

West Valley Crews Mark Two Cleanup Accomplishments



Before and after: The West Valley Demonstration Project site's footprint is dramatically changed following demolition of the former administration building.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) recently marked two cleanup accomplishments at its [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) site as crews finished tearing down a former administration building and removed two large steel shield doors from the Vitrification Facility, marking progress toward its demolition.

EM WVDP Site Director Bryan Bower noted that the administration building teardown is a significant milestone even though it wasn't the site's most complex demolition.

"Our crews did an excellent job in their planning and safe execution of this demolition work," Bower said.

Workers took four days to complete the demolition, finishing on Sunday. Work on the building's concrete foundation will continue over the next few days.

Charlie Davis, Town of Ashford supervisor and a West Valley Citizen Task Force member, said completion of the demolition changes the landscape of the site and the community.



“It is a reminder of the hard work that’s being done to clean up the site and reduce its footprint for future generations,” Davis said.

Joe Patti, another task force member, said he believes the demolition signifies an end to an era.

“For more than 50 years, this building could be seen from the road by residents and visitors alike,” he said.

Built in 1963 and expanded in 1983, the nearly 10,000-square-foot structure was the oldest WVDP building. It housed communication and computer systems, along with offices for the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority, DOE, the site’s security, and the site’s prime contractor.

At the Vitrification Facility, the shield doors removed by crews together weighed 160 tons — the equivalent of 80 automobiles.

“The CHBWV team did an excellent job in their execution of this work evolution,” Bower said. “This allows our team to move forward on the final Vitrification Facility demolition activities.”

Jeff Bradford, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), EM’s cleanup contractor, said his employees used their combined knowledge and expertise to safely complete the challenging work.

“I’m proud of their accomplishment, and in the work they continue to do on this project,” Bradford said.



Crews use equipment to loosen and lower the 100-ton crane maintenance room shield door from the Vitrification Facility.



Heavy equipment lowers the 60-ton transfer tunnel shield door to the ground.

In early July, crews took out a 60-ton door between the Vitrification Cell and a tunnel that provided shielding for the equipment decontamination room. They used a hydraulic hammer to break concrete and rebar holding the 13-inch-thick door in place, and lowered the door to the ground in a large excavator bucket. Workers then used a burning bar to cut the door into three pieces for packaging and shipping for disposal.

Next, crews used the same equipment to remove the 100-ton, 9-inch-thick crane maintenance room shield door located 27 feet above ground. After removing the concrete and steel rebar, workers cut the tracks and cables to release the door's mechanical grips. They lowered the door to the ground using the tip of the hydraulic hammer, and cut the door into four sections for packaging and shipping for disposal.

The Vitrification Facility, one of two such facilities to operate in the U.S., produced 278, 10-foot-tall canisters of vitrified high-level waste from 1996 through 2002.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

Anne White, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, Joins the RadWaste Summit a Keynote Speaker

PRESS RELEASE PR Newswire
Aug. 17, 2018, 02:00 PM

ROCKVILLE, Md., Aug. 17, 2018 /PRNewswire-PRWeb/ --

The 2018 RadWaste Summit will explore the theme, The Path Forward for Safety, Security and Storage of Radioactive Waste. As the radioactive waste industry continues to dynamically change, it's imperative for industry leaders to come together and discuss challenges and solutions to the management and disposition of radioactive waste.

Anne White, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy, has just been confirmed as a keynote speaker for the 2018 RadWaste Summit, taking place September 4-6, 2018 in Henderson, NV.

Anne White leads the Department of Energy's cleanup of the environmental legacy of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research. With more than 25 years of experience across the nuclear energy sector, her hands-on field experience includes the following DOE sites: **West Valley Demonstration Project**, Nevada Nuclear Security Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory and Brookhaven National Laboratory. Her international experience includes producing draft national regulators for foreign government in nuclear safety, environmental protection and nuclear liability issues for Singapore, Romania and Malaysia. Ms. White is the founder of Bastet Technical Services, LLC., a consulting firm that provides strategic solutions to solve complex environmental challenges across the DOE.

Attendees will hear about a variety of topics that cover the full spectrum of radioactive waste on both the commercial and federal sides. You'll meet with more than 300 waste managers, lab directors, site managers, business development executives, analysts, scientists and more

The following speakers and moderators have also been confirmed for the 2018 RadWaste Summit:

MARKETS INSIDER

- William J. Boyle, PhD, Director, Office of Used Nuclear Fuel Disposition Research & Development, Fuel Cycle Technologies, Office of Nuclear Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
- Melissa F. Burnison, Assistant Secretary, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy
- David Carlson, President and Chief Operating Officer, Waste Control Specialists LLC
- Stephen Koenick, Chief, Materials Decommissioning Branch, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery, and Waste Programs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Ed Mayer, Program Director, HI-Store: UMAX Facility for Consolidated Interim Storage, Holtec International
- John Arthur (Jay) Mullis II, Manager, Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management, U.S. Department of Energy
- Victoria S. Napier, Senior Vice President, Government & Public Affairs, ATKINS
- Ken Rueter, President and Chief Executive Officer, UCOR LLC
- Frank Sheppard, Jr., Senior Vice President and Project Manager, SWPF, PARSONS
- Daniel Shrum, Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, EnergySolutions
- Ward Sproat, Former Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, U.S. Department of Energy

"I'm thrilled to have Anne White as our keynote speaker for the 2018 Summit," said Nancy Berlin, Program Manager, ExchangeMonitor Publications & Forums. "With her wealth of experience and leadership, Ms. White brings a unique perspective from which we can all learn. I'm looking forward to some great discussions in September."

Attendees from the following organizations have already secured their spot: Bragg Nuclear Group, Camfil, EnergySolutions, Huntington Ingalls Industries, ICE Service Group, Idaho National Laboratory, Jacobs, Leidos, Navarro, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Nye County, PacTec, Perma-Fix Environmental Services, SECUR, Southwestern Low Level Radioactive Waste Compact, TechSource, Transco Products Inc., UniTech Services Group, and more.

The advanced rate expires today, August 17. To learn more and to register, visit <http://www.radwastesummit.com>.

SOURCE RadWaste Summit



Janice Fritz loves walking the 1.7 mile Pop Warner Rail Trail near the old Springville Depot in Springville. The trail will be part of a 27-mile trail stretching from Orchard Park to Ashford. (Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News)

27-mile trail on old rail line will link communities from Orchard Park to Ashford

By [Barbara O'Brien](#) | Published August 16, 2018 | Updated August 16, 2018

A nonprofit group and the Buffalo Pittsburgh Railroad have signed a 49-year agreement that allows the construction of a 27-mile trail along an old rail line from Orchard Park to Ashford, showcasing some of the most spectacular scenery in Western New York.

With five additional 10-year options, the agreement essentially is a 100-year lease, said Deb Fenn, president of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail group.

The next step is planning how each section could be used, from hiking, bicycling and cross-country skiing to horseback riding or snowmobiling.

"We really have to meet with residents along the corridor to see what their vision is," she said.

The trail links two counties, five towns, two villages and one hamlet – the towns of Orchard Park, Aurora, Colden and Concord, the villages of Orchard Park and Springville and hamlet of West Falls in Erie County and the Town of Ashford in Cattaraugus County.



There are historic rail depots, quaint villages, woodlands, marshes, farmlands, ski areas and a high-trestle bridge over Cattaraugus Creek along the trail.

"It's just a great place to walk and enjoy the beautiful community," said Ann S. Bergantz, a member of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail board of directors. "We're really thrilled and excited for Western New York."

The 1.7-mile long section in Springville, the Pop Warner Rail Trail, opened two years ago after the village secured a right-of-entry agreement with the railroad to allow development of the trail, which cuts a diagonal line across the village.

When the rail line was abandoned, New York State was interested in developing the trail as a linear park, and entered negotiations with the railroad, Fenn said. Negotiations broke off about five years ago, leaving Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail to pick them up.

She said an economic impact study might be completed.

"What happens typically is that real estate values increase and businesses are attracted to these corridors," Fenn said.

But not everyone wants a trail in his backyard, and some opposed to the trail have raised questions about safety and property values, and created an online petition in opposition to the trail that has garnered 55 signatures.

The petition cites concern over privacy, aesthetics, safety, property values, lifestyles, increased cost and liability to adjacent property owners, as well as its proximity to **the West Valley Demonstration Project.**

"Any trail that has ever been built anywhere will always have a few people who don't want the trail," Fenn said.

Values of property near other trails has remained the same or increased slightly, the group's website says. And houses close to the trail could attract home buyers looking for nearby recreation.

That's what the Town of Tonawanda found after opening its rails to trails path two years ago. Safety concerns are typical, but have not been an issue, said Town Engineer James Jones.

"It does go through a populated area and it does go right behind people's houses. It actually increased people's property values," he said, calling it "incredibly important" for a strong community to have strong trails.

"Rail trails have been built all around the country," Bergantz said. "It's not something that's new. Our communities are no more dangerous than any other community. There's no reason why we can't have something great in Western New York."

"Our goals are to protect and maintain the trail as a natural, cultural and historic resource while providing a safe, welcoming place for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy nature and outdoor recreation," Fenn said.

The trail group is seeking funding for economic studies and plan design. Fenn said she has met with municipal, county and state leaders to inform them of the agreement and to discuss next steps. Most of the rails have been removed.

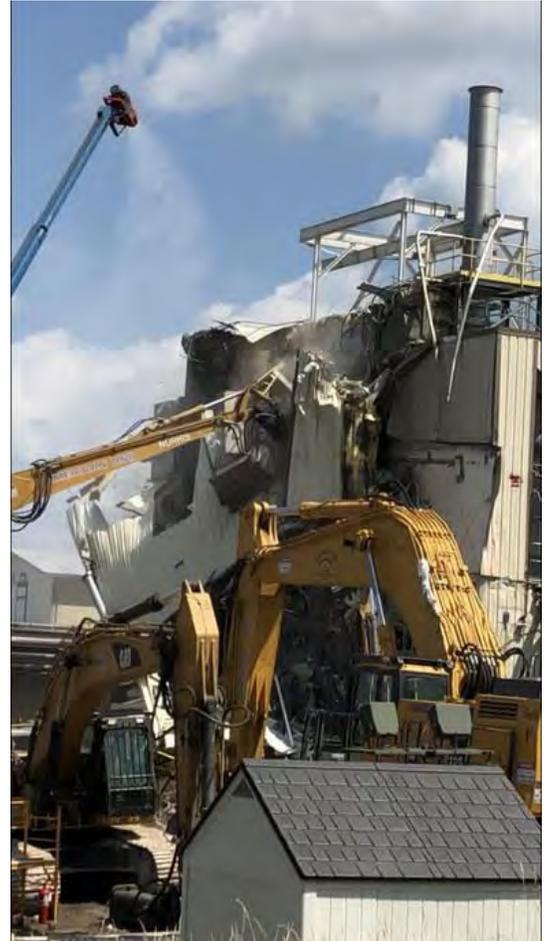
The group also is setting up meetings with adjacent landowners, community members and other stakeholders to discuss preferences for trail surfaces, activities, access points, and to address privacy and safety concerns.

"There will be areas that will be perhaps open, but not developed," Bergantz said. "The development will occur as the moneys become available. These things work when the communities are supportive and behind it."



Barbara O'Brien – *Barbara O'Brien reports on suburban issues for The Buffalo News.*

WVDP Crews Take Down Penthouse as Vitrification Facility Demolition Nears End



Workers use heavy equipment to take down the penthouse structure from atop the Vitrification Facility. Debris from the project will be size reduced, packaged, and shipped to a disposal facility.



WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Crews successfully removed a steel penthouse structure from atop the Vitrification Facility earlier this month at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) site, moving [EM](#) closer to finishing demolition of the building.

“Planning and execution of this work evolution by the WVDP team went very well,” WVDP Director Bryan Bower said of EM and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley. “They continue to make excellent progress on the Vitrification Facility demolition in a safe and compliant manner.”

The penthouse contained twin 52-ton hoists used to open and close a 100-ton, 9-inch-thick steel shield door [workers pulled out in July](#). That door provided access to a room used for maintenance of cranes and storage. Workers also took out three cranes and other equipment inside the facility this month.

Remaining work in the teardown project — scheduled for completion in September — includes demolition of ancillary rooms and structures that supported vitrification operations.

The Vitrification Facility was used to solidify 600,000 gallons of high-level liquid radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002. That waste was generated from spent fuel reprocessing that took place from 1966 to 1972.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Serving Springville, Concord, Ashford, West Valley, Collins, Colden and East Concord

Grant opportunities available for Ashford

08-21-2018 ASHFORD—The Ashford Town Board discussed grants the town recently applied for and options for grants already awarded to the town during its Aug. 8 meeting.

After completing the requirements for the town to become a clean energy community, Ashford received a grant for \$50,000 from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to be used toward any energy efficient project. Looking at the town's options, a decision was made to change light fixtures to LEDs in town buildings.

The town currently has a quote of \$29,000 to change all the lights in the highway garage and will work on getting a quote for lights at the Ashford Community Center.

"The work itself would ... bring it to a workplace standard as far as being able to work safely in the facility and would also reduce the energy costs by 75 percent," Councilman Richard Bernstein said. "Savings to the town, savings all around plus improving the workspace, which is what we need to update."

Along with the NYSERDA grant, Supervisor Charles Davis reported the town has submitted three grant applications to be used for boat launches in Cattaraugus Creek, a feasibility study for a welcome center on the Route 219 corridor and the sewer system in the West Valley Hamlet.

The town moved forward with its proposed solar farm at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center, by passing two resolutions. The board approved a resolution to issue a negative declaration for the proposed lease between the town and NYSERDA and an option to sublease between the town and West Valley Solar, LLC. The negative declaration is made by the town, who is the lead agency for the project, to show the action won't result in any significant adverse environmental impact.

The second resolution approved a proposed option for a sublease between the town and West Valley Solar, LLC. This resolution is subject to permissive referendum and cannot take effect until 30 days after adoption. If within 30 days a petition is signed by five percent of the total vote cast for governor in the town in the last general election, a referendum vote will be held to decide the issue.

In other board news:

- Cattaraugus County Real Properties Director Dan Martonis sent confirmation for County assessing to begin Oct. 1, 2019.
- The board approved researching a new generator for the Ashford Community Center.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.



Editorial: Rail-to-trail projects benefit communities

By News Editorial Board | Published August 26, 2018

The 49-year agreement between a nonprofit group and the Buffalo Pittsburgh Railroad will open up a new world to those who had no idea the beauty beneath their feet. They will find it because of the pact allowing the construction of a 27-mile trail along the rail line from Orchard Park to Ashford.

The project will also spur economic development to businesses that will now have new customers: people who might have been walking, running, biking along the trail and who spotted the specialty shops and mom-and-pop mainstays. Clubs and organizations working on projects might find themselves with new members.

The world opens up when new trails develop. Consider the Tonawanda Rails to Trails initiative and others. Bicyclists, walkers and runners make a beeline. Others include people enjoying warm, sunny days, welcoming fall and appreciating the crunch of snow during winter. And then it repeats.

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Monday, August 27, 2018

The Orchard Park to Ashford trail includes five additional 10-year options, creating what amounts to a 100-year lease, according to Deb Fenn, president of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail group. Next up is figuring out how each section could be used. Possibilities include hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, horseback riding or snowmobiling.

The trail links two counties, seven municipalities and one hamlet. They are the towns of Orchard Park, Aurora, Colden and Concord, the villages of Orchard Park and Springville and the hamlet of West Falls in Erie County and the Town of Ashford in Cattaraugus County.

Skeptics may want to check in with communities that have already embraced trails. The 1.7-mile-long section in Springville known as the Pop Warner Rail Trail opened two years ago. The village secured a right-of-entry agreement with the railroad to allow development of the trail, which cuts a diagonal line across the village.

These old rail lines become abandoned and, thankfully, because of nonprofit groups and others, they find gratifying reuse. When that rail line was abandoned, New York State decided it would be a good idea to develop the trail as a linear park, and entered negotiations with the railroad. Unfortunately, negotiations broke off about five years ago. This is where interested parties play a big role. Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail took over.

Fenn said an economic impact study might be completed. Hopefully it will help quell concerns by some neighbors worried about who might be traipsing around not too far from their backyards. Some hesitation is understandable. They worry about safety and property values, enough so that opponents created an online petition that drew 55 signatures.

Concerns ranged from privacy, aesthetics, safety, property values, lifestyles, increased cost and liability to adjacent property owners and proximity to the **West Valley Demonstration Project**.

These are all valid concerns and easily put to rest by looking at other communities with their own trails.

"Rail trails have been built all around the country," said Anne S. Bergantz, a member of the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail board of directors. "It's not something that's new. Our communities are no more dangerous than any other community. There's no reason why we can't have something great in Western New York."

Opening up public recreational spaces has drawn positive feedback from the people using them and also from the neighbors, who become champions of the effort. This will serve the people of Western New York for decades to come.

Mitrano Wants To Spend More To Clean Up West Valley Plant



New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

New York State Representative Tracy Mitrano, Democratic nominee for the New York 23rd Congressional District, shared details Tuesday of how she would tackle the issue of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center cleanup of low-level radioactive waste at West Valley in Cattaraugus County.

Mitrano asserted that the \$75 million per year that is provided by a recently passed reauthorization bill from the House Energy and Commerce Committee is “*too little, too late*” and that closer to \$6 to \$10 billion ultimately needs to be spent to ensure effective cleanup.

Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, sponsored the bill that will provide \$75 million per year for the next eight years. Mitrano said that the insufficient funding from the bill represents another reason she thinks Reed has “*abandoned people.*”

“*He is simply not doing enough to clean up this site,*” Mitrano said.

Reed’s spokesman did not immediately return a call for comment.

Mitrano is concerned about the potentially cancer-causing nature of the radiation and the pollution caused by radioactive and chemical waste. Citing danger to nearby waterways, Mitrano is worried about contamination of Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie. She mentioned studies suggest pollution

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from the plant has reached as far as Lake Ontario, but pollution there could be traced to another source.

“The cleanup is gravely behind schedule and even the first phase is years from completion, in large part because appropriate funding has never been secured and an aggressive timeline with milestones has never been set,” Mitrano said.

The purpose of the Nuclear Service Center is to house and process low-level radioactive waste, remnants of years of spent nuclear fuel. The site was once the only private commercial facility for reprocessing and disposing radioactive waste. When Nuclear Fuel Services Inc. left the facility in 1975, a need for cleanup began as *“multiple buildings, lagoons, disposal areas, contaminated soil, 600,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste and a still-migrating plume of radioactive groundwater”* remained according to New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation.

See tomorrow’s edition of The Post-Journal for complete coverage.

Candidate Tracy Mitrano says Rep. Tom Reed could do more for West Valley cleanup

• By RICK MILLER, Olean Times Herald

5 hrs ago



Tracy Mitrano

Democratic congressional candidate Tracy Mitrano said Tuesday that U.S. Rep. Tom Reed hadn't done enough to secure sufficient funding for the West Valley nuclear cleanup.

Federal and state governments have spent more than \$2 billion on the cleanup so far. Mitrano, of Penn Yan, said studies show the cost for a full cleanup range from \$6 billion to \$12 billion.

The West Valley plant was developed by Nuclear Fuel Services in the 1960s to reprocess spent nuclear fuel rods. Located in the town of Ashford, the plant closed in 1972 for environmental upgrades. It never reopened. The West Valley Demonstration Act of 1980 signaled the start of the cleanup of the site.

In a press call with reporters, Mitrano said the \$10 million additional West Valley funding Reed sought from the Department of Energy, bring annual appropriations to \$75 million.

"It's not enough to solve the problem," she insisted. "He is simply not doing enough for the cleanup of this site."

The site sits near creeks that feed Cattaraugus Creek which empties into Lake Erie. The Great Lakes contain one-sixth of the world's fresh water.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Mitrano also noted traces of radioactive waste from West Valley have already traveled to hot spots in Lake Ontario sediment.

Reed or the next representative from the 23rd Congressional District must “make sure this site is adequately funded for complete remediation,” Mitrano said.

“We need a congressman who can get a good number and the appropriation to clean that site up,” Mitrano said. “There’s a lot of anger for failure to obtain adequate funding.”

Reed, who was asked about Mitrano’s criticism during an afternoon press call with reporters, said she “is out of touch” on the issue.

“She’s not aware of the situation. We have worked proudly with West Valley. To indicate that \$75 million is not enough” is wrong.

ON ANOTHER ISSUE, Mitrano, criticized Reed for failing to stand up to President Donald Trump when he says or does something unsettling. She cited recent issues with tariffs as well as the criticisms heaped on Trump after the death of Republican Sen. John McCain over the weekend.

Mitrano said she was “deeply embarrassed and ashamed” over Trump’s disrespect of McCain, as the president waited two days to issue a statement acknowledging the passing of the honored statesman, who had spent more than five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. Additionally, the American flag atop the White House was only lowered to half-staff from Saturday evening to Sunday at midnight, and was at full staff Monday morning as nearly every other flag in the capital appeared to still be lowered. The White House flag was lowered back to half-staff by mid-afternoon, and according to the president will stay at that position until McCain is interred.

The country needs to “honor the people who have served in the military,” Mitrano said. Her father and his four brothers fought in World War II, she said. They were “the Italian version of The Sullivans.” No one represents the military “better than John McCain.”

Mitrano Wants To Clean Up West Valley



Tracy Mitrano

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Mitrano asserted that the \$75 million per year that is provided by a recently passed reauthorization bill from the House Energy and Commerce Committee is “*too little, too late*” and that closer to \$6 to \$10 billion ultimately needs to be spent to ensure effective cleanup.

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“He is simply not doing enough to clean up this site,” Mitrano said.

Mitrano is concerned about the potentially cancer-causing nature of the radiation and the pollution caused by radioactive and chemical waste.

Citing danger to nearby waterways, Mitrano is worried about contamination of Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie. She mentioned studies suggest pollution from the plant has reached as far as Lake Ontario, but pollution there could be traced to another source.

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The purpose of the Nuclear Service Center is to house and process low-level radioactive waste, remnants of years of spent nuclear fuel. The site was once the only private commercial facility for reprocessing and disposing radioactive waste. When Nuclear Fuel Services Inc. left the facility in 1975, a need for cleanup began as “*multiple buildings, lagoons, disposal areas, contaminated soil, 600,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste and a still-migrating plume of radioactive groundwater*” remained according to New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation.

In the decades that followed, some aspects of phase one cleanup have been successful, including the conversion of high-level radioactive liquid waste into the easier to manage glass-like substance. The administration building has been demolished, but many structures housing radioactive material remain on the 175-acre campus.

Mitrano is aware there is a long process ahead before all materials are rendered inert. Some have considered making the site a permanent storage facility for nuclear waste, but those from concerned members of the Seneca Nation and worried citizen groups and scientists have expressed that heavy rainfall in the area would continue to wash waste into critical sources of water like Lake Erie.

After criticizing the lack of forward thinking that led to the current state of the site, Mitrano expressed that she wanted to be the representative to make sure cleanup is funded enough for *“proper and complete remediation.”*

In response to Mitrano’s comments that \$75 million a year is insufficient funding for the cleanup, Reed said during his conference call with regional media outlets that Mitrano is not aware of the situation. The congressman, who is being challenged by Mitrano this fall for the 23rd Congressional District, said he has worked closely with officials in West Valley to secure the \$75 million a year for the cleanup. He added that he is proud of the work that is being done by all those involved to cleanup the low-level radioactive waste at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center in West Valley.

“It shows to me that clearly she is out of touch and doesn’t know to what she refers,” Reed said about Mitrano’s comments.

In other news, Mitrano said President Donald Trump is *“making a mountain out of a molehill”* in regards to the new deal with Mexico that could replace the North American Free Trade Agreement. She said new provisions are appropriate as NAFTA is periodically revised amongst the three involved nations. She regrets the nation’s treatment of Canada in regards to trade and wants them to be a part of the final deal.

“Trade is an essential part of our foreign relations portfolio,” Mitrano said.

She also criticized the White House for its reaction to the death of former senator and veteran John McCain. Mitrano thinks McCain represented the honor of the armed services and attributes the generic comments made by Trump and the initial full-staff position of the White House flag the Monday after McCain’s death as a symbolic representation of how shamefully veterans are treated in the United States.

“(McCain) should be remembered with the highest level of respect from the highest office in the United States,” Mitrano said.

The Post-Journal’s Dennis Phillips contributed to this report.

Phase 2 demolition of West Valley Vitrification Facility completed

- **Aug 29, 2018** WEST VALLEY — Phase 2 of the Vitrification Facility demolition at the West Valley Demonstration Project was recently completed by the contractor, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC.

“The CHBWV Team continues to perform well in the safe execution of this high hazard work evolution,” said WVDP Director Bryan Bower of the U.S. Department of Energy. “This accomplishment allows the workforce to continue with the demolition of the Vitrification Facility, another step forward in the ultimate closure of the site.”

Phase 2 began last November, and involved the demolition of the heavily reinforced concrete process cell and in-cell equipment. The Vitrification process cell contains higher levels of radiological contamination than the building exterior and aisle areas demolished in the first phase.

“The CHBWV team is making great progress with the safe completion of the second phase of this facility’s demolition,” said president and general manager Jeff Bradford. “Vitrification Facility Demolition is one of the project areas we were able to accelerate using this year’s additional funding. This helps pave the way for Phase 3 work activities and the eventual completion of this major milestone.”

Using a variety of heavy equipment and specialized tools, workers safely removed four 7,188 pound in-cell coolers, six shield windows, and a 38,000 pound process crane.

The final phase will be the removal of the 100-ton crane maintenance room shield door, 60-ton transfer tunnel shield door, cranes and equipment, and the south wall. Completion of the Vitrification Facility demolition is planned for next month.

The facility was used to solidify 600,000 gallons of high-level liquid radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002. This waste was generated from 1966 to 1972 during the reprocessing of spent fuel by Nuclear Fuel Services, the former operator of the site.

CHBWV announces Anderson as new WVDP president



- Press Release, Sep 7, 2018

WEST VALLEY — CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC recently announced Scott Anderson is the new president and general manager of CHBWV, a Jacobs-led company at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

“We are pleased to have one of our top project leaders head up this important contract that includes management of one of our most challenging decommissioning projects,” said Karen Wiemelt, senior vice president and general manager of Jacobs North American Nuclear.

Most recently, Anderson served as CHBWV vice president and deputy general manager.

“Scott’s proven record of getting work accomplished in a safe, compliant and cost-effective manner will add to our future success,” Wiemelt continued. “His expertise and knowledge will assist in our goal to accelerate cleanup, eliminate potential environmental threats and reduce the DOE footprint and life-cycle costs. The team was also successful in sustaining and increasing project funding by working with elected officials and the community.”

During Anderson’s three-year tenure as deputy, 278 high-level waste canisters placed into 56 storage casks were relocated to an onsite storage pad one year ahead of schedule, more than 180,000 cubic feet of low-level legacy waste was shipped for disposal, 22 of 47 structures were demolished and the areas restored and the deactivation of the Vitrification Facility was completed — used to solidify 600,000 gallons of high-level liquid radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002.

"I look forward to continuing our mission to deliver end-to-end innovative solutions that provide superior value to our customers," Anderson said.

Anderson brings a wealth of knowledge from more than 30 years of experience in hazardous and radioactive waste management, project management and functional management.

"It's humbling to assume the presidency of an organization that prides itself on delivering results in a safe and compliant manner," he said. "Our accomplishments on this project would not be possible without the dedication and skills of our employees, and I look forward to continuing our work together in my new role."

Anderson has vast experience in developing solutions to highly-complex challenges while maintaining safety and compliance. He previously held senior management positions at DOE's Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Idaho Cleanup Projects Sites.

THE BUFFALO NEWS

The West Valley Demonstration Project site as seen last December. The main building was slated for demolition. In all 22 of 47 buildings at the site have been torn down. (T.J. Pignataro/Buffalo News)



VP promoted at West Valley Demonstration Project

By [T.J. Pignataro](#) | *Published September 8, 2018 | Updated September 8, 2018*

Scott Anderson, the vice president and deputy general manager at the West Valley Demonstration Project, has been promoted to president and general manager, West Valley officials announced.

During Anderson's three-year tenure as deputy at the site in northern Cattaraugus County, he helped oversee the placement of 278 canisters of high-level radioactive waste placed into 56 storage casks and relocated to a concrete storage pad at the site. That work finished a year ahead of schedule, officials said.

Also, workers at the site shipped 180,000 cubic feet of low-level waste for disposal out West, deactivated a vitrification facility and demolished 22 of 47 buildings.

Anderson, who has 30 years' experience in hazardous and radioactive waste management, previously held senior management posts at Department of Energy sites in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Idaho.

T.J. Pignataro – *T.J. Pignataro has been a staff reporter for The Buffalo News for more than 20 years and the environment and weather reporter since 2013. He holds a juris doctor degree from SUNY Buffalo Law School.*

West Valley Marks Accomplishment in Legacy Waste Disposition



A truck leaves the West Valley Demonstration Project Site carrying a portion of legacy waste for offsite disposal.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) and its contractor at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) Site have safely completed the disposition of more than 180,000 cubic feet of legacy waste from past cleanup more than seven months ahead of schedule.

“The completion of this project is an important accomplishment in the progress to decommission the WVDP,” EM’s WVDP Site Director Bryan Bower said. “It speaks volumes on the importance of solid communication, teamwork, and best practices. The WVDP team did an excellent job.”

Crews used multiple facilities to process the industrial, hazardous, and low-level mixed waste before shipping it offsite for disposal. It included several large components used in waste vitrification, which took place at WVDP from 1996 to 2002.

“The WVDP team was deliberate in the planning and execution of this work, resulting in the safe and compliant disposition of legacy waste,” said Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley. “We met our objective ahead of schedule through extensive planning, engineering controls, and lessons learned. This is a proud moment for our team and the work they continue to do at the WVDP.”

Other legacy waste remains in storage at WVDP awaiting eventual disposition.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

THE BUFFALO NEWS

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

VP promoted at West Valley Demonstration Project

09-12-2018 - Scott Anderson, the vice president and deputy general manager at the West Valley Demonstration Project, has been promoted to president and general manager, West Valley officials announced.

During Anderson's three-year tenure as deputy at the site in northern Cattaraugus County, he helped oversee the placement of 278 canisters of high-level radioactive waste placed into 56 storage casks and relocated to a concrete storage pad at the site.

Also, workers at the site shipped 180,000 cubic feet of low-level waste for disposal out West, deactivated a vitrification facility and demolished 22 of 47 buildings.

Anderson, who has 30 years of experience in hazardous and radioactive waste management, previously held senior management posts at Department of Energy sites in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Idaho.
– T.J. Pignataro