

CHBWV announces leadership changes



John Rendell.



Kelly Wooley.

Photos provided

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC has announced that John Rendell is the new president and general manager of CHBWV, a Jacobs-led company at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**.

"We are pleased to have one of our experienced leaders head up this important contract that includes the oversight of one of our most challenging environmental cleanup projects,"

Jacobs, North American Nuclear Senior Vice President and General Manager Karen Wiemelt said. "John's proven record of getting work accomplished in a safe, compliant and cost-effective manner, along with his interpersonal and communication skills will add to our continued success. His expertise and knowledge will assist in our goal to eliminate potential environmental risks and reduce the DOE footprint and life-cycle costs."

Previously, Rendell served as CHBWV vice president and deputy general manager. During his one-year tenure as deputy, employees completed the disposition of vitrification facility demolition waste, which signified the end of this major milestone; completed the demolition of four ancillary support structures; completed the demolition of 15 additional balance of site facilities no longer needed; completed numerous high-hazard work activities in the main plant process building, including the removal of more than 56,000 pounds of asbestos-containing material; completed the installation of a new natural gas pipeline distribution system; and connected to National Grid's new 34.5 kV feed line.

"Planned demolition and remediation activities associated with the main plant process building and ancillary facilities provide a tremendous opportunity to continue our efforts delivering safe and innovative solutions for our customer," Rendell said. "It's an honor to be selected as the president of an organization that delivers results in a safe and environmentally-sound manner. Our accomplishments at **West Valley** are due to the dedication and commitment of our employees and successful partnering with the Department of Energy. I look forward to continuing our work together in my new role."

Rendell brings a wealth of knowledge from more than 30 years of professional experience managing government and industrial site closures. With a background in civil/environmental engineering and management of large, complex projects, he has successfully led a wide range of hazardous waste and nuclear characterization, decommissioning, demolition, facility operations and remediation projects. Prior to his return to **West Valley**, Rendell

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was the Vice President for Soil and Groundwater Remediation for CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company at the Hanford Nuclear Site in Washington.

Kelly Wooley has been appointed Deputy General Manager effective June 1, 2020. In this role, he will assist Rendall in supporting and implementing the overall project functions of the CHBWV contract. Wooley has more than 30 years of professional experience, including safety, operations, waste and radiological controls in the nuclear field. His most recent position was Vice President, Safety, Health, Security and Quality Program at CH2MHill Plateau Remediation Company, where he was responsible for maintaining and ensuring the compliant implementation of the industrial safety, industrial hygiene, radiological control, quality assurance, nuclear safety, fire protection, safeguards and security and performance assurance programs. Prior this position, Wooley was the Vice President of the Plutonium Finishing Plant Closure Project, where he led the recovery effort and managed the safe decommissioning of the Plutonium Finishing Plant facility at the Department of Energy's Hanford Cleanup Site, Richland, Wash.

CHBWV announces leadership changes **Rendall to lead West Valley Demonstration Project**



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“We are pleased to have one of our experienced leaders head up this important contract that includes the oversight of one of our most challenging environmental cleanup projects, said Jacobs North American Nuclear Senior Vice President and General Manager Karen Wiemelt. “John’s proven record of getting work accomplished in a safe, compliant and cost-effective manner, along with his interpersonal and communication skills will add to our continued success. His expertise and knowledge will assist in our goal to eliminate potential environmental risks and reduce the DOE footprint and life-cycle costs.”

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With a background in civil/environmental engineering and management of large, complex projects, he has successfully led a wide range of hazardous waste and nuclear characterization, decommissioning, demolition, facility operations and remediation projects. Prior to his return to **West Valley**, Mr. Rendall was the Vice President for Soil and Groundwater Remediation for CH2M HILL Plateau Remediation Company at the Hanford Nuclear Site in Washington.

West Valley continues progress during mission critical operations



Crews continued work on a smaller scale than usual while in an essential mission-critical operating posture at EM’s **West Valley Demonstration Project**. While deactivation and decommissioning operations were put on hold, workers completed critical compliance inspections, environmental monitoring, and other activities.

“The protection of our workers, the public and the environment has always been our core value,” EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “During our pandemic response, the **WVDP** team maintained our focus on safety and compliance, while continuing to advance our mission to eliminate legacy risks at the site.”



Employees installed a new hoist in the Equipment Decontamination Room inside the Main Plant Process Building. This new hoist will be used for moving waste boxes and drums when the site returns to full operations; and crews resume deactivation work inside a former reprocessing cell there.

Crews also encapsulated the Main Plant Office Building concrete slab so it is no longer posted as an asbestos area.

Workers installed protective covers on four, 69,000-pound High-Integrity Containers stored in a secure location onsite to protect them from water infiltration. Each HIC contained spent ion exchange resins and diatomaceous earth from the FRS water treatment system.

Employees performed annual inspections of a dam onsite as part of environmental monitoring. Workers installed new trailers onsite for use as breakrooms, locker rooms, offices and meeting areas to increase social distancing efforts. They also installed other upgrades to site infrastructure, such as Plexiglas® shielding and reconfiguring breakrooms and meeting areas, to further protect workers from the potential spread of COVID-19.

“Our team continues to use their combined knowledge to safely maintain the site during essential mission critical operations,” CHBWV President John Rendall said. “I’m proud of their efforts, accomplishments, and in the work they continue to do on this project.”



West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Strategic Vision



The Main Plant Process Building operated as a commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant from 1966 to 1972. During its six years of operations, the plant generated approximately 600,000 gallons of liquid high-level radioactive waste, which was vitrified.

Overview

The **West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP)** is located at the **Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC)**, a 3,338-acre site 30 miles south of Buffalo, New York. The site is owned by the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)** and is home to the only commercial spent nuclear fuel reprocessing facility to operate in the United States. In 1962, Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS) entered into agreements with the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and New York State to construct, license, and operate the commercial spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant. NFS built and operated the plant and two waste burial grounds from 1963 to 1972. NFS processed 640 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel and generated over 600,000 gallons of liquid high-level waste (HLW). In 1976, NFS exercised its contractual right to yield the **WNYNSC's** responsibility back to New York State and currently **NYSERDA** holds title and manages it.



The **West Valley Demonstration Project is a radioactive waste management and decommissioning project at the site of the only commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant to have operated in the United States.**

In 1980, Congress passed the **WVDP Act**. The **WVDP Act** requires the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to conduct a HLW management demonstration project at the **WNYNSC** for purposes of demonstrating solidification techniques which may be used for preparing HLW for disposal. The **WVDP Act** directed DOE to:

- Solidify the HLW in a suitable form for transportation and disposal.
- Develop containers suitable for the disposal of the HLW.
- Transport, as soon as feasible, the solidified waste to a federal repository for disposal.
- Dispose of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) and transuranic (TRU) waste produced by the HLW's solidification processes.



- Decontaminate and decommission the tanks and other facilities used at the WNYNSC in which the HLW was solidified, the facilities used in the waste solidification effort, and any material and hardware used in connection with the WVDP.

The WVDP Act prohibits DOE from taking title to the waste, real property, or facilities at the WNYNSC.



Workers begin demolishing a former utility room extension building at EM's West Valley Demonstration Project. It was one of seven support buildings of the Main Plant Process Building. Three of those structures remain and are scheduled for demolition.

DOE completed solidifying the HLW into canisters in 2002. The resulting 278 canisters of vitrified HLW are currently stored onsite, pending availability of a federal repository. Since 1998, DOE has been disposing of LLW; processing and packaging both CH and RH Greater-than-Class-C (GTCC)-like waste; and deactivating, decontaminating, and removing facilities used in the process of solidification of the HLW.

In 2010, DOE and NYSERDA issued a joint Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that analyzed the potential environmental impacts of reasonable alternatives to complete the WVDP cleanup pursuant to the WVDP Act and the decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship of the WNYNSC. In that same year, DOE issued a Record of Decision in which DOE decided to implement a phased decision-making approach for decommissioning the site. The first phase covers decommissioning and removal of certain facilities and areas, which includes soil remediation activities.



The second phase, for which DOE has not yet made a decision, would involve decommissioning remaining facilities and areas pursuant to the WVDP Act, including the four underground waste tanks and decommissioning of the NRC-licensed Disposal Area.



A view of debris following completion of demolition of the former utility room extension building.

Cleanup accomplishments include the following:

- Relocated 278 vitrified waste canisters to a new on-site dry cask storage area.
- Dispositioned all legacy LLW.
- Demolished the Vitrification facility and 25 other support buildings.
- Deactivated 98% of the Main Plant Process Building in preparation for demolition in 2020.

Cleanup Highlights 2020-2030

Work at West Valley over the coming decade will focus on completing remaining facility decommissioning activities, including demolition of the last remaining major building – the former Main Plant Process Building – as well as reaching agreement with state regulators on paths forward for remaining cleanup activities.

Over the next decade, DOE will complete soil remediation and facility decommissioning activities, though completion could be impacted by a lack of disposal options for GTCC-like waste. By September 2023, DOE expects to complete demolition of the Main Plant Process Building. In addition, demolition activities will be completed at the remaining two ancillary support buildings, and three remaining excess facilities.



Between 2024 and 2030, DOE will complete the decommissioning of the below-grade portions of the Main Plant Process Building and Vitrification Facility, as well as the radioactive water treatment system, including four active lagoons and one closed lagoon. EM will need an identified GTCC-like waste disposal option by 2025 to allow the demolition of all GTCC-like waste storage and processing facilities, such as the Remote Handled Waste Facility, and related support facilities, by 2030.

Remaining Cleanup Scope Post-2030

Work at **West Valley** post-2030 will focus on DOE and **NYSERDA** intended integrated decisions for a path forward on the disposal of waste and completing the cleanup of the waste tank farm two waste burial grounds, and long-term site stewardship. DOE and **NYSERDA** intend to make an integrated decision on the path forward for these activities by 2023. In addition, some facility demolition activities may remain to be completed if a GTCC-like waste disposal option is not identified by 2025. DOE will also work to identify a disposal pathway for the stored canisters of vitrified HLW.

DOCUMENT AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

 [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\) Strategic Vision](#)

West Valley Encases Building Slab With Fixative After Removing Asbestos



A worker at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) applies a fixative to the concrete slab of the former Main Plant Office Building to protect employees from potential asbestos.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – An [EM](#) deactivation and demolition crew at the [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) recently encapsulated a concrete slab with a fixative after removing asbestos from it.

The concrete slab was the foundation for the former Main Plant Office Building, which [workers demolished late last year](#), bringing EM's total number of structures removed at WVDP to 66.

Workers had safely removed asbestos-containing material from inside that building prior to tearing it down. Built in 1964, the three-story, 3,760-square-foot facility was part of the original commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at the site.

"Our team continues to leverage their combined knowledge and expertise to safely complete the demolition, disposition, and restoration of facilities no longer needed," EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. "This work will enhance safety efforts in preparation for the future demolition of the Main Plant Process Building."

Demolition of the Main Plant Process Building is an [EM priority for 2020](#).



The Main Plant Office Building was one of several Main Plant Process Building support structures. The next ancillary building set for demolition is a utility building. That teardown will occur after the site transitions to Phase 2 of its COVID-19 Work Resumption Plan.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

WVDP encapsulates Main Plant office building slab



A worker at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** applies Polymeric Barrier System (PBS) to the concrete slab of the former Main Plant Office Building to protect employees from potential hazardous materials and unintended releases.

Photo provided

WEST VALLEY — A facility disposition crew at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** encapsulated the Main Plant office building concrete slab with polymeric barrier system (PBS) to release the slab so it is no longer considered an asbestos area.

This practice protects employees from this hazardous material and safeguards against unintended releases. PBS was also used during the demolition of the 01-14 Building and Vitrification Facility.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a deactivation and decommissioning crew safely removed asbestos-containing material (ACM) from inside the Main Plant office building prior to its demolition.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Friday, July 10, 2020

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, warm temperatures and now COVID-19 protocols.

The former Main Plant office building was demolished in December 2019 by CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, the Department of Energy's cleanup contractor at the site. This demolition brought the Department of Energy's total number of structures removed from the site to 66.

"Our team continues to leverage their combined knowledge and expertise to safely complete the demolition, disposition and restoration of facilities no longer needed," said WVDP Director Bryan Bower. "This work will enhance safety efforts in preparation for the future demolition of the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB)."

The Main Plant demolition and reducing the EM complex footprint are part of EM's priorities for 2020. The Main Plant office building was the fifth of seven ancillary support buildings that once supported the MPPB.

The next ancillary building scheduled for demolition will be the utility room as the site transitions to Phase 2 of its COVID-19 Work Resumption Plan.

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Photo submitted

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THE SALAMANCA PRESS

Friday, July 10, 2020

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West Valley Advances Site Security, Safety With New Radios



Security Police Officer Garrey with Securitas Critical Infrastructure Services, a contractor to EM's [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#), uses one of the site's new radios to talk with other officers at [WVDP](#).

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – EM's [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) recently enhanced its security and safety by purchasing digital trunked radios that can assign frequency channels to various groups of users.

The new devices can communicate with all existing radios at [WVDP](#), as well fire as departments, local and state police, and emergency medical services. WVDP programmed the new equipment to allow interaction with those emergency response organizations.

"Our old radios were more than 20 years old, and needed to be replaced," said David Schuman, safeguards and security manager for CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's cleanup contractor at the site. "These new radios enhance our security posture and improve officer safety. Improving our ability to share and communicate information more accurately will help us to better handle any situation that may arise."



The site's old radios needed to be replaced when frequencies, groups, and users changed. The new radios will provide a cost savings because they can be reprogrammed instead of replaced to accommodate such changes.

The new devices will improve communications because they are capable of interoperability, which allows communication between WVDP and emergency responders across the U.S.

"We have learned a lot over the years about the need for interoperability when it comes to emergencies and communications," Schuman said. "These new radios will have a positive impact for WVDP's security force, as well as employees and visitors."

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

Seventh annual rabies clinic successful in Ashford

Max Borsuk
Editor

Town of Ashford Clerk Patricia Dashnaw gave a presentation at the July 8 Ashford Town Board meeting regarding the success of the town's seventh annual rabies clinic on Saturday, June 27.

The rabies clinic was hosted at the Ashford Town Highway Barn, with CDC guidelines for social distancing being practiced with all services. The clinic was conducted via drive-thru, with Dr. Michael Reilly giving the shots in one section and volunteers giving the rabies certificates in another section. Dashnaw said the changes this year due to COVID-19 were well received by the people who attended and the town received many positive comments.

"It worked out very well. I heard many positive things," Dashnaw said. "Everybody was very sure to tell me that they really liked how that worked and they are very thankful for the service that they have through the Town of Ashford."

After sharing the event with the Cattaraugus County Health Department, Supervisor John Pfeffer said they loved the idea of the drive-thru clinic and the Health Department is planning one of their own in Little Valley. The board and Town of Ashford Animal Control Officer John Syms thanked Reilly for volunteering his time to administer the shots and all the volunteers who helped make the event run smoothly.

In other board news:

– The board approved a resolution for the negative declaration pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act concerning the determination of significance for the **BQ Energy West Valley Solar Project**. The board also approved a resolution approving certain infrastructure improvements associated with the **BQ Energy West Valley Solar Project**.

– Verizon is researching the installation of a larger tower than originally planned within the Town of Ashford, which would extend the coverage area.

– The board authorized the construction of a transfer station in the Town of Ashford compliant with the standards of Cattaraugus County and New York State Departments of Health.

The next Ashford Town Board will be Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

WVDP encapsulates main plant office building slab



Photos provided

A worker at the West Valley Demonstration Project applies Polymeric Barrier System (PBS) to the concrete wall of the former main plant office building to protect employees from potential hazardous materials and unintended releases.

A Facility Disposition crew at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** encapsulated the main plant office building concrete slab with Polymeric Barrier System to release the slab so it is no longer considered an asbestos area. This practice protects employees from this hazardous material and safeguards against unintended releases. PBS was also used during the demolition of the 01-14 building and vitrification facility. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Deactivation and Decommissioning crew safely removed asbestos-containing material from inside the main plant office building prior to its demolition.

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