



West Valley Demonstration Project

Challenges

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DOE West Valley Demonstration Project**

September 27, 2006, CTF Meeting

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History



From 1966 – 1982, the West Valley site was operated and managed by Nuclear Fuel Services, which leased the site from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

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WVDP Act Directions

- ◆ October 1, 1980
 - Public Law 96-368 signed into law by President Carter in Niagara Falls, NY
 - Act authorized the U. S. Department of Energy to conduct a high-level radioactive waste management demonstration project at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (the Center)
 - DOE is directed to:
 - Solidify the high-level radioactive waste at the Center
 - Develop containers suitable for permanent disposal of the waste
 - Transport the solidified waste to a federal repository for permanent disposal
 - Dispose of low-level radioactive waste and transuranic waste produced by solidifying the high-level radioactive waste
 - Decontaminate and decommission – the tanks and other facilities in which the high-level radioactive waste solidified under the Project was stored; facilities used in the solidification of the waste, and any material and hardware used in connection with the Project

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WVDP Act Directions

- ◆ September 27, 2006
 - DOE Work Status:
 - Solidify the high-level radioactive waste at the Center
 - Develop containers suitable for permanent disposal of the waste
 - Transport the solidified waste to a federal repository for permanent disposal
 - Dispose of low-level radioactive waste and transuranic waste produced by solidifying the high-level radioactive waste
 - Decontaminate and decommission – the tanks and other facilities in which the high-level radioactive waste solidified under the Project was stored; facilities used in the solidification of the waste, and any material and hardware used in connection with the Project

Done

On Hold

Being Worked

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Challenges External to WVDP

- ◆ Challenges related to completing the WVDP **not** related to DOE/NYSERDA positions
 - HLW repository availability
 - HLW shipping casks
 - HLW shipping routes
 - Load-Out Facility construction at WVDP
 - Access to facility for transuranic waste disposal
 - Characterization and determination of disposal option(s) for non-typical radioactive wastes such as material vacuumed from floors of former reprocessing chambers

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WVDP Completion Challenges

- ◆ DOE & NYSERDA remain apart on the following issues:
 - Disposal fee for vitrified HLW
 - Respective obligations for long-term stewardship, if any
 - Ultimate responsibility for pre-Project north plateau groundwater plume
 - Ultimate responsibility for the NRC-licensed Disposal Area (NDA)
 - Total amount of facility credit due under Amended Cooperative Agreement
 - How to cooperatively resolve technical challenges that currently hinder EIS development process

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