

Progress with WVDP decommissioning to continue in 2021



Photo provided

Crews at the WVDP work on the demolition of the main plant office building.

Max Borsuk
Editor

Workers at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** continue to move forward in their efforts to decommission the **West Valley Nuclear Service Center** and build on the success from last year. New projects and goals have been set for 2021 as crews continue work on the site.

In 2020, crews at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** completed projects to remove support structures, prepare facilities for demolition and improve infrastructure. Demolition of the main plant office building, utility room building and the acid recovery airlock was completed this past year, which brings the total number of buildings removed at the site to 68.

Crews also completed the deactivation of below grade cells and rooms in the main plant process building, along with the safe removal of asbestos containing material from the fuel receiving and storage facility, which needed to be removed in preparation for future demolition. Infrastructure improvements in 2020 included repairs to the off-site railroad line, modifications to the drum cell building, a new heavy-duty fork truck with a long-reach arm for future waste operations, paving of the south parking lot in preparation for the main plant process building demolition and underwater inspections, cleaning and repairs to the site's 40-foot, 460,000 gallon storage tank.

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“The **West Valley Demonstration Project** team continues to use their expertise and knowledge to safely perform on-site demolition work. Their completion of several demolitions has changed the landscape of the site and the community. It is a reminder of the hard work that is being done to clean up the site and reduce its footprint for future generations. This team’s commitment to perform work in a safe and compliant manner speaks volumes of their dedication to protect each other, the public and the environment. I am truly proud to be a part of this team, and I look forward to continuing our work together in our cleanup mission,” WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. As crews at the **WVDP** dealt with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the team is proud of their workers staying safe throughout the year and they will continue to take all measures to continue its safe practices in 2021.

“The protection of our workers, the public and the environment remains our highest priority,” CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC President John Rendall said. “During the pandemic, the **WVDP** team implemented and adhered to enhanced COVID-19 protocols to maintain our focus on health and safety and compliance, while continuing to advance our mission to eliminate legacy risks at the site. I’m proud of our workforce and very pleased with their efforts and accomplishments; and in the high quality work they continue to do on this project.”

Looking toward 2021, the CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC looks to complete a number of goals in their decommissioning efforts at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**. Goals include completing demolition, disposition and restoration of the remaining balance of site facilities including the chemical process cell – waste storage area and schoolhouse septic system; completing the installation and testing of a new water treatment system to support main plant process building demolition; completing deactivation activities in the general purpose cell, product purification cell and disposition of the waste; completing remaining main plant process building demolition preparations and readiness activities; beginning main plant process building demolition and shipping of 4 million pounds of debris and beginning rail shipments from the **WVDP** for main plant process building demolition.



Photo provided

The utility room building at the WVDP was demolished in 2020.

Letters to the Editor

The opinions in this column are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of this newspaper. Letters should be under 500 words and legible. They must be signed by the writer and accompanied by an address and a daytime phone number. Letters that have appeared in other publications may not be used. Except under highly unusual circumstances, the writer's name will be used. Spelling and grammatical errors, and potentially libelous statements will be edited or deleted. Letters regarding upcoming elections will not be printed the week before Election Day.

West Valley Food Pantry appreciates support

Editor:

As we start the new year, all of us at the West Valley Food Bank wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the organizations and individuals that were involved in helping us during the past year. We have seen a marked increased need for nutritional support for many families in our community during the pandemic.

We would like to thank the West Valley Fire Department, The **West Valley Demonstration Project** (CHBWW), Tops Market, Walmart, West Valley Central School and the many private donations from churches and many very generous individuals. So many have been instrumental in supporting our Food Pantry and helping us carry out our mission to help our neighbors in need. With your help we have been able to assist more than 85 families and provide over 13,000 meals.

Thank you for your selflessness and continued support. We look forward to working with you all again in 2021.

Kristine Aldrow
West Valley
Food Pantry