



D.C. Update



Congress continued to make progress on the fiscal year 2014 (FY14) appropriations bills this month, however, as each week passes, the deadline for enacting the annual funding bills creeps closer. As a result, the phrase “continuing resolution” is increasingly entering conversations.

With Congress preparing to take its customary one-month August recess, lawmakers will have approximately one month to pass 12 appropriations bills when they return from recess before the new fiscal year begins on October 1. *CQ Roll Call* says that Congress is “all but certain” to begin work on a continuing resolution (CR) upon return from August recess.

A CR is used to fund the Federal Government when Congress fails to pass (or the President does not sign into law) one or more of the twelve annual appropriation measures before the new fiscal year begins. A CR provides funding at the previous fiscal year’s level while Congress works on passing a new annual budget. Flat funding under a CR makes it difficult for agencies to implement programs and respond to changes in priorities.

The budget environment for energy community programs is likely to remain challenging in the foreseeable future, with another CR likely on the way, sequestration remaining in effect and no clear plan to address long-term deficit reduction.

House Passes Energy-Water Appropriations Bill

Although a CR may be implemented for FY14, progress on the Energy-Water Appropriations Bill increases the likelihood that the measure could be enacted as a stand-alone or omnibus full-year appropriations act while other measures are bundled into the likely CR. Even if Energy-Water is included in a CR, the FY14 funding levels and direction the House and Senate are now setting would be used to negotiate the final spending bill that eventually replaces the CR for the remaining portion of the fiscal year.

Last month, we reported the House Appropriations Committee passed its version of the FY14 Energy-



Upcoming Nuclear Waste Hearings

- ECA will provide testimony at a July 30 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing to consider the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2013 (S. 1240); more information [here](#).
- Secretary Moniz will provide testimony at a July 31 House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy hearing, “Oversight of DOE’s Strategy for the Management of Used Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste;” more information [here](#).

Water Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2609) and referred it to the full House. The full House passed the bill on July 10, after adopting several amendments of interested to energy communities.

An amendment by Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA) added \$22 million for Hanford cleanup, and an amendment by Rep. Tom Reed (R-NY) added \$19 million to the Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup

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<i>Fiscal Year 2014 Defense Environmental Cleanup Funding (select sites)</i>					
Account	FY14 Request	Senate Appropriations	House Appropriations	Senate Authorization	House Authorization
Hanford	\$921.79 million	\$961.79 million	\$899.2 million	\$961.79 million	\$921.79 million
Office of River Protection	\$1.21 billion	\$1.21 billion	\$1.19 billion	\$1.21 billion	\$1.21 billion
Los Alamos National Laboratory	\$219.79 million	\$250 million	\$195 million	\$259.79 million	\$219.79 million
Oak Ridge Reservation	\$193.94 million	\$214.94 million	\$204.03 million	\$203.94 million	\$193.94 million
Savannah River Site	\$1.09 billion	\$1.19 billion	\$1.07 billion	\$1.24 billion	\$1.183 billion
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	\$203.39 million	\$222.39 million	\$204.54 million	\$236.39 million	\$203.39 million

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program in support of cleanup of sites such as New York's **West Valley Demonstration Project**.

See the updated FY14 Defense Environmental Cleanup funding table above.

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version (S.1245) of the measure on June 27 and it is unknown when the full Senate will take it up.

President Obama Issues Veto Threat Against House Energy-Water Bill

President Obama issued a Statement of Administration Policy on July 8, saying, "If the President were presented with H.R. 2609, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill."

Major areas of disagreement between the President and the House include House cuts to green energy programs, limitations on the President's ability to implement nuclear weapons strategy and support for the Yucca Mountain geological repository.

Senators Unveil Comprehensive Nuclear Waste Legislation

A bipartisan group of senators introduced the Nuclear Waste Administration Act of 2013 (S. 1240) on June 27.

Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), who are the leaders of the

Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, introduced the bill.

Upon introduction, Wyden said, "Stalemate can't solve our nation's nuclear waste issues. This bill takes immediate steps to more safely store the most dangerous radioactive waste, and lays out a clear plan for a permanent solution."

See the full story on the bill at page 10.

Bruce Held to Serve as Acting NNSA Administrator

Secretary Moniz announced on June 28 that Bruce Held, Associate Deputy Secretary, will serve as the Acting NNSA Administrator. Neile Miller, former NNSA Principal Deputy Administrator and Acting NNSA Administrator, previously announced that she would step down from her roles.

Macfarlane Sworn in for Full Term as NRC Chairman

Allison Macfarlane was sworn in as chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on July 1, after receiving Senate confirmation June 27. She was originally nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate to a term expiring June 30, 2013. Macfarlane will now serve a full five-year term as chairman.

Macfarlane served on the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future from 2010 to 2012.



CH2M Hill, B&W West Valley awards contract to Butler Construction

Monday August 26, 2013 | By:Submitted to Journal |

WEST VALLEY — CH2M Hill, B&W West Valley LLC has awarded a contract, valued at \$2.6 million, to Butler Construction of Western New York for excavation and construction of an engineered pad for storage of vitrified high-level waste canisters in casks at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

The pad is part of CHBWV's ongoing effort to relocate the stored radioactive glass waste to a long-term, on-site storage location, enabling pre-demolition work inside the WVDP's main plant process building to proceed.

Butler Construction has completed several civil and mechanical construction projects, at the WVDP and elsewhere in Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania, including construction of the WVDP's remote-handled waste facility, which was completed in 2003.

The firm has also completed several, small and large-scale excavation and construction projects, at the West Valley Demonstration Project site.

Installation of the HLW storage pad will involve site excavation of depths up to 13 feet below grade, installation of compacted backfill, placement of 2,800 cubic yards of concrete, grading and the installation of robust security features. Construction is scheduled to be completed, this fall.

CH2M Hill B&W West Valley LLC was awarded a 7-year contract in 2011 to complete the first phase of the sit decommissioning at the United States Department of Energy-led WVDP nuclear reradiation project.

CHBWV is made up of CH2M Hill Constructors Inc., Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group Inc and Environmental Chemical Corporation.

The West Valley Demonstration Project is located in West Valley.

Go hunting at the West Valley Demonstration Project

Sunday September 1, 2013 | By: Submitted to Journal |



WEST VALLEY — The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will offer its annual public deer hunting program at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center, in the town of Ashford, beginning Oct. 1. Approximately 2,000 acres will be open, for the entire archery season, and seven days, during regular season. Scouting will be available on three days, this year: Sept. 14 and 28 and Wednesday, Sept, 18, from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Check-in and out for scouting will be held at NYSERDA's hunting station, located at the

junction of Rock Springs Road and Thornwood Drive.

NYSERDA's program is open to anyone with a valid 2013-14 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Big Game or Sportsman License, and allows up to 70 hunters, 10 hunters per area, to hunt, each scheduled day. The 2013 application packets will be available, starting Wednesday, Sept. 4, in the drop boxes at NYSERDA's Ashford office and NYSERDA's hunting station, as well as at the main gate of the West Valley Demonstration Project.

This year, hunters will also be able to download an application form at nyserda.ny.gov/deer-hunting. Interested hunters can also call the deer hunting information line, at 942-9960 ext. 4990, and request that an application be mailed or emailed to them. Completed application forms can be mailed to the NYSERDA Deer Hunting Program, 9030-B Route 219, West Valley, NY 14171-9799, attention Alita Dueringer, or deposited in NYSERDA's drop box.

Each hunter must complete an application to hunt in NYSERDA's program. For archery season, pre-approval is mandatory, with each registered bow hunter being issued a valid 2013 NYSERDA wallet ID card, to hunt any day of the season. Check-in and out for archery will be at the WVDP main gatehouse. Licensed junior bowhunters, ages 12-13, are allowed to hunt deer, but a parent or guardian must accompany them. No minors younger than 12 are allowed in the field. Unlicensed minors ages 12 and older may accompany a parent or guardian as an observer, if they complete a junior release form.

Hunters may pre-register and select one hunting assignment. Walk-ins will be allowed, subject to availability. As per NYSDEC regulations, licensed junior gun hunters, ages 14-15, can hunt deer, but a parent or guardian must accompany them, while hunting.

Hunters may place one portable tree stand, during the 2013 NYSERDA hunting season, if they request a NYSERDA identification tag, as noted in the application.

For more information about deer management permits for use at the WNYNSC, contact the NYSDEC. The site is located in Wildlife Management Unit 9M.

West Valley Central School plans for opening day

Sunday September 1, 2013 | By: Justin Graham | News



WEST VALLEY — The West Valley Central School Board announced preparations for opening day, during its board meeting on Aug. 26, at 7 p.m.

Principle Dan Amodeo introduced Carol Hannon, who will be a long-term math substitute, this year.

Amodeo added that the district is also preparing for its opening day, which will be Sept. 5. The faculty will hold a first-day faculty meeting, with adaptive school training sessions, for the staff.

In the area of performance, Amodeo reported a “significant decrease” in proficiency ratings, with declines in most areas.

“The state released conversion charts; this will adjust for APPR scores on a basis for student proficiency from last year, as well. The state assessment is a new baseline for learning and an instructional prospect, for how to move forward.”

The WVCS district will hold its first open house on Sept. 12, for kindergarten – fifth grades.

All schedules have been received by parents, at this time, and should now be available, according to Amodeo.

“Passing time between periods has been increased to 3 minutes, and I would also like students to keep book bags in the classrooms, without the need to carry them, throughout the school. Any changes to the students’ schedules shall be adjusted, during the first five weeks of the school year,” he concluded.

Superintendent Eric Lawton announced that the district has 80 boxes of material to be shredded.

“These are items, unused of course, and have been backlogged. Most of the items consisted of our previous move and clean-out material,” according to Lawton, who added that the price was reasonable.

“We also went through proposals for architectural firms [for building repairs]. I also find that the importance of cost is undermined by the architect to put together a quality project and to be able to present this quality project, in an intelligent way, whereas a trust is developed in business, for getting the job done efficiently.”

The district officials have narrowed their selection of workers down to three people, and will have a decision by the next board meeting.

A return assessment on the West Valley Demonstration Project was received, designating the property as a tax-free zone.



An electric company replaced the school sign and workers will be removing area rugs on select hallways, “so that students and staff can better [see] our school logo, WV,” Lawton said.

Ann O’Brien, school business official, said that, “Equalization rates have an impact on tax rates. Our rating agency has reviewed our [financial statements] and had a look at our bond rating; I am happy to report our score was an A+, as it is important to keep this figure low.”

In other board matters:

- Cheryl Gentner was approved as a full-time driver, effective Sept. 1.
- Jason Kearney was approved, as a coach for boys modified soccer and Bonnie Hess and Connie Jo Kazmierczak were approved, as girls modified soccer coaches.
- The tax warrant for the 2013–14 tax year was accepted.

- An amended resolution, adopted on June 25, transferred any excess revenue over expenditures, for the year ending June 30, 2013, over the 4 percent limit to the retirement contribution reserve and the tax certiorari reserve, for the purpose of funding obligations. The transferable amount was \$130,513.75.

- The district agreed to enter into a contract with Erie 1 BOCES for a five-year period, commencing on Sept. 11, to authorize the Western New York Regional Information Center to furnish computer services to the district, pursuant to Educational Law 1950 (4)(JJ) for an amount not to exceed \$18,235.20, authorizing 60-monthly payments to be made to Erie 1 BOCES, in the amount not to exceed \$303.92.

The next school board meeting will be held on Sept. 16 at 7 p.m., in the library.



Work Begins On \$5.5 Million Project At WVDP

Posted: Thursday, August 29, 2013 6:00 pm

By Rick Miller, Olean Times Herald | 0 comments

ASHFORD — An outdoor concrete storage pad designed to hold 56 multi-purpose containers with 275 high-level stainless steel canisters with high-level radioactive glass logs is in the initial construction stages at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

The stainless steel containers, now housed behind thick concrete walls in the Main Process Building, must be moved before the building can be demolished to get at the source of a radioactive Strontium that has been making its way toward Buttermilk Creek for decades.

CH2M Hill, B&W West Valley LLC (CHBWV), the contractor at the site of the clean-up of the nation's first commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the town of Ashford, recently contracted with Butler Construction, Springville, for construction of a 144-foot by 110-foot concrete pad three feet thick. It will hold 57 loaded storage casks carrying five each of the 10-foot high stainless steel canisters with the radioactive glass logs. The storage casks — each weighing 87.5 tons — will be enclosed in reinforced concrete. Heatherly Dukes of CHBWV told people attending the quarterly public meeting of the West Valley Demonstration Project Wednesday night, Aug. 28, that Butler Construction started preliminary work earlier that day. The project should be completed by the end of November. It has a 50-year design life and will cost about \$3.5 million to build. Design costs push the cost is closer to \$5.5 million.

Dukes said CHBWV had ordered eight of the storage casks. The delivery time is about a year. The amount of money the Department of Energy budgets for the project will affect how many of the overpack containers can be purchased in a given year. They cost about \$500,000 each.

"We're not going to be loading for a couple of years," Dukes said at the meeting. The outside of the canisters first need to be decontaminated and those logistics haven't been worked out yet. The storage casks will hold waste, waiting for the day there is a high level nuclear waste repository to ship it to. Without the prospect of using Yucca Mountain in Nevada, a new repository site is decades away.

The overpack containers will be lifted into reinforced concrete storage casks placed on the concrete pad. The cask is 161 inches tall and 120 inches in diameter. The 20-inch thick concrete has a 4-inch stainless steel liner and weighs 133,500 pounds unloaded.

The last of the stainless steel canisters probably won't be moved from the Main Process Building and loaded into one of the overpack containers until some time in 2018, Dukes said.

Bryan Bower, director of the West Valley Demonstration Project for the Department of Energy, said it will be in the 2019-20 time period before the Main Process Building is demolished to ground level. Additional work will need to be done to remove below ground foundations in order to get to the source of the strontium 90 plume.

Charles Biedermann of CHBWV reported the 860-foot permeable treatment wall installed in 2010 to intercept and treat the strontium 90 in the groundwater is performing as designed according to monitoring wells before, inside and after the wall. The passive system is 30-feet deep, and consists of zeolite, a granular, volcanic material from Utah that grabs the strontium 90 from the groundwater as it passes through.

Tests have shown that by the time any of the groundwater reaches the confluence of Buttermilk and Cattaraugus creeks that Strontium 90 is either non-detectable, or at background levels.

CHBWV President Daniel Coyne told the meeting that the deactivation of the facility continues. The melter, used to heat the glass/liquid radioactive waste mixture to make the glass logs, and two other large components of the vitrification cell are ready for shipment off-site. It's unclear whether they will be able to ship the items via rail from the facility or whether they will have to be trucked elsewhere for rail shipment.

Crews are repacking waste remotely, while nearly 60,000 cubic feet of low-level waste has been shipped to disposal areas in Nevada and Utah. Much of the industrial waste from the demolition of clean buildings containing no radioactivity has gone to the McKean County landfill, he said.

Officials declined to discuss security for the casks that will sit on the concrete pad. "The Department of Energy will be here as long as the high level waste is here," Bower said. "I don't see security becoming any more lax." Bower's report updating Phase I studies was brief, as he said DOE and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) are continuing talks on the extent of the studies which are reviewed by an independent scientific panel.

Diane D'Arrigo of the Nuclear Information and Resources Service in Washington, D.C., said many people are "not satisfied" with the way climate change is being addressed in the studies – particularly as it relates to long-term erosion of the site where two 600,000-gallon steel tanks that held radioactive liquid waste that dated from the operation of the plant in 1960s and early 1970s where spent nuclear fuel assemblies were chopped up and run through an acid bath to recover plutonium. The tanks still contain radioactive residue and sludge.

The decision of whether to remove the tanks or fill them with grout (cement) has not been made, and is probably years away. Some people are concerned that the high level radioactive material left in the tanks could find its way to Cattaraugus Creek and the Great Lakes if erosion is unchecked over decades.

(This story appeared in the Sept. 5, 2013 edition of The Salamanca Press.)