

Ashford Board hears presentation on main plant demolition at WVDP

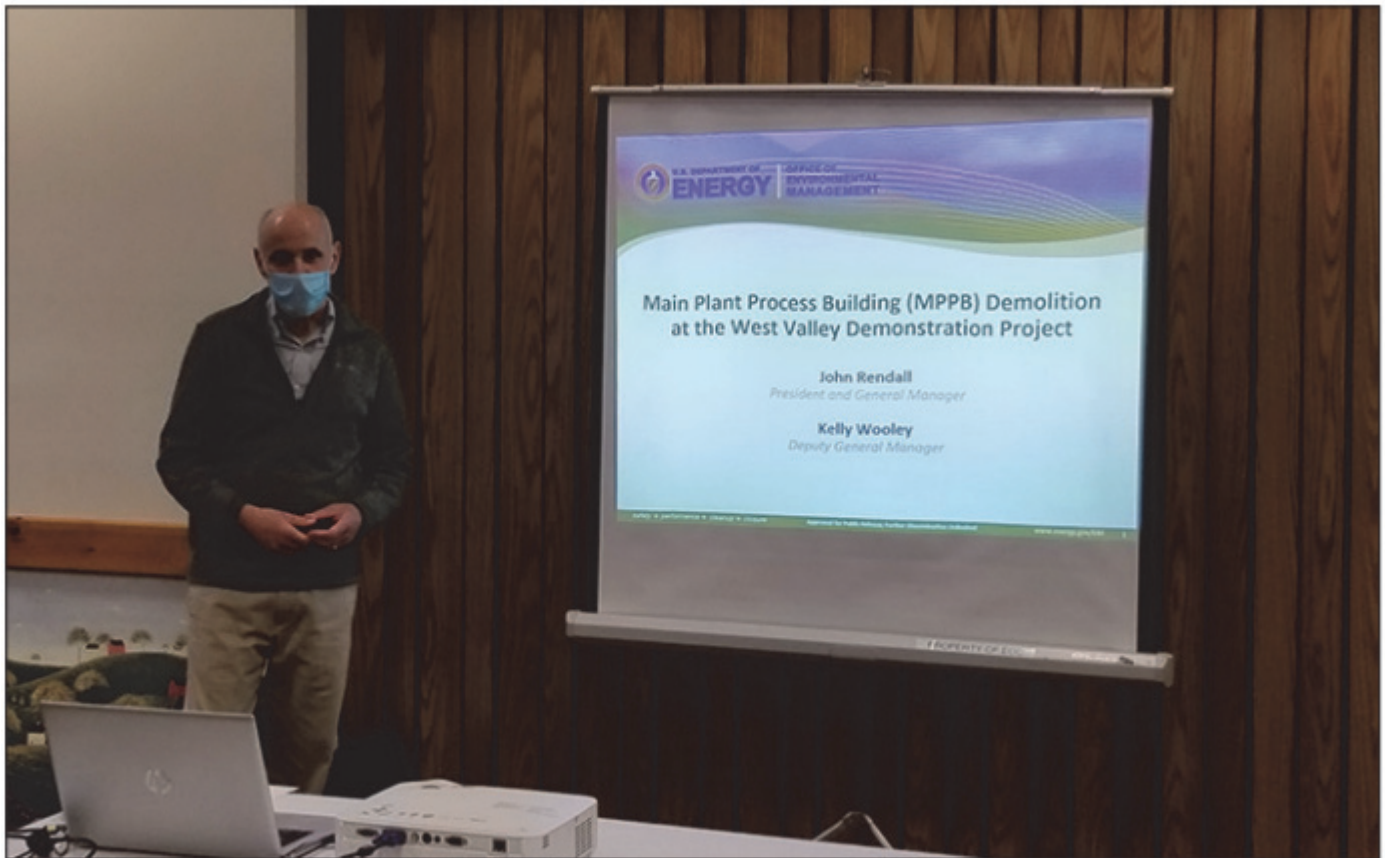


Photo by Max Borsuk

President of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC John Rendall presents about the upcoming main plant demolition at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Max Borsuk
Editor

President of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC John Rendall made a presentation to the Ashford Town Board at its May 12 meeting regarding the upcoming demolition of the main plant building at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**.

Rendall discussed the plan to begin demolition of the main plant process building at the **WVDP** this year, which would be an important step in reducing the overall environmental risks from historic site activities and the footprint of **WVDP**. Rendall said they hope to begin demolition closer to the end of this year.

With worker and community safety being a top priority, Rendall said the approach for the demolition would be safe and in accordance with all state and federal regulations, ensures the protection of the workers, public and the environment and incorporates the best practices and lessons learned from work done across the complex.

“This is a very methodical process that, believe it or not, started over two decades ago with taking the main plant down and when we actually get into it, we estimate it will take another three years to take down,” Rendall said. “It’s a very slow, methodical, precise process.”

Operators at the site have been working on deactivation and decontamination activities for over two decades as the building is being prepared for demolition. More than seven miles of contaminated piping and 50 tons of contaminated debris and equipment have already been removed from the main plant, which has reduced the buildings total inventory of radiologically contaminated material by 98 percent. As of now, Rendall said deactivation is complete in all areas in the building except for the product purification cell south, ventilation wash room, off gas cell and acid recovery cell. Deactivation is set to be completed in early to late fall of this year.

“The safest way to do it ... remove the contamination, then the building comes down slow and methodically, it’s packaged and it’s sent off for disposal,” Rendall said.

Rendall also talked about the air monitoring at and around the site that would be used during demolition. Continuous air monitors are placed close to the site, fixed air samplers are placed near the demolition area and ambient air samplers surround the site about one mile from the demolition area.

A public meeting regarding the main plant demolition for the community is currently being planned for a date sometime in June.

In other board news:

- Armstrong is expediting construction for broadband with the goal for residents to be hooked up by the end of the year.
- A Memorial Day event is currently being planned to be held at West Valley Central School.
- Highway Superintendent Keith Butcher reported “No Littering” signs have been picked up and will be placed at various locations in Ashford. A ditch will be dug to deter dumping in locations repeatedly being abused. Violators will face fines.

The next Town of Ashford board meeting will be Wednesday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m.

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West Valley Demonstration Project Quarterly Public Meeting

**Wednesday, May 26, 2021,
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Virtual Public Meeting

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will hold a virtual public meeting to provide information on WVDP activities and progress. NYSERDA and DOE will provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

If you would like to participate, please contact Joseph Pillittere at Joseph.Pillittere@chbwv.com or (716) 998-4900.