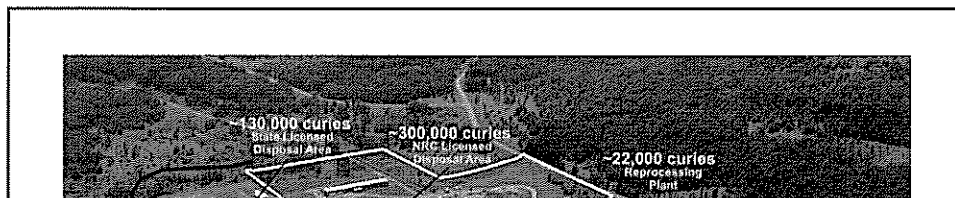
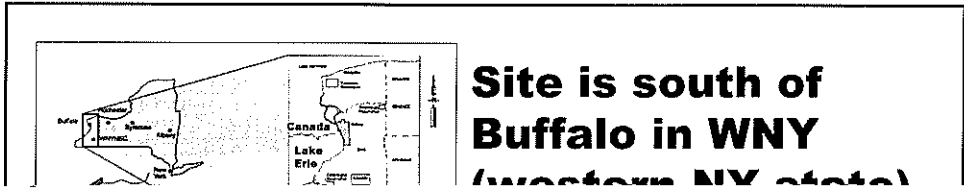


STATUS OF WEST VALLEY SITE DECOMMISSIONING

**NRC briefing, Rockville MD
December 11, 2006**

**Raymond C. Vaughan
West Valley Citizen Task Force**





**Site is south of
Buffalo in WNY
(western NY state)**

West Valley site overview

Complex, interrelated site closure responsibilities:

- **Former reprocessing plant, two burial grounds, etc.**
- **U.S. DOE under WV Demonstration Project Act**
- **NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)**

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Complex, interrelated law/regulation/oversight:

- **NRC, EPA, NYS DEC, NYS DOH**
- **WV Demonstration Project Act (1980)**
- **Part 50 license in abeyance during Demonstration Project**
- **LTR, WV Final Policy Statement, RCRA, etc.**

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Separate closure endpoints for DOE and NYSERDA

- **Decommissioning decisions still being made (EIS process approaching 20 years, still not complete)**
- **Current impasse between DOE and NYSERDA re: their respective responsibilities, validity of erosion modeling, etc.**

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EROSION

- **Uncontrolled erosion recognized as main threat to site integrity (Hundreds of years? Thousands of years?)**
- **Uncontrolled erosion will undercut site and will episodically deposit parcels of waste inventory into steep-gradient streams that flow to Lake Erie**

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1: Should DOE & NYSERDA Decommissioning Plans be concurrent or sequential?

If sequential, as NRC prefers:

- **Need uniform requirements for DOE and NYSERDA**
- **How can/should Part 50 license be reinstated during interim period?**

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2: Evaluation of erosion and radiological impacts

- **All evaluations need to be carried to peak dose (>1000 yr, as needed) (WV Final Policy Statement)**
- **All underlying assumptions, models, and methods of calculation need close attention**
- **Marginally acceptable impacts??**

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3: Distinction between decommissioning and disposal

- **WV Demonstration Project Act sets separate requirements for each**
- **Distinction may depend partly on the extent of barrier or vault construction (how elaborate, how essential?)**

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4: NRC should not authorize or condone reclassification (e.g., WIR) if contrary to law

- **WV Demonstration Project Act defines waste categories: HLW, LLW, TRU**

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5: Sr-90-contaminated groundwater plume!

- **No apparent regulation (license in abeyance); plume keeps growing**
 - **DOE won't deal effectively with it**
 - **NYSERDA and NRC say they can't**
- **Is creating an increasingly large amount of soil that will need decommissioning**

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