitrification Facility prior to demolition at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The facility was the largest and most complex demolition at WVDP to date. The WVDP team used lessons learned, best practices and a methodical approach to safely complete this major milestone.



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EM Update | Special Anniversary Edition

The second phase began in November 2017, and involved demolition of the heavily reinforced concrete process cell and remaining in-cell equipment. Using similar equipment, workers safely removed four in-cell coolers weighing 7,188 pounds each, six shield windows, and a 38,000-pound process crane.

The final phase was the removal of a 60-ton transfer tunnel door, 100-ton crane maintenance room shield door, cranes, and equipment. In addition, crews demolished the transfer tunnel, crane maintenance room, and secondary filter room, all structures made of reinforced concrete.

Worker safety and protection of the environment were top priorities during the demolition. Workers used extensive controls to prevent the spread of radioactive contamination and safety professionals provided continuous monitoring and sampling during the demolition process. The demolition was completed in one year, in challenging weather conditions, resulting in no lost-time injuries, no radiological releases, and no environmental issues.

Click [here](#) for more information on the West Valley Demonstration Project.



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Progress for potential solar farm in Concord continues

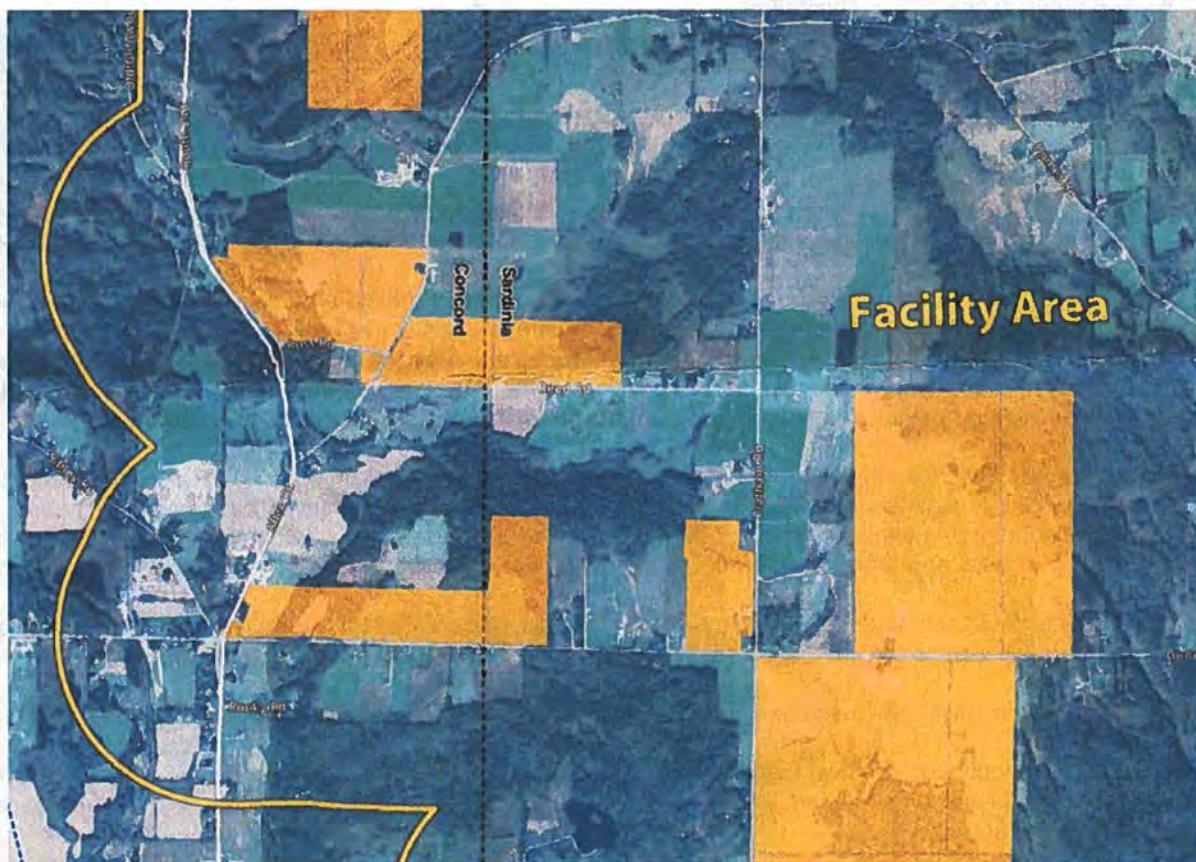


Image provided

This map from Storke, LLC shows where some sites for a potential solar farm in Erie County could be located in the towns of Concord and Sardinia near and around Genesee Road.

By Kellen M. Quigley

An update to the potential project to install a solar farm in Erie County with some of it located in the town of Concord was given to the Concord Town Board during its most recent meeting Sept. 12.

Ryan Storke, of Storke, LLC, told the board that the 350-megawatt solar project, which has been cleared by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), has been submitted to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for bid approval.

Storke said they will know by January 2020 if the project was successfully picked up or not.

The proposed project's scope will be for about 2,500 acres of leased land, with a majority of the project expected to be in Sardinia. Storke said about 1,800 to 2,000 acres will be "in the fence," or for the solar panels themselves, with the rest for access roads and setbacks.

The access point for the energy created would be at the corner of Genesee and Warner Gulf roads in with a majority of the parcels leased near Genesee Road.

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An initial public meeting on the project was held Aug. 7, Storke said, with about 50 people attending. As part of the process for making the project a reality, he said they have to hold four more meetings for the public, the next of which will be scheduled sometime in October or November.

"We'll give all of you ample notice of when that is and when we have it firmed up and where we're going to do it," Storke said. "It sounds like at this point it will be over more in the Sardinia area." The third and fourth meetings will be held in the spring and summer of 2020.

The construction is expected to begin in 2022 if everything goes smoothly, Storke said, and lasting until the commissioning of the project in 2024. He said a road use analysis will begin in its early stages after a Property Improvement Plan (PIP) is filed and they receive feedback.

"We plan to file our PIP on Dec. 27," Storke explained. "Once we submit our PIP, they will notify the municipalities that it has been released, and they can start to make comment with the county and other towns on the process of the next steps moving into the application phase."

For Article 10 permitting, Storke said the project would receive a permit from the state's Public Service Commission on a power production project greater than 25 megawatts. He said several entities would have to approve the project.

"From a local community standpoint, the two municipalities get to put into a pool two people to sit on the sighting board with the state," he said. "That would be the local representation for the project. Each municipality and county that it's in is allowed to administer two representatives to the pool for Albany to pick out of." Storke said how people are picked is up to the state.

After the pre-application phase is complete, the application phase that would begin in early 2020 takes about eight months to a year to complete, Storke said, which includes nominating the two local representatives for the sighting board.

"When we get to the hearing and decision phase, that's when you would hopefully have had your two individuals on the sighting board for the process and then going through that yearlong process of reviewing the project with a fine-tooth comb," he said.

Once construction begins, Storke said they hope to have many local jobs created for the project, including area materials providers and laborers, as well as the integration of sheep from local farms to eat the grass in the fields where the solar panels would be.

"Hopefully local farmers will want the business and revenue to manage and operate sheep during the season to mow the fields," he added.

Another aspect of construction for the town to think about is the storage of the energy produced and where the storage and maintenance buildings would be located. Storke said it would just be for storage of what the farm itself produces, not extra energy from the greater grid.

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Green Springville solarize campaign entering home stretch



Photo Submitted

As the summer winds down the time to go solar with the Solarize Southtowns Campaign is limited. All summer long Green Springville, Solar by CIR, PUSH Green and town officials have been promoting the Solarize Southtowns campaign.

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And now that September is here, residents only have a month left to go solar.

The Solarize Southtowns campaign has two options — one to put solar panels on a roof, barn or pole near your house and one that helps low to moderate-income residents enroll in Solar-for-All.

In a traditional Solarize campaign, a town or non-profit organization negotiates a bulk discount with a solar installation company and, with NYSERDA's help, vets that company to make sure they offer quality products and are a reputable company.

The Solarize Southtowns Campaign has negotiated a base rate of \$2.60/watt (before any additional credits or incentives are applied) with Solar by CIR. When this price is combined with NYSERDA's incentive, a New York State tax credit and a Federal Tax credit, the payback period can be anywhere from 6 to 10 years.

And with panel warranties lasting for 25 years, it's like getting 15 years or more of free energy. Solar is unique to every situation which is why Solar by CIR provides a free estimate.

In addition to the traditional campaign, the Solarize Southtowns is also working to promote NYSERDA's Solar-for-All program. Customers who have NYSEG and National Grid for their electric utility and meet the income requirements can sign up to receive a solar provided bill credit.

The program is absolutely free and allows utility-paying residents who rent or can't afford solar panels to participate with renewable energy.

To learn more about either program, contact Green Springville on Facebook, at GreenSpringvilleInfo@gmail.com or visit www.SolarizeSouthtowns.com.



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EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 37 | Sept. 24, 2019

West Valley Demolishes Inactive Ventilation System Structures, Components



An operator uses a hydraulic shear to remove one of two Waste Tank Farm condenser structures at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Crews recently demolished two Waste Tank Farm condenser structures and an equipment shelter at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP). These structures were associated with the Main Plant Process Building's former ventilation system, which was taken out of service in 2001. This recent demolition brings EM's total number of structures removed at the site to 64.

WVDP personnel removed, size-reduced, and packaged the two condenser structures for off-site disposal. Each condenser contained two heat exchangers that cooled the off-gas and condensed the vapor. Each 360-square-foot structure was constructed in 1966 to remove water vapor from the tank off-gas ventilation system and was further treated and filtered before being directed to the Main Plant Process Building stack.



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The Waste Tank Farm Shelter is a 779-square-foot concrete block building, which consists of a shielded side where the former air filtration equipment was located, and an operating aisle that houses fans and control systems. This ventilation system was replaced with a newer and more efficient system.



An operator begins demolishing the Waste Tank Farm Shelter after completing the removal of two condenser structures.



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EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 37 | Sept. 24, 2019



Crews will focus on debris loading after completing the demolition of the Waste Tank Farm Shelter and associated equipment.

EM 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," Bower said.

Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), EM's WVDP 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 Utility Room Extension," Anderson said. "Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and environmentally-sound manner."

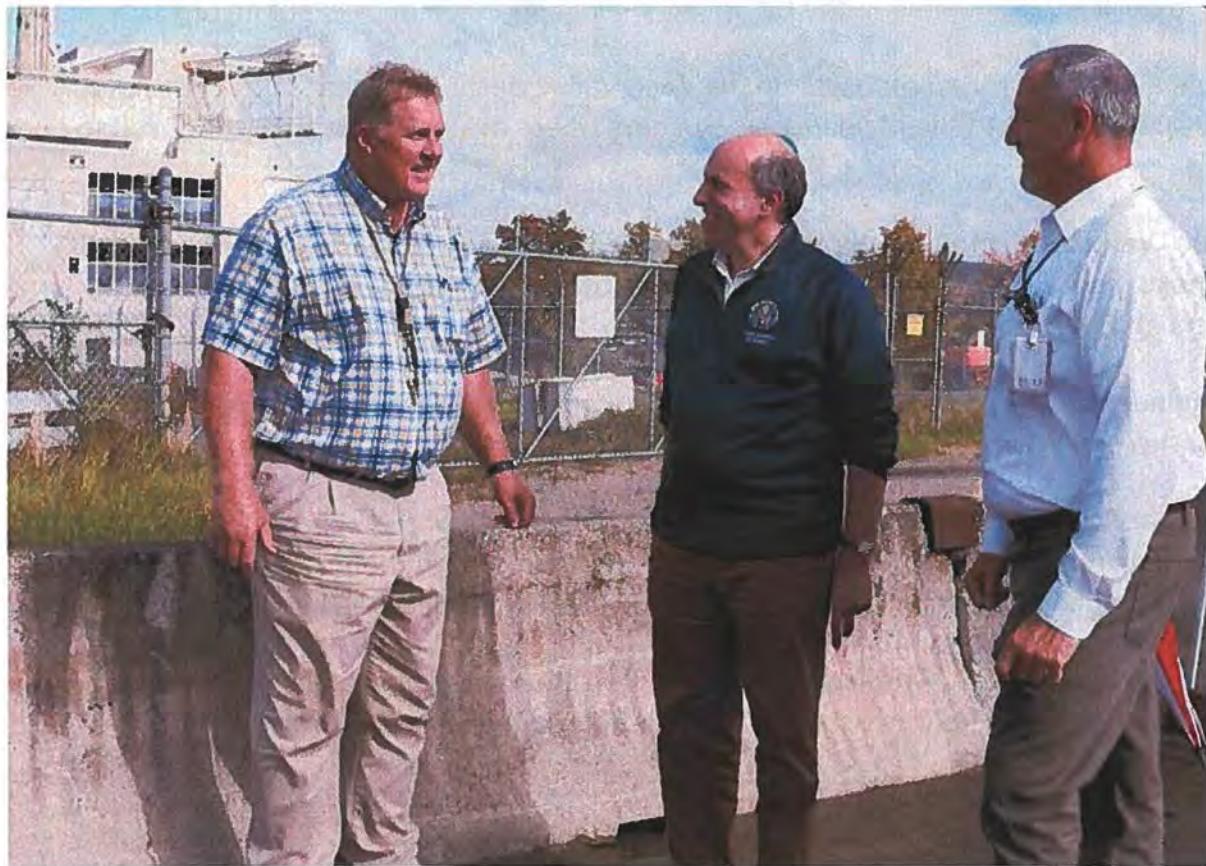
-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



September 24, 2019

Undersecretary of Energy visits West Valley Demonstration Project

By Rick Miller | County Reporter



Paul M. Dabber (center), U.S. Energy Department undersecretary for science, toured the West Valley Demonstration Project Monday with Bryan Bower (right), DOE site director, and deputy Craig Rieman (left).

Press photo by Rick Miller

WEST VALLEY — Energy Undersecretary for Science Paul M. Dabbar made his first visit Monday to the West Valley Demonstration Project and came away impressed with progress in the cleanup and the employees.

September 24, 2019

Following a tour with Bryan Bower, West Valley site director for the Department of Energy, Deputy Director Craig Rieman and others, Dabbar said the West Valley cleanup "is one of the most important DOE projects."

Dabbar worked at several New York nuclear power plants before becoming an investment banker with J.P. Morgan, where he was managing director of mergers and acquisitions when tapped for the DOE post. He learned nuclear engineering in the U.S. Navy, serving aboard a nuclear submarine.

"There has been a lot of near term progress" in the West Valley cleanup, Dabbar said. Most notably he pointed to the spot adjacent to the Main Process Building where the vitrification building used to stand.

Dabbar said the West Valley vitrification plant, which mixed high-level radioactive liquid waste with chemicals to make glass, "spearheaded" the technology now being utilized at other DOE sites including Savannah River, S.C., and soon at Hanford, Wash.

West Valley engineers designed, built, operated and then tore down the vitrification plant, Dabbar said. "It's a real success. Whenever we have a cleanup we learn a lot."

Asked whether a decision had been made on an open-air demolition of the Main Process Building, Dabbar replied that some things had not been finalized between DOE and officials from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). It has been delayed indefinitely.

Dabbar said the demolition of the vitrification building was another learning experience regarding the characterization and packaging of the debris. "It is applicable to the main building," he added.

The demolition of the main plant building was seen as the end of phase 1 of the cleanup, although that milestone will be delayed somewhat.

Dabbar said areas of the main plant have different levels of radioactivity that will require different measures. It is more than 95% deactivated, according to the contractor CHBWV.

Dabbar said that while a demolition plan for the Main Process Building "is not fully identified." There is different contamination on different areas. Officials are "attacking it room by room, planning it room by room."

Some rooms continue to show high levels of radioactivity, some so much that it has entered the concrete walls.

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September 24, 2019

Removal of the building is necessary to get to the source of radioactive contamination left over from the days when the nation's first commercial spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant operated by Nuclear Fuel Services.

It operated from the mid-1960s until 1972 when it shut down for renovations. The spent nuclear fuel rod reprocessing plant never reopened and in 1976, the company walked away from the site.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed the West Valley Demonstration Project Act. The cleanup bill shared by the federal and state governments exceeds \$2 billion and will go much higher.

The Department of Energy and NYSERDA are currently involved in Phase 2 studies of the West Valley cleanup. Besides the Main Process Building, which will now be part of Phase 2, big questions remain on whether underground tanks that once contained highly-radioactive liquids and the adjacent state-licensed and NRC low-level radioactive waste landfills will be removed.

Dabbar said the tanks have been dried, but remain contaminated. "They are very stable," he said. No decision has been made on whether to remove them or fill them with grout.

There are 275 steel cylinders 10-feet tall that contain glass made with radioactive liquid. They were removed from the Main Process Building and placed in concrete overpack casks on a pad near the rubber-covered landfills.

"I can't say enough about the workforce and the leadership team," Dabbar said.

West Valley remains one of the top sites for safety and getting things done on time and on budget, Dabbar said.

"There is significantly less waste here," Dabbar said. Much of it has been sent off-site using additional funding requested by DOE and approved in the federal budget. The site receives about \$75 million a year for operations.

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





NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thursday, Sep 26, 2019 02:30 PM

Bills partner with EnergyMark for electric and natural gas supply

Buffalo Bills



Pegula Sports & Entertainment today welcomes EnergyMark as the Official Energy Supplier of the Buffalo Bills. The Williamsville-based company will now provide New Era Field and ADPRO Sports Training Center with electricity and natural gas supply services.

"EnergyMark has created custom solutions that fulfill the natural gas and electricity needs of our Orchard Park facilities in the most efficient way possible," said Dan Misko, PSE's senior vice president of business development. "EnergyMark has a proven track record serving companies in our community and is the ideal partner for the Buffalo Bills. As an organization, we are focused on sustainable success off the field and EnergyMark will play a key role in helping us achieve this goal."

"Trusted, secure, and reliable supply is the benchmark by which the largest energy consumers in Western New York measure success," said Gary Marchiori, president of EnergyMark. "Over the last 15 years, we've proven ourselves and earned the trust of WNY's largest energy buyers. Working with notable WNY organizations like the Buffalo Bills, provides us the opportunity to bring locally sourced energy to our community."



About EnergyMark, LLC

EnergyMark has supplied natural gas, electricity, and risk management solutions for over 15 years to more than 15,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers throughout Western New York and Northwest Pennsylvania. EnergyMark is also developing a 10 megawatt community solar project located at the West Valley Nuclear Project site, on 46 acres, in Cattaraugus County.

About Pegula Sports & Entertainment

Pegula Sports & Entertainment (PSE) streamlines key business areas across all Pegula family-owned sports and entertainment properties including the Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Sabres, Buffalo Bandits, Rochester Americans, Rochester Knighthawks, LECOM Harborcenter, Black River Entertainment, ADPRO Sports, PicSix Creative agency and numerous hospitality properties. PSE aims to be a leader in the sports and entertainment industry by bringing together the individual resources, capabilities and talents of each of its entities to create a cohesive and sustainable brand that together represents the Pegula family's interest. PSE's mission is exemplified by its One Buffalo initiative, which unites Western New York and serves as a representation of teamwork through a deeper connection between Buffalo sports teams, fans and the community.

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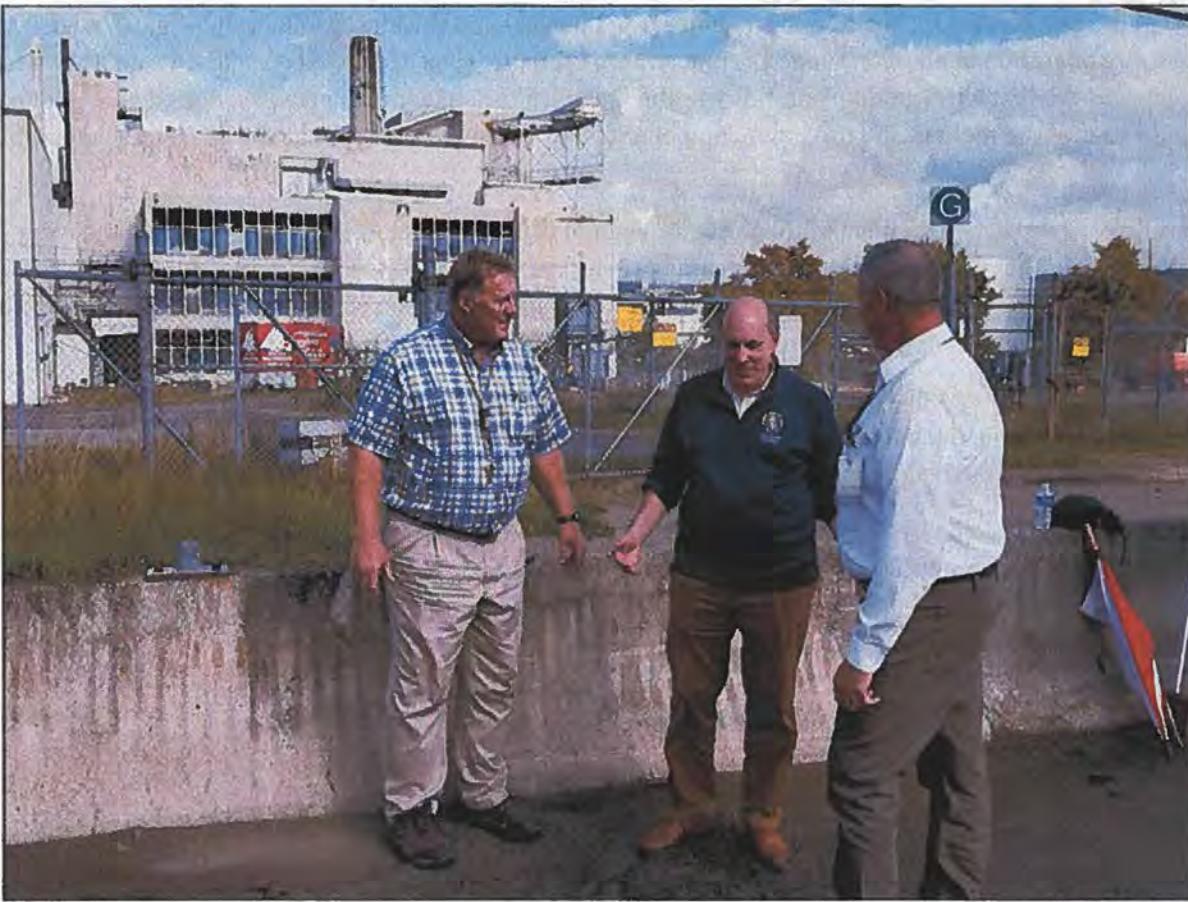


Photo by Max Borsuk

Paul Dabbar (center) talks with Deputy Director Craig Rieman (left) and Site Director Brian Bower (right) during his visit to the West Valley Demonstration Project.

DOE Under Secretary for Science Dabbar visits WVDP

Max Borsuk Editor

To see the progress of decommissioning work at the West Valley Demonstration Project, Department of Energy Under Secretary for Science Paul M. Dabbar made a visit to the site. Dabbar was given a tour of the WVDP on Sept. 23 by Site Director Brian Bower, Deputy Director Craig Rieman and others involved at the site, with Dabbar leaving impressed with everything going on.

The Environmental Management Cleanup Program, which is under Dabbar's area in the DOE, was charged with cleaning up 107 sites across the country, with 91 of those sites currently completely cleaned up and 45 having portions turned over to the local community. Dabbar said WVDP is "one of the most important projects" and is excited to see the progress going on in West Valley.

"We have been very focused at the remaining ones including West Valley," Dabbar said. "There are a number of complexities associated with this particular site, but what's been truly exciting about the program and here in particular is that there has been a lot of near-term progress that has been made."

Dabbar commented on the demolition of the vitrification facility in West Valley, which solidified radioactive high-level waste at the site. With other sites including Savannah River, S.C. or Hanford, Wash. either having vitrification facilities or having one built in the future, Dabbar said the work at West Valley of designing, building, running, processing and demolishing its vitrification facility can help other sites down the road.

"That is a real success for the American people, the taxpayer and the local community," Dabbar said. "Whenever we do a cleanup operation at any site, especially ones where there is similar technology, we learn a lot associated with that. [WVDP] was the first vitrification plant, this was the first vitrification plant torn down ... and there is a lot of specific engineering issues of the melters and the other components that was learned here that will be directly applicable to that cleanup."

A future big projects to happen at the West Valley Demonstration Project is the demolition of the main process building. Dabbar said the plans for the demolition are not fully laid out and plans are still being worked out with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Dabbar added that the work done on WVDP's vitrification facility will help when it becomes time for demolition of the main process building.

Dabbar assured West Valley residents that work at the WVDP has been making significant progress and crews are doing a great job during the decommissioning. With work including the demolition of vitrification facility and getting waste shipped off site, Dabbar commended everyone at WVDP for their work as they continue making improvements.

"I can say that as compared to where it was not that long ago, there is significantly less waste," Dabbar said. "I can't say enough positive about the workforce here, about the leadership team here and the people who work here everyday. It's not just about the buildings coming down, it's about they came down and put into containers and vast majority of it is out of state. I think that is really positive here."

WVDP participates in full-scale exercise to prepare for emergency incidents



Photo by J. M. Johnson

The Plant System Operations hub doubles as the Incident Command Center during an actual emergency, in which the Incident Commander will manage the incident within the bounds of the Emergency Management Plan.

The Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, its cleanup contractor at the West Valley Demonstration Project, recently conducted a full-scale exercise that included Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department, Cattaraugus County Special Response Team, Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Bomb Squad, West Valley Volunteer Hose Fire and Rescue and evaluation assistance from Cattaraugus County Emergency Services. This exercise, which was based on a hypothetical incident, tested the skills and response of these local agencies as well as the site's Radiological Controls Department, Environmental Department, Emergency Medical Response Team, Security Force and Operational Response Team.

It's been stated that during an emergency, you always fall back on your training. Disasters can occur at any time, and a knowledgeable, well-trained emergency response team can significantly improve the outcome of any event – exercises provide this real-world training. Exercises also provide constructive feedback to improve in areas identified during the course of the incident. This full-scale exercise, held at the WVDP site and New York State retained premises, was designed to validate the team's response to an unannounced hypothetical incident and their ability to minimize the potential impact to the employees, the public and the environment.

"You can never over plan for emergencies," CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley 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."

DOE-WVDP staff and WVDP personnel helped develop the scenario and supported the exercise as controllers and evaluators. This included coordinating the many tasks that had to occur to make it more realistic and truly test responders from beginning to end. There were five DOE-HQ observers that assisted the DOE-WVDP with evaluations. In

all, there were more than 25 law enforcement and 10 fire and emergency medical service participants from offsite agencies, with assistance from Argonne National Lab's Mock Media Team who provided hypothetical social media and news coverage.



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EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 38 | Oct. 1, 2019

Under Secretary Dabbar Tours West Valley Cleanup, Meets With Stakeholders



WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Under Secretary for Science Paul Dabbar recently viewed EM's cleanup progress at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and received updates on the planned demolition of the site's Main Plant Process Building, which was used to reprocess spent nuclear fuel decades ago. "This was my first trip to the West Valley site," Dabbar said. "I am impressed by the progress I see being made." He noted that removal of the 10,000-square-foot Vitrification Facility last year was the most complex demolition of a contaminated facility at the site to date. "This successful demolition literally changed the landscape and footprint of the WVDP and the community," Dabbar said. "This accomplishment speaks volumes of the workers' abilities to find solutions and use lessons learned to solve some of the most challenging problems we face in reducing legacy risks." EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said the site was honored to host the Under Secretary. "It's important to see the work up-close that's being accomplished at the site, and how this work fits into DOE's mission and cleanup strategy," Bower said. Pictured from left are Bower; EM WVDP Assistant Director Craig Rieman; Dabbar; EM WVDP Federal Project Director Dan Sullivan; Anthony Giannetti, Special Advisor to the Under Secretary; and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley Facility Disposition Manager Tom Dogal.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere





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EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 39 | Oct. 8, 2019

EM Contractors Recognized for Safety Excellence



Dae Chung, far right, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance, presents the DOE Voluntary Protection Program Star of Excellence award to John Rendall, far left, deputy general manager for CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), EM West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) cleanup contractor; and James Wilkinson, with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers – Local 2401, which represents a portion of CHBWV employees, at a recent employee safety recognition picnic at WVDP.

At EM's [West Valley Demonstration Project Site](#), Dae Chung, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance, presented employees with contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley with the Star of Excellence award during a recent visit to the site.

"The safety and health of our employees, both contractor and federal, are the highest priorities for the Department," Chung said.



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WVDP first received the Star of Excellence award in 2000, the second DOE site to receive the honor after EM's [Waste Isolation Pilot Plant](#). **WVDP** has received the award every year since. Next year will mark 20 years that **WVDP** has flown the VPP flag over the site. WVDP also was the first DOE site to receive the Legacy of Stars award.

"It is my honor to present this award to the **WVDP** in recognition of your ongoing commitment to safety," Chung said. "I look forward to your continued success."

-Contributors: Kearney Ackermann, Jim Beasley, Patrick Conrad, Colleen Hart, Wayne McKinney, Joseph Pillittere, Lynn Tegeler

Agency's Reuse of Equipment Leads to \$1 Million Savings for West Valley



Cleanup equipment leaves EM's West Valley Demonstration Project Site for a six-hour trip to its new home in Messena, New York for reuse by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. **WVDP** is transferring the specialized piece of equipment to the corporation, which maintains a portion of the seaway between the Port of Montreal and Lake Erie within the U.S.



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WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – EM's West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Site will achieve \$1 million in savings by transferring cleanup equipment for reuse by a U.S. agency that operates facilities on the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

The transfer allows WVDP to avoid the time and expense of disposing of the equipment as waste. West Valley crews had used the equipment to lift and move 86.5-ton concrete casks containing waste canisters [in a project successfully completed in 2016](#), a year ahead of schedule. In that project, workers relocated nearly 280 canisters of vitrified high-level waste from the site's Main Plant Process Building to an onsite interim storage pad, a necessary step to support the building's eventual demolition.

"Sharing highly specialized equipment like this that we no longer need at West Valley helps save money for taxpayers and the government," EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. "It will save the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation time and money because the equipment is already built, tested, and used, even with minor retrofitting for our application."

WVDP workers helped load the equipment into a truck to transport to the corporation, which is an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation that operates and maintains the U.S.-owned and operated facilities of the joint U.S.-Canadian Seaway. The corporation's operations are located at two U.S. seaway locks in Massena, New York.

"This cost savings is the result of employee engagement, innovation, and commitment in getting work done safely and maximizing resources," said Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, the WVDP cleanup contractor. "I am confident that our employees will continue this effort as we further reduce legacy risks at the site."

–Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



Springville Chamber of Commerce to offer active shooter training

The Springville Chamber of Commerce has partnered with Detective Corey Higgins, the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office assigned to the Drug Enforcement Agency Buffalo Office; and David Schumm, CHBWV Security and Safeguards Manager at the West Valley Demonstration Project, to provide Active Shooter training for local businesses and their employees.

The training will take place at the Springville Country Club, 14445 S. Cascade Drive, Springville, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 8-9 a.m.

Upon completing this training, participants will be able to describe the actions to take when confronted with an active shooter and be able to assist responded law enforcement officials; recognize potential workplace violence indicators; describe actions to take to prevent and prepare for potential active shooter incidents and describe how to manage the consequences of an active shooter incident.

Training is free to Springville Area Chamber of Commerce members and there will be a \$10 fee for non-members.

Space is limited. Register at 592-4746 or email director@springvillechamber.com



OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Thursday, October 10, 2019

WVDP is site of full-scale emergency exercise with multiple agencies



A security officer along with Cattaraugus County Special Response Team members work to gain entry into a ground-level office trailer during a recent exercise at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Photo submitted

WEST VALLEY — The Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management and the cleanup contractor at the West Valley Demonstration Project recently conducted a full-scale security exercise.

The drill included the contractor, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, and the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department, Cattaraugus County Special Response Team, Cattaraugus-Chautauqua Bomb Squad, West Valley Volunteer Hose Fire and Rescue, with evaluation assistance from Cattaraugus County Emergency Services.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Thursday, October 10, 2019

"You can never over-plan for emergencies," said Kevin Murray, event and emergency management manager for CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley. "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."

This exercise, which was based on a hypothetical incident, tested the skills and response of these local agencies as well as the site's radiological controls department, environmental department, emergency medical response team, security personnel and operational response team.

DOE-WVDP staff and WVDP personnel helped develop the scenario and supported the exercise as controllers and evaluators. This included coordinating the many tasks that had to occur to make it more realistic and test responders throughout the exercise. There were five DOE-HQ observers that assisted the DOE-WVDP with evaluations.

In all, there were more than 25 law enforcement and 10 fire and emergency medical service participants from offsite agencies, with assistance from Argonne National Lab's Mock Media Team, whose members provided hypothetical social media and news coverage.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Monday, October 14, 2019

Cattaraugus County Shared Services Plan hearing set for Wednesday

By RICK MILLER Olean Times Herald

LITTLE VALLEY — Officials are looking for feedback on the proposed Cattaraugus County Shared Services Plan.

A public hearing will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday in the legislative chamber on the third floor of the County Center. The hearing is seeking comments on shared services plans for 2020 involving the county and more than 30 municipalities.

Last month the county and participating municipalities shared \$930,000 in state aid to bolster shared services ranging from highway purchases to property assessment. The plan will also allow municipalities to piggyback on county and state bids.

IN ADDITION, legislative committees will discuss a resolution proposed by members of the Labor Relations Committee to create four new positions in the public defender's office. The positions, all full-time, include an assistant public defender, two law graduates and a social worker.

The resolution has been referred to the County Operations/Public Safety Committee and the Finance Committee, where Public Defender Darryl Bloom will make presentations. State grants are expected to pay for the new positions.

Another resolution would authorize an agreement with four school districts to place probation officers in their facilities at no cost under a new School-Based Probation Program.

County Operations and Public Safety Committee Chairman Richard Klancer, R-Gowanda, and Deputy Chairman John Padlo, D-Olean, are sponsors of the resolution which would authorize probation officers in schools at Olean, Salamanca, Cattaraugus-Little Valley and Pioneer.

The School-Based Probation Program will provide for more effective monitoring of juvenile offenders, leading to increased opportunities for positive adjustment with juvenile probationers, according to the resolution.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Monday, October 14, 2019

Klancer and Padlo are sponsors of another resolution to contract with CH2M Hill BWXT West Valley LLC for on-site law enforcement services for \$182,083. The sheriff's office stations a full-time officer at the West Valley Demonstration Project site. The contract expired Sept. 30.

The leadership of the Development and Agriculture Committee are sponsors of a resolution to expand the Cattaraugus County Consolidated Agriculture District.

Legislator Howard VanRensselaer, R-Randolph, chairman and Vice Chairman David Koch, D-Salamanca, are calling for the addition of agricultural parcels in Machias and Allegany to the combined Agricultural District.

Both parcels requested inclusion during the 30-day inclusion period last month.

Ashford board hears presentation on NYCLASS

Max Borsuk, Editor

The Ashford Town Board heard a presentation at its Oct. 9 meeting about investment opportunities for the town. Regional Marketing Director for NYCLASS Kathy Saville made a presentation to the board about NYCLASS and what it can offer to the town.

NYCLASS is a New York state cooperative investment program that "provides the opportunity to invest funds on a cooperative basis in short-term investments that are carefully chosen to yield favorable returns while striving to provide maximum safety and liquidity," according to the NYCLASS website.

Talking about the benefits of the program, Saville said it is a liquid program that offers 1.8 percent on all funds. With NYCLASS being liquid, the town would be able to put money in and take money out whenever they needed it and the program also has no fees, no limits to how much they have to put in or how often they have to use the program and the town can create an unlimited amount of sub-accounts.

"I really believe in the program and I think it's a wonderful program particularly for small communities," Saville said. "It's a very liquid and easy to use program ... liquid meaning that if you put money in it today and you found out that you needed it tomorrow, you can get your money out tomorrow."

After asking questions to Saville and having a discussion among the board members, the board approved authorizing the town to have investments with NYCLASS.

Supervisor Charles Davis took time during the meeting to celebrate the accomplishments of the board over the past four years. Accomplishments over the past four years included:

- Getting a new water system within the hamlet of West Valley.
- Working on a grant to restore the West Valley Hotel.
- Completing a master plan in one year and still continuing work on it.
- Getting grants to do studies for a truck stop and a sewer in the hamlet of West Valley and water and sewer for the 219 area.
- Reducing speed at Peters Road and Route 219 and working on adding streetlights.
- Getting grants from NYSERDA for upgraded lighting in the town barns and community center. – Approval to build a solar farm on the West Valley Nuclear Site property with a yearly pilot.
- Have made great inroads to be part of discussions with the future of the West Valley Demonstration Project.
- Was instrumental in getting funding at \$75 million to the year 2028 for the WVDP.
- Starting a community tree lighting.

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- Having a trusted and good working relationship with Congressman Tom Reed's office.
- Having shared services with Cattaraugus County on assessing and building a shared salt shed.
- Holding the line on taxes for the last four years. "It takes all five of us to make this happen," Davis said. "I thank you board members for allowing us to do this." In other board news:

- The board approved adopting the 2020 preliminary budget as the 2020 annual budget.
- The board approved a bid for the purchase of a 2020 new and unused 3/4 ton pickup style diesel truck from Emerling Ford, Inc. for \$10,623.90.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

West Valley site connects to new electrical distribution system



Photo provided

Workers install a new electrical recloser on the site's new switchgear station. The recloser will act like a circuit breaker if the system experiences any type of electrical interruption.

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The Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management and its prime contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley recently completed the installation of a new electrical service and distribution system to provide power to the site's infrastructure. Work was performed by the Site Operations Department, which is responsible for site utilities and maintenance activities.

"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," 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. This investment will also increase the reliability of electrical power for the surrounding West Valley area. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, National Grid and DOE worked collaboratively to relocate transmission lines, eliminate a 1960's era electrical substation and install modern equipment that is easily accessible to the utility company and allows switching transmission paths during upset conditions."

Onsite electrical distribution was rerouted as part of the pre-planning efforts for main plant process building demolition. Removing the utility room extension (added after construction of the main plant) from service required alternate routes and new infrastructure. Crews installed new poles and overhead power lines, along with a new electrical substation. This reroute eliminated the electric distribution from the utility room extension building, which workers were able to demolish this year as part of ongoing cleanup efforts.

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

During the summer, crews built a new switchgear station and installed a customized recloser (acts like a circuit breaker) and protective fence. With the switchgear station complete, National Grid connected the site to its 34.5 kV line on Aug. 23.





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West Valley Protects Environment With Erosion Control Measures



An employee walks near a new erosion control measure installed on the north slope of an inactive disposal area at EM's West Valley Demonstration Project Site.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Workers helped safeguard the environment at EM's [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\) Site](#) by safely installing interlocking concrete blocks to prevent soil erosion at an inactive disposal area closed years ago.

Known as protective armoring, the blocks were placed on a slope along the north side of the disposal area as well as a drainage channel.

"This work will continue to protect the integrity of the disposal area, and prevent any potential harm to the environment from weather-related damage," EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said.



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A crew moves a section of interlocking concrete blocks for placement at a closed disposal area at the West Valley Demonstration Project Site.



Workers installed interlocking concrete blocks to prevent erosion along a closed disposal area's north slope, pictured here, at the West Valley Demonstration Project Site.

The erosion control project follows the [demolition of a facility housing a former liquid pretreatment system earlier this year](#). An existing protective cover over the disposal area was extended over the site of that facility as part of this project.



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The disposal area contains 360,000 cubic feet of buried waste from past spent fuel reprocessing and cleanup operations.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

Celebrating 30 Years of EM: Employee Spotlight

Ken Armstrong

Environmental Management
Consolidated Business Center (EMCBC)
Associate Deputy Director

Ken is the consummate professional – an individual who is completely reliable with outstanding professional judgement. He is directly responsible for overseeing Separations Process Research Unit, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, West Valley Demonstration Project, Moab, Energy Technology Engineering Center, Brookhaven, and DOE-EM Nevada Field Operations Sites. Ken has melded his experience as a DOE contractor with his federal civilian career to bring projects to a successful conclusion.

What Ken brings to EM is his calm and determined demeanor in resolving difficult and complex issues. With an impressive dedication and commitment to his job, Ken has been a strong advocate and representative for the EM small site effort.

He represents the best of EM, including intelligence, dedication to the mission, and concern for the public and workers alike.

