

## EM site safely demolishes sixth ancillary facility surrounding main plant



*Photos provided*

**Workers start the demolition of the utility room building at the West Valley Demonstration Project, which is one of seven ancillary support buildings being demolished at the site.**

Crews recently demolished the 6,955 square foot utility room building at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**. Built in 1964, the UR was used to produce and distribute various utilities required for main plant processes. This recent demolition brings EM's total number of structures removed at **West Valley** to 67.

The UR was constructed with a steel frame, concrete block and masonry exterior. The single-story building measures 79 feet wide, 88 feet long and 23 feet high. With a reinforced concrete slab, the building's foundation will remain intact until the **WVDP** Phase 1 Decommissioning - Soil Remediation contract is awarded.

"The landscape and footprint around the main plant has been changed forever and is a sign of the ongoing progress here," DOE WVDP Director Bryan Bower said, commending the team for the work.

The UR included utilities; potable, cooling and demineralized water; utility and instrumentation air; high- and low-pressure steam and electrical distribution.

John Rendall, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's cleanup contractor, said employees continue to perform work safely while adhering to COVID-19 protocols.

# SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Vol. 152 - Issue 31

Published Each Thursday by Neighbor-to-Neighbor News Inc.

September 24, 2020

“The CHBWW team continues to make great progress toward the demolition of these historically significant facilities at **West Valley** with the completion of the UR. Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and environmentally-sound manner,” Rendall said.



**An excavator with shear attachment, is used to demolish and remove a sand filter from the utility room building. The sander, along with other large debris, was size-reduced and packaged for offsite disposal.**



**A Facility Disposition crew encapsulated the utility room building concrete slab with Polymeric Barrier System (PBS) to release the slab so it is no longer considered an asbestos area.**

Friday, September 25, 2020

## DOE still plans to begin open air demolition of Main Plant at West Valley this year



An excavator is used to start demolition of the waste tank farm equipment shelter in November 2019 after completing the removal of two condenser structures at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Photo provided

By RICK MILLER

WEST VALLEY — Despite COVID-19 restrictions that slowed work for months at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**, the U.S. Department of Energy still plans to begin the open air demolition of the Main Plant Process Building of this year.

Kelly Wooley, deputy general manager of CH2M Hill BXWT West Valley, the main contractor of the nuclear cleanup at the former spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the town of Ashford, said Wednesday the main plant is about 85% deactivated.

Speaking to the West Valley Citizens Task Force, Wooley said details of the demolition of the Main Plant Process Building would be discussed in meetings in November. The reports will include detailed characterizations of the building from the thickness of concrete to the amount of metal rebar.

Friday, September 25, 2020

Excavators with special attachments will turn the building to rubble, much like other concrete reinforced buildings of the 44 structures that have been removed so far.

The rubble will be sprayed with misting water to keep down dust from the building with the greatest amount of radioactivity of any building on the site. The surface of walls in high-radioactive areas were scrubbed, but radioactivity remains contained in some of the concrete.

Wooley said all staff are back on the site after shutting down for coronavirus protocols. About 69 office employees continue to telework from home.

Wooley said a blue elasticized latex paint is sprayed on interior surfaces for contamination control.

Citizens Task Force member Ray Vaughan asked for a video of prior demolition. He also asked about wall and floor thickness in the Main Plant Process Building.

Pat Townsend, a member of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, a citizens watchdog group, asked if DOE and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was releasing scoping comments for the Phase 2 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Lynn Winterberger of DEC said the comments had not been released, but could be requested under the state's Freedom of Information Law.

In another development, Andrea Mellon of the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)**, said the level of leachate in trench 14 in the State Disposal Area had been increasing over the past few years, but that "all changes are small and do not impact public health and safety or the environment."

It would take 300 years at the present rate for the leachate to become a health and safety issue, Mellon said.

The State Disposal Area and adjacent Nuclear Regulatory Commission Federal Disposal Area are unlined trenches of low-level nuclear waste disposed at the site since the 1960s.

Trench 14 was the last trench to be filled. After groundwater infiltration was discovered in the 1990s, a slurry wall was added to divert water from the trenches and geomembrane was installed over the site to keep water from penetrating the surface of the ground and entering the trenches.

Vaughan maintained that the two large underground 600,000 gallon steel tanks still have contamination in them despite being emptied, rinsed and dried remotely.

There is sludge in the bottom of the tanks plus the steel supports inside the tanks, he said. There is also a "bathtub ring" around the interior of the tanks with a lot of radioactive contamination.

Vaughan said changing groundwater movement could impact the tanks, spreading the contamination to area waterways that empty into Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie.

Winterberger said the DEC looks at projects in terms of what will happen over the next 30 years, not 1,000 years in the future.

## DOE plans to begin open air demolition of Main Plant at West Valley next year

By RICK MILLER



An excavator is used to start demolition of the waste tank farm equipment shelter in November 2019 after completing the removal of two condenser structures at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Photo provided

WEST VALLEY — Due to COVID-19 restrictions that have slowed work for months at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**, the U.S. Department of Energy plans to begin the open air demolition of the Main Plant Process Building in 2021 rather than this year.

Kelly Wooley, deputy general manager of CH2M Hill BXWT West Valley, the main contractor of the nuclear cleanup at the former spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the town of Ashford, said Wednesday the main plant is about 85% deactivated.

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## SUSTAINABILITY TALKS



# Clean Tech Startup Creates Permanent Disposal for Radioactive Fuel

Megan Greenwalt | Oct 05, 2020

Deep Isolation, a Berkeley, Calif.-based clean tech startup company, aims to solve one of the world's most pressing environmental problems -- the permanent disposal of approximately 490,000 metric tons of radioactive spent fuel that is being temporarily stored at hundreds of sites worldwide.

No spent nuclear fuel anywhere in the world has yet been placed in a permanent repository. In the U.S., there are more than 80,000 tons of spent nuclear fuel currently stored at nuclear reactor sites.

Founded in 2016 by Liz and Rich Muller, Deep Isolation's technology leverages modern directional drilling to permanently put this hazardous waste in horizontal drill holes deep underground. To date none of this spent nuclear fuel has been put into a permanent disposal facility despite the fact that there is global scientific consensus that a deep geologic repository is the best place for it.

*Waste360* recently sat down with Rod Baltzer, chief operation officer of Deep Isolation, to discuss Deep Isolation's technology and its plan to provide permanent disposal of radioactive spent fuel.

**Waste360: How much nuclear waste is being stored in the U.S.? Worldwide?**



**Rod Baltzer:** There are different classifications of nuclear waste. In the U.S. the most radioactive material comes in the form of spent nuclear fuel, of which there are 70,000 metric tons, an amount expected to double, according to the Department of Energy, as currently operating plants continue to generate waste. In the U.S., 1-in-3 people live within 50 miles of a spent nuclear fuel storage site. Our analysis shows that the total amount worldwide is more than 490,000 metric tons and growing every year.

**Waste360: How is it being stored and where?**

**Rod Baltzer:** Spent nuclear fuel is stored either in cooling pools or in dry storage casks at or near the nuclear power plants where it is generated. High-level radioactive defense waste, of which there is 90 million gallons, according to the DOE, is stored at DOE sites: the Hanford site, Savannah River Site, Idaho National Laboratory and **West Valley Demonstration Site** in New York.

**Waste360: How is Deep Isolation aiding in the permanent disposal of approximately 490,000 metric tons of radioactive spent fuel that is being temporarily stored at hundreds of sites worldwide?**

**Rod Baltzer:** Deep Isolation is the first company to, through a unique public-private partnership model, offer its customers a clear path forward to dispose of nuclear waste in deep horizontal boreholes. Via relationships with industry leaders such as NAC International, Bechtel, and Schlumberger, we are working with governments, stakeholders and organizations worldwide to study how our solution could be applied to their individual needs.

Via our international office based in London, we are in talks with multiple governments in the European, Middle East and Asian nuclear waste markets about how our solution might work for them.

Earlier this year we published calculations of the safety of our solution, demonstrating to community members, scientists and potential customers how the waste is safely isolated from the surface and answering many questions about how our solution will work.

This groundbreaking report, titled “Spent Nuclear Fuel Disposal in a Deep Horizontal Drillhole Repository Sited in Shale: Numerical Simulations in Support of a Generic Post-Closure Safety Analysis,” was published in an independent scientific peer reviewed journal and attracted more than 180 attendees to domestic and international webinars where our scientists explained the results.

**Waste360: What is the technology behind your process?**



**Rod Baltzer:** Our process leverages directional drilling techniques that have been continuously improved by the oil and gas industry over the past 20 years. This technology allows us to place canisters containing nuclear waste deep underground, below aquifers, into narrow horizontal boreholes, where the canisters can safely decay for thousands of years far beneath the surface in rock that has been stable for millions of years. Our patented design eliminates the need for humans to go underground and stores waste in a more efficient, compact, and cost-effective way.

**Waste360: What is your first non-government contract?**

**Rod Baltzer:** We expect to complete this fall our first non-governmental contract. It's a collaboration with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Southern Company and others that includes an in-depth analysis of how we would implement horizontal borehole technology for the siting of advanced nuclear energy systems.

The study discusses generic physical site characteristics, disposal operations, safety performance analysis, regulatory and licensing considerations, and will outline an approach to understanding and building public support.

**Waste360: What do you hope to accomplish studying placing deep geological repositories adjacent to advanced nuclear reactors?**

**Rod Baltzer:** We believe this study advances our company's mission to safely dispose of nuclear waste in the near future. Doing so would provide a model and proof of concept that the "next generation" nuclear power industry is willing to plan ahead for the back-end of the fuel cycle.

It also proves the market-fit of our solution and business model as we're being recognized as being a crucial partner for the next generation of nuclear reactors. Our hope is that other companies developing next-generation reactors will also plan for disposal long before it's time for implementation.

**Waste360: How will this help the environment?**

**Rod Baltzer:** Disposing of nuclear waste deep underground protects human health and the environment because it removes the threat to our biosphere. The depth at which we dispose of the waste and under a billion tons of rock provides the best assurance for protection.

Our initial safety models also show that in the rare instance of a catastrophic event, the amount of radionuclides that potentially could reach the surface would not pose any public threat because the horizontal repository, the canister alloy, and the rock above it work as a redundant combination of protective barriers even under extreme conditions such as an earthquake.



Because our solution is compact and can be located where the nuclear waste is generated, we can minimize the need to transport it.

**Waste360: How does this benefit the waste and recycling industry?**

**Rod Baltzer:** Right now the nuclear industry doesn't have a permanent disposition strategy for this waste, so having a solution for disposal will help resolve the 490K metric tons in temporary storage and provide a solution for the waste that's being generated now and in the future. The direct benefit is that, by using a solution like what Deep Isolation is suggesting, the waste can be properly and securely disposed of. Spent nuclear fuel is reprocessed internationally, but we do not have a policy domestically.

We believe we have the technology to do this, the processes to implement it, the team of experts and advisors to make it happen, and the willpower to get it done. We are trying to learn from the industry's past mistakes and draw upon the best lessons for creating success. We cannot leave this legacy to future generations.

**Source URL:** <https://www.waste360.com/special-waste/clean-tech-startup-creates-permanent-disposal-radioactive-fuel>

# West Valley Encapsulates Slab, Protecting Employees and Environment





**WEST VALLEY, N.Y.** – A facility disposition crew at [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) recently encapsulated a concrete foundation slab left following the demolition of a utility building. EM and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley encapsulated the slab with a water-based coating that forms an impermeable barrier between hazardous or contaminated materials and the environment. The slab no longer presents an asbestos hazard following this work. This practice protects employees from the hazardous material, safeguards against unintended releases, and is required for any work involving asbestos. The former utility building was demolished in September 2020 and was the last ancillary support building to be removed prior to the demolition of the Main Plant Process Building, scheduled for 2021. EM has removed 67 structures at the site.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

October 13, 2020

## Former Tennessee uranium enrichment complex marks cleanup milestone

By Vivian Jones | The Center Square



U.S. Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette speaks at an event marking the historic cleanup milestone of the former K-25 site at the East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Vivian Jones / The Center Square

(The Center Square) – Deconstruction and cleanup of the first former uranium enrichment complex in the world is complete, U.S. Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette announced Tuesday at an event marking the historic cleanup milestone of the former K-25 site at the East Tennessee Technology Park in Oak Ridge.

Built secretly in the 1940s as part of the Manhattan Project, the campus once was home to a complex of facilities that enriched uranium for the world’s first atomic weapon. From 1945 to 1985, the plant produced enriched uranium for commercial nuclear power. The U.S. Department of Energy closed the site in 1987, and facilities fell into a dangerous state of disrepair.

“We turned what was once an expensive government liability that presented risks to the community into an asset that the community can use to usher in new growth for East Tennessee,” Brouillette said.

October 13, 2020

Cleanup of the area began in the early 2000s, led by the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management in partnership with its cleanup contractor, UCOR. The effort cost about \$4.5 billion in federal appropriations over the life of the project. Federal funds also supported state oversight of the program by the Tennessee government.

During the process, more than 500 deteriorated and contaminated buildings were removed – about the footprint of about 225 football fields. With the completion of the project, 2,200 acres are available for economic development and recreation.

The DOE's Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management was able to complete the work four years ahead of schedule, saving taxpayers an estimated \$80 million in cleanup costs and \$500 million in environmental liabilities.

“Under budget and under time rarely occur independently, and they even more rarely occur both at the same time,” Gov. Bill Lee said in his remarks. “And for that to happen in a project like this that's never been done before in this country is, to me, an example, not only is the hard work that's been done here but the, the spirit that can only be accomplished with American exceptionalism.”

“The contractor and managers did such a good job of finishing early under budget – it saves hundreds of millions of dollars and we can now move more quickly to begin to clean up the mercury on the Y-12 project,” U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander said, noting the adjacent facility awaiting cleanup. “The fact that the Oak Ridge team has done this so well, so rapidly, is a big help to the taxpayer.”

The campus is available for a multiuse industrial park. An education center about the K-25 site's involvement in Manhattan Project and Cold War operations preserves the legacy of the site for future generations.

“I've been to Hanford. I've been to West Valley. I've been to all of those sites, and I'm telling you right here, it's done differently – and it's a remarkable accomplishment,” Brouillette said. “I don't know of any other place within the DOE complex that operates as efficiently and as effectively as right here in Oak Ridge.”

## Police Reports

The information published in the police reports comes directly from the various law enforcement agencies in the area including the Springville Police Department, the Erie, Wyoming, and Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Departments, the Cattaraugus County District Attorney's Office, the United States Attorney's Office and the New York State Police. The Springville Journal prints what is received and does not accept additional information or changes from other sources to information received from these agencies. Some names are withheld by law enforcement due to ongoing investigations, or because suspects are juveniles. Names appear if the subject has been charged and will be omitted otherwise. Arrests made by the agencies are included, all individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty. An arrest does not mean a person went to jail as individuals may be cited and released or placed under custodial arrest.

Fire Reports    DWI — Driving While Intoxicated    DWAI — Driving While Ability Impaired    BAC — Blood Alcohol Content    AUO — Aggravated Unlicensed Operation    UPM — Unlawful Possession of Marijuana    MVA — Motor Vehicle Accident    LPR — License Plate Reader    PDO- Property Damage Only

### Thursday, Oct. 1

West Valley – At about 9:14 a.m., Donald J. Collier, 48, of McCalla, Alabama was charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the fourth degree after the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an incident on Rock Springs Road. Following an investigation, the CCSO reports Collier had a weapon inside of his vehicle when his vehicle attempted to make a delivery to the **West Valley Nuclear Plant**. Further investigation reportedly revealed Collier did not possess a valid concealed carry permit for the weapon. He was taken to the CCSO for processing where he was released on an appearance ticket for Ashford Town Court at a later date.

## West Valley Removes Acid Recovery Cell Airlock



**WEST VALLEY, N.Y.** – Demolition crews at the [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) recently demolished an acid recovery cell airlock and lift table. The cell was used in reprocessing, where processed liquids, such as acid, were recovered and filtered for reuse. This 100-square-foot structure was constructed in early 2009 to support asbestos-containing material abatement, decommissioning, and vessel removal from the cell. The airlock had a lift table that brought containers to the top of the acid recovery cell; waste containers were loaded and then lowered back down. A fork truck could then lift and remove the waste box out of the airlock. The photo at top shows the project underway, while the photo immediately above shows completion of the demolition.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

# DAILY MESSENGER

Friday, October 23, 2020

## What you need to know about 23rd Congressional race

**Julie Sherwood**

MPNnow

Democrat Tracy Mitrano and Republican Tom Reed face off as the major party candidates in the 23rd Congressional District. Running on the Libertarian Party line is Andrew M. Kolstee. Early voting begins Saturday, Oct. 24, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 1. Election Day is Nov. 3.

Incumbent Tom Reed



**PARTY:** Republican

**RESIDENCE:** Corning

**AGE:** 48

**EDUCATION:** Law degree, Ohio Northern University

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** Ran law office specializing in medical debt collections, RR

Resource Recovery LLC

**OFFICES:** Former one-term mayor of Corning; elected to Congress in 2010 special election, seeking a sixth term

# DAILY MESSENGER

Challenger Tracy Mitrano



**PARTY:** Democrat

**RESIDENCE:** Penn Yan

**AGE:** 62

**EDUCATION:** Law degree, Cornell University Law School

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** Principal, Mitrano & Associates; former director of Information Technology Policy, and director of Internet Culture Policy and Law, Cornell University

**OFFICES:** None

**Libertarian candidate Andrew M. Kolstee** is founder and chair of the Chautauqua County Libertarian Party. He is a business owner, writer, genealogist, and political activist. According to his website, Kolstee is running for Congress “because he believes that the two old parties have become increasingly polarized, to the point where the American people are divided more and more each day. He believes in bringing those on the left and those on the right together to build a consensus.”

## Mitrano and Reed on key issues

### HEALTH CARE

#### Mitrano

She supports plans to ensure every American has affordable health care coverage that includes vision, hearing, dental and prescription coverage. Specifically, Mitrano advocates Medicare eligibility

# DAILY MESSENGER

Friday, October 23, 2020

for people 60 years of age to enhance coverage and include dental, vision, and hearing in Medicare coverage.

She supports government negotiation with drug companies to reduce expenses, and reform and realignment of government programs such as Veterans Affairs, Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) to reduce administrative costs and duplication. Mitrano supports a sliding scale for Medicaid and CHIP that allow people incentives to work.

## **Reed**

He voted to repeal and replace President Obama's Affordable Care Act. He voted for a Republican bill, the American Health Care Act, which repeals major parts of the Obama health law, caps future funding for Medicaid and cuts taxes on the wealthy and insurance companies. The bill includes a provision to stop local governments in upstate New York from paying a portion of the state's Medicaid charges.

Reed is co-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus that crafted a set of proposals that include creation of a health insurance marketplace to reduce costs and increase access to healthcare. He is co-chair of the Diabetes Caucus, the largest disease-specific caucus in Congress that backs legislation to boost diabetes research, education and treatment.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Mitrano**

She is focused on building key areas: Communication, to ensure everyone has access to high-speed, broadband internet; transportation infrastructure, to ensure safe and properly maintained roads, bridges and railways; and education and workforce readiness through support for programs and institutions that provide citizens with the skills and training needed to compete in the workforce.

Mitrano supports comprehensive immigration reform, to expand select visas and help bring in an influx of legal workers. She supports protecting natural resources by maintaining water quality monitoring. She supports New York's moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, investing in clean energy, and continued funding for climate change research.

### **Reed**

He supported the massive \$1.5 trillion tax reform bill, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which was signed into law by President Donald Trump. The bill passed in 2017, slashed tax rates for big business and lowered levies on the wealthiest Americans while containing smaller benefits for other taxpayers. The bill lowered the corporate rate from 35 % to 21 % and cut individual taxes across income brackets for eight years.

Reed authored the bipartisan Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act (RAMI), which was signed into law and aims to boost jobs and the manufacturing sector. He supports low-cost energy as a way to drive economic growth and supports varying methods of energy generation to improve the nation's energy infrastructure.

# DAILY MESSENGER

## ENVIRONMENT

### Mitrano

In her campaign platform, Mitrano cites the need for immediate, swift action to target investments in renewable energy, clean vehicles, and green infrastructure. She lists support for funding climate change research to reduce human contributions to the changing climate as well as support for businesses, especially farmers, as they adapt to increasingly unpredictable weather patterns.

She supports funding research and the development of solutions to fossil fuel dependency, including research and development of renewable energies. She backs federal and state alignment to address water quality and ongoing monitoring to combat harmful algae blooms. She supports federal funding for the final cleanup and removal of low-level radioactive waste at **West Valley**, a nuclear waste treatment site in Cattaraugus County. She supports federal oversight of hydraulic-fracturing.

### Reed

Reed is a member of the House Clean Energy and Innovation Working Group and a member of the Climate Solutions Caucus. He sponsored a \$75 million bill to federally fund nuclear waste cleanup from **West Valley**. He was recognized in 2018 by the Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, a clean energy advocacy organization, for sponsoring legislation to create jobs, reduce energy consumption, and protect the environment.

In rating Reed on his voting record, The League of Conservation Voters, a national environmental advocacy organization, gave Reed a score of 31% in 2019 and a lifetime score of 10%. A sampling of Reed's votes in the 2019/2020 term include voting against increased funding for renewable energy, research and development (H.R. 4447); voting against a clean energy and climate science funding package (H.R. 7617); voting against a funding package addressing environmental justice, water quality, dirty energy and drilling (H.R. 7608); and voting for permanently funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund and investing in national parks (H.R. 1957).

The 23rd Congressional District covers all of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins and Yates counties, and parts of Ontario and Tioga counties. In Ontario County, the district covers the towns of Manchester, Hopewell, Phelps, Seneca, Gorham, Geneva, plus the city of Geneva and part of Naples (the entire village and town, east of Route 21.)

## THREE WAYS TO VOTE

- Vote early: Oct 24-Nov. 1
- Vote by mail: Request ballot by Oct. 27; last day to postmark ballot, Nov. 3
- Vote on election day: Nov. 3, polls open 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Check early voting times and locations at your county Board of Elections.

In Ontario County, visit <https://www.co.ontario.ny.us/107/Board-of-Elections> or call: 585-396-4005.



## Divers Perform Underwater Maintenance of Fire Water Storage Tank at West Valley



**WEST VALLEY, N.Y.** – [EM](#) and its cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley recently went underwater to clean and inspect a fire water storage tank at the [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#). EM maintains 460,000 gallons of water in the 40-foot-tall tank in the event of a fire. Trained divers performed repair work after the inspection and cleaning in accordance with National Fire Protection Association requirements, which will increase the life expectancy and viability of the tank for several years. Pictured at the top of the fire water storage tank are divers Nick Bednarz, Mike Smith, and Tom Elstad with BIDCO Marine Group, which supported the [WVDP](#) tank inspection.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere