

Phase 2 demolition of West Valley Vitrification Facility completed

- **Aug 29, 2018** WEST VALLEY — Phase 2 of the Vitrification Facility demolition at the West Valley Demonstration Project was recently completed by the contractor, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC.

“The CHBWV Team continues to perform well in the safe execution of this high hazard work evolution,” said WVDP Director Bryan Bower of the U.S. Department of Energy. “This accomplishment allows the workforce to continue with the demolition of the Vitrification Facility, another step forward in the ultimate closure of the site.”

Phase 2 began last November, and involved the demolition of the heavily reinforced concrete process cell and in-cell equipment. The Vitrification process cell contains higher levels of radiological contamination than the building exterior and aisle areas demolished in the first phase.

“The CHBWV team is making great progress with the safe completion of the second phase of this facility’s demolition,” said president and general manager Jeff Bradford. “Vitrification Facility Demolition is one of the project areas we were able to accelerate using this year’s additional funding. This helps pave the way for Phase 3 work activities and the eventual completion of this major milestone.”

Using a variety of heavy equipment and specialized tools, workers safely removed four 7,188 pound in-cell coolers, six shield windows, and a 38,000 pound process crane.

The final phase will be the removal of the 100-ton crane maintenance room shield door, 60-ton transfer tunnel shield door, cranes and equipment, and the south wall. Completion of the Vitrification Facility demolition is planned for next month.

The facility was used to solidify 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.