

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

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

Ashford adopts 2019 preliminary budget

ASHFORD—After hearing a presentation from Budget Officer William King, the Ashford Town Board approved the 2019 tentative budget to be accepted as the preliminary budget during its meeting Sept. 5.

The overall budget for 2019 is set at \$1,944,987, about a four percent increase from last year. The tax levy would be the same as last year at \$435,360. While the budget is increasing in 2019, revenues for the town have also increased by around four percent.

Senator Cathy Young allocated additional payment in lieu of taxes to the town, allowing Ashford to increase its revenue in some spots. King applauded Supervisor Charles Davis, the town board and everyone who advocated for the funds.

“In the highway, we were able to put in another \$100,000 in revenue based on hard work from [the town],” King said. “I have to give [Davis] all the credit in the world for what he has done on this PILOT program. The work that has been done by all the people who have been on it, I appreciate it as a taxpayer and I certainly hope that everyone can understand what you have done and the importance of continuing it.”

Davis said the found money will allow the town to complete some recommendations from the master plan.

“We are going to be able to hold the line of the taxes, so the taxpayers are not ending up paying for what we want to do, so to me it works out all the way,” Davis said.

A public hearing regarding the 2019 preliminary budget will be Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Ashford Community Center.

New York State Energy Research and Development Agency West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia reported demolition of the vitrification facility at the West Valley Demonstration Site should be completed by the end September and the remaining waste will be shipped off-site by the end of the year. The main plant process building stack is also planned to be taken down within the next week and later shipped off-site.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

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

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC celebrated a major milestone in its decommissioning contract at the Nuclear Site with the last shipment of legacy waste offsite. CHBWV has shipped 180,000 cubic feet of stored legacy waste off-site during its work at the plant.

In other news:

- The board accepted a bid from Valley Fab & Equipment, Inc. of \$51,398 for the purchase of new and unused plow equipment and dump body.
- The board approved an extension to the end of September for the completion of the town's dog enumeration.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

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

NYSERDA opens archery deer hunting at WNYNSC

ASHFORD—The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will offer its annual deer hunting program at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center in the Town of Ashford from Oct. 1 through Nov. 16. Approximately 1,500 acres will be open for hunting. Participants must [register for archery hunting online](#). Scouting will be available Sept. 22, 26 and 29. Participants must [register online for scouting](#). Crossbows will be allowed the last two weeks of archery season, Nov. 3 through 16.

NYSERDA's program is open to anyone with a valid 2018-19 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Big Game or Sportsman License and allows up to 10 hunters per area, per day to hunt each scheduled day on a first-come, first-served basis. Hunters must complete an [online application](#) to participate in this year's program from [NYSERDA's West Valley deer hunting website](#).

An application to participate in NYSERDA's program must be completed. Approval is mandatory. As per DEC regulations, licensed junior bowhunters, aged 12-13, must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or youth mentor who is at least 21 years of age. Junior hunters, aged 14-15, must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or person 18 years or older. No minors under age 12 will be allowed in the field.

For additional information regarding this program, visit [NYSERDA's West Valley deer hunting website NY](#) or contact the Deer Hunting Coordinator, Alita Dueringer, at 942-9960, extension 4990.

Anderson named new president of CHBWV

09-13-2018 - ASHFORD—Amid continuing decommissioning work at the West Valley Nuclear Site by CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC, a familiar face has been announced as the new president and general manager.

Scott Anderson, who previously served as vice president and deputy general manager of CHBWV, was promoted to president and general manager.

“It’s a great opportunity for me to be able to stay in the same place working with the same people,” Anderson said. “It’s a great group of people, we got a lot of momentum built and it’s a great opportunity that I get to keep going with that.”

Anderson has more than 30 years experience in hazardous, radioactive waste, project and functional management, holding senior management positions at the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge and Idaho Cleanup Project sites. When the West Valley opportunity arose three-years ago, he took on the job and has been there ever since.



Scott Anderson

“One of my ex-bosses said we got this opportunity in West Valley. There are looking to change and get some new blood and some new perspective in there and he said would you like to come out there with me and be my deputy and I said sure,” Anderson said. “It was a series of opportunities ... things get stagnant sometimes, you need fresh eyes to help invigorate things and I think that is why we were brought in to put a new perspective on the cleanup.”

In its contract for the West Valley Nuclear Site, CHBWV has four major milestones which they need to complete. Two milestones have been completed – moving 278 high-level waste canisters into 56 storage casks and moving the casks to a storage pad and the processing, shipping and disposal of all legacy waste off-site.

With two milestones left to be completed, the next will be the demolition and removal of the vitrification facility and main plant process building. Deactivation of the main plant is around 90 percent completed and demolition of the vitrification facility is set to be completed by the end of September. While the deactivation is set to be completed, the demolition of the main plant is currently on hold while they work with the Department of Energy.

The other milestone will be the demolition of the remaining ancillary facilities on site. At the Nuclear Site, there are 47 miscellaneous buildings that are being taken down, which CHBWV is around 50 percent complete.

“We have made great progress,” Anderson said. “My job is right now to make sure people remain safe, don’t get hurt and keep doing the work that the government is paying us to do.”

Anderson is grateful of the workers he has at the site and is excited to keep the process moving forward as they inch closer to finishing up the contract.

“I don’t plan on making any real big changes here,” Anderson said. “The workforce is great, they know absolutely what they are doing, they are real good at what they are doing.”

Crews Safely Remove West Valley Main Plant Ventilation Stack



A crane moves the ventilation stack to a horizontal position.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Workers recently removed an estimated 20,000-pound ventilation stack from the Main Plant Process Building at [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) Site.

“Once again, the CHBWV team did an excellent job in their pre-planning and execution of this challenging work,” WVDP Director Bryan Bower said referring to cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley. “This work evolution will forever change the landscape of the WVDP site, and will become a reminder of the ongoing progress here.”



A crane lowers the ventilation stack to the ground.

Crews removed the ventilation stack as part of efforts to dismantle and demolish the Main Plant's associated facilities. Other work will include demolishing structures such as an office building.

"Developing a comprehensive plan and using it with a deliberate approach is a combination for safety and success," said Scott Anderson, CHBWV president. "Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and compliant manner."

The stack and other materials removed and packaged during the project will be shipped offsite for disposal.

The 160-foot-tall cement-reinforced stainless steel stack atop the five-story building was part of the Main Plant's ventilation exhaust system.

Built in the 1960s, the Main Plant Process Building served as a commercial reprocessing facility used to recover reusable plutonium and uranium from spent nuclear reactor fuel. It operated from 1966 to 1972, processing approximately 640 metric tons of irradiated nuclear fuel.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

OLEAN TIMES HERALD



Reed says just-passed bill includes \$75 million for West Valley cleanup

09-19-2018 - WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, Tuesday announced the just-passed Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill includes \$75 million dollars for the West Valley Demonstration Project to secure and remove nuclear waste from the site.

“We are proud to be an unrelenting advocate for West Valley and care about ensuring the complete and total cleanup of this nuclear site.” Reed said. “We are honored to work year after year to ensure a fair amount of funding to ensure this site is cleaned up in a safe and effective way.”

This \$75 million for the West Valley Demonstration Project represents a 30 percent increase in funding since Reed was elected to Congress in 2010.

Scott Anderson, general manager for the cleanup contractor CH2MHILL, said the allocation “will be extremely helpful in maintaining the cleanup momentum we have established at West Valley.”

Reed’s democratic opponent in the November election, Tracy Mitrano of Penn Yan, recently criticized funding for the full cleanup at West Valley, which is expected to cost between \$6 billion and \$11 billion. She advocated steep increases to clean up contamination at the site of the nation’s first commercial spent nuclear fuel processing plant built in the 1960s.

The plant, operated by Nuclear Fuel Services, closed in 1972 for modifications, but never reopened. Congress passed the West Valley Demonstration Project Act in 1980, and the cleanup began shortly afterward. The federal and state governments have spent more than \$2 billion on the cleanup so far.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

\$20 million solar farm proposed in West Valley

- By RICK MILLER, Olean Times Herald

09-23-2018

WEST VALLEY — A \$20 million solar facility is being proposed in the town of Ashford that would lead to lower electric bills for 1,500 area residents and small businesses.

West Valley Solar LLC, a division of BQ Energy of Wappingers Falls, is the same company that has already installed two solar farms in Olean and is working on a third.

The fourth solar farm being proposed in Cattaraugus County will conform to the Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency's standard solar energy payment in lieu of taxes (P.I.L.O.T.). The standard solar P.I.L.O.T. is \$5,000 per megawatt.

Corey Wiktor, IDA executive director, said at 10 megawatts, the West Valley Solar LLC project would generate \$50,000 a year for P.I.L.O.T. payments to the town of Ashford, West Valley Central School District and Cattaraugus County.

In addition, through an energy broker, up to 1,500 area residents and small business who are customers of National Grid will share in unspecified savings on their electric bills, Wiktor said.

According to James Falsetti, director of West Valley Solar LLC, the solar project will be a community distributed generation project with 100 percent of the power going to local consumption.

"This project is similar to our Solean, Solean West and Homeridae projects (in Olean)," Falsetti wrote in the P.I.L.O.T. application to the IDA.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

In addition to the Olean P.I.L.O.T.s., community benefits from those projects are included for St. Bonaventure University, Olean General Hospital and the City of Olean.

The company also is seeking a reduction in the IDA project fee from \$200,000 to \$100,000, Wiktor noted. The fees are set at 1 percent of the project, Wiktor said. West Valley Solar LLC had sought a 0.5 percent project fee

The solar farm, Wiktor said, is proposed for an unused site on the Western New York Nuclear Service Center off Buttermilk Road in the town of Ashford.

Since it is owned by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), there are currently no property taxes levied on the property. West Valley Solar LLC "will offer a revenue stream" from untaxed land, Wiktor said.

NYSERDA had issued a request for proposals for solar projects on property it owns in the state, he said.

"BQ Energy has been working on this with the town of Ashford for several months," Wiktor said. "They are looking to build and operate this solar project next year. They need various approvals and an interconnect agreement with National Grid."

The Town of Ashford is the lead agency on the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

The IDA has scheduled a public hearing on the project for Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. at the Ashford Community Center in West Valley.

(Contact reporter Rick Miller at rmiller@oleantimesherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, @RMillerOTH



EM Crews Successfully Complete Major Demolition at West Valley

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Crews last week successfully completed safe demolition of the 10,000-square-foot vitrification plant once used to solidify thousands of gallons of radioactive waste at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP). The building removal is [EM](#)'s largest and most complex environmental cleanup achievement at the West Valley site to date.

“The safe demolition of the Vitrification Facility is an important accomplishment in the progress to decommission the site,” said Bryan Bower, EM’s WVDP director. “For some of our workers, this was a bittersweet accomplishment, as they were here when we constructed the Vitrification Facility decades ago. We applaud the tremendous effort required to safely remove this nuclear facility.”

Scott Anderson, president of cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, applauded the workforce for its deliberate planning and execution of critical work.

“Protecting the workforce and the environment were paramount during the demolition process,” Anderson said. “We completed this challenging milestone using lessons learned, and look forward to applying those best practices on future projects.”





Before and after photos of the Vitrification Facility demolition at the West Valley Demonstration Project Site.

Workers removed utilities and equipment, and completed other deactivation work to reduce contamination risks prior to demolition, which began in September 2017.

The 50-foot-tall facility was designed with thick reinforced concrete walls. Using a variety of heavy equipment and specialized tools, workers tore down the building in three phases, including the safe removal of four in-cell coolers weighing 7,188 pounds each, six shield windows, and a 38,000-pound process crane. In the final phase of demolition, crews removed two doors — one weighing 60 tons, the other 100 tons — as well as cranes and other equipment.

From 1996 to 2002, the facility was used to solidify 600,000 gallons of radioactive waste stored at the site. That waste was generated from spent fuel reprocessing at WVDP from 1966 to 1972. EM continues cleanup activities at the site.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

Funding bill includes \$75 million annually for West Valley cleanup

- By RICK MILLER, Olean Times Herald, Sep 28, 2018

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed helped secure funding in the House government funding bill for \$75 million annually for the West Valley Demonstration Project cleanup through 2025.

It is a \$10 million increase from recent nuclear cleanup funding at the site in the town of Ashford.

The Senate must still pass the funding bill with the West Valley allocation to keep the government open until Dec. 7.

With a multi-billion dollar cleanup needed at the site, Reed's Democratic opponent, Tracy Mitrano of Penn Yan, said recently the \$75 million allocation is inadequate.

"She's not talking with people who know the site," Reed replied on Thursday during his weekly media call. "We're proud of our success" in getting increased funding. The funding helps make sure the project is on track.

Reed said Mitrano's call for him to hold out for funding for a total cleanup is "an unreasonable and extreme position. ... We've got to continue to advocate (for West Valley). We have been very successful. We have won the argument."

If the Senate approves the government funding bill with the West Valley amendment, officials won't have to plead for funding each year.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Reed also highlighted a bill he has reintroduced, the Disaster Savings and Resilient Construction Act, which he said would provide tax credits to homeowners who use resilient construction techniques when building and renovating buildings in federally declared disaster areas.

This would help those rebuilding from a natural disaster through the use of resilient material designed to reduce future losses of property and life.

The Corning Republican said 19 members of Congress have now committed to vote for a speaker in November who will support House rules reforms to break the Washington gridlock.

Demolition of primary nuke waste facility celebrated at West Valley

- By Rick Miller, County Reporter, Sep 28, 2018



Bryan Bower, director of the West Valley Demonstration Project for the U.S. Department of Energy, speaks Thursday at a celebration marking the completion of the vitrification facility. The building is where 600,000 gallons of high-level radioactive liquid was solidified into glass from 1996 to 2002.

WEST VALLEY — The safe completion of the demolition of the most important facility in the cleanup at the West Valley Demonstration Project was celebrated Thursday.

The U.S. Department of Energy, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and contractor CH2M Hill BWXT gathered with hundreds of employees to mark the year-long demolition of the vitrification facility.

It was the facility where 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive liquid waste left over from operation of the nation's first and only commercial spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant were solidified into glass between 1996 and 2002.

"It was a very important part of the Phase 1 decommissioning," Scott Anderson, president of CHBWV, said of the demolition.

Anderson also commended employees for another important milestone, the completion of the shipping of 180,000 tons of legacy waste — mixed low-level waste in storage and from ongoing site activities. The waste was shipped in more than 3,500 containers to disposal sites in Texas and Utah.

That legacy waste included the 400,000-pound melter inside the vitrification facility, a 50-foot tall, 10,000-square-foot building of heavily reinforced concrete.

The melter was used to create 275 glass-filled steel containers, each 10 feet tall. They are now stored in 56 concrete casks on an open concrete pad at the site. There is no storage or disposal site for the material.

Anderson said there was "no spread of contamination" from the demolition of the vitrification facility by American Demolition and Dismantling Co. and the West Valley team.

"They met the challenges head-on as a team," Anderson said.

Other challenges in the demolition — which proceeded during winter months — included removal of a 200,000-pound shield door, heavy cooling units from the ceiling and packaging a large dissolver that had to be cut in two.

Bryan Bower, U.S. Department of Energy director of the West Valley Demonstration Project, said that buildings surrounding the main process building would be demolished next. The main process building will not be demolished to ground level by CHBWV as part of the current contract as originally planned. That demolition will be part of the next contract.

"The focus now is decommissioning," Bower said. The demolition of the vitrification facility "is an important milestone. It completes the vitrification mission and accomplishes another first in the nation" for West Valley.

"The wrap-up of decades of work is what you see here today," Bower said. The demolition was done "without any major releases into the environment" and with the safety of workers in mind.

Bower noted another "visual" change at the West Valley Demonstration Project, the removal earlier this month of most of the 167-foot ventilation stack atop the main process building.

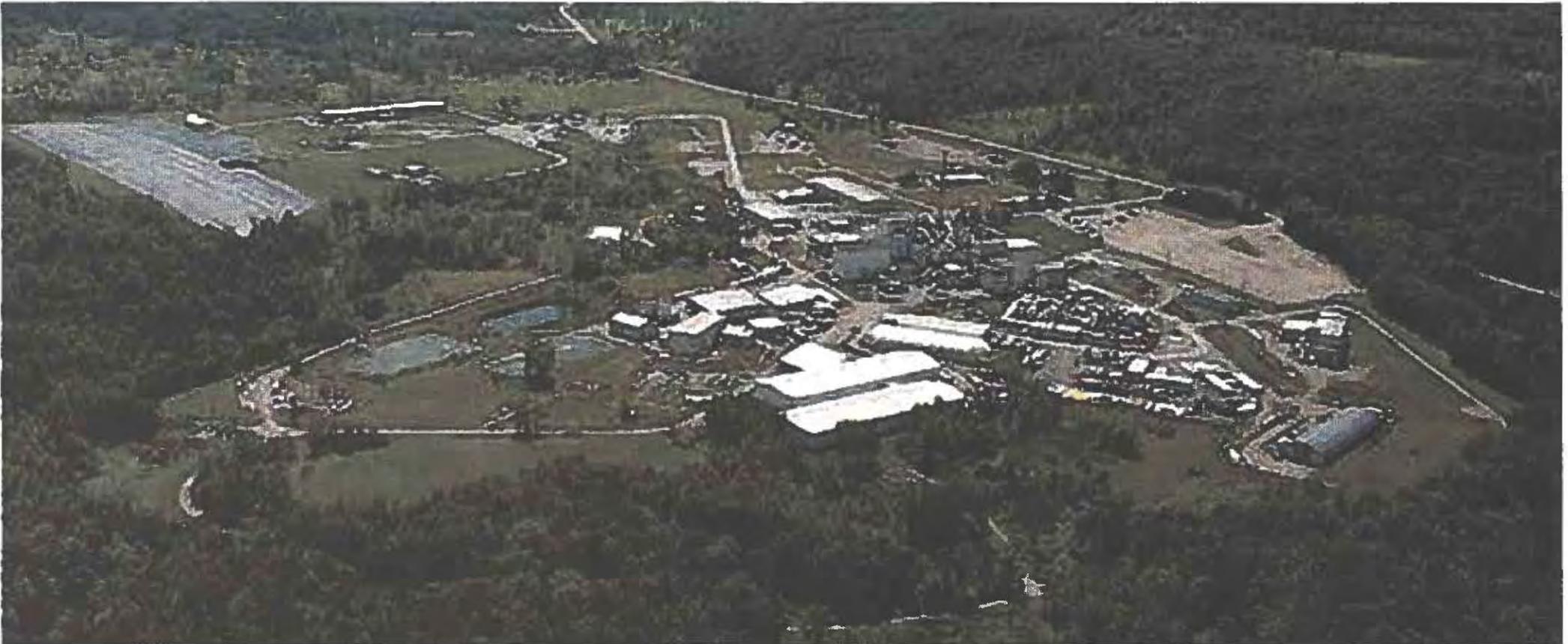
"We can see a skyline change," he said. "It's a very visual representation of all the work we've done."

The administration building, the first building constructed at the site in the 1960s when it was operated by Nuclear Fuel Services, a subsidiary of Getty Oil, has also been demolished, Bower said.

Nuclear Fuel Services abandoned the plant in 1976 after closing it in 1972 for environmental improvements. It never reopened.

(Contact reporter Rick Miller at rmiller@oleantimesherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, @RMillerOTH)

West Valley Demonstration Project and the waste affecting a community



An aerial shot shows the Western New York Nuclear Service Center.

Photos provided

Over its six years as a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant run by Nuclear Fuel Services, the Western New York Nuclear Service Center worked to recover uranium and plutonium from spent nuclear waste, which was sent to other facilities to be reused. Though it closed in 1972, high and low level waste remain at the West Valley facility, and while it's in the process of being removed, residents are concerned with the waste and the possible risks of it being in the community.

"I won't drink the water here ... I use bottled water for everything just in case there is any chance," resident Rachel Mitchum said.

Ranging from low-level waste to more dangerous high-level and transuranic waste, the Western New York Nuclear Service Center — the only commercial spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the United States — reprocessed over 640 metric tons of fuel from federal government defense reactors and commercial power reactors. The process left more than 600,000 gallons of liquid high-level radioactive

waste, a highly contaminated main plant process building and around 2.8 million cubic feet of radioactive waste buried in two disposal areas at the plants closure, according to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

In 1980, Congress passed the West Valley Demonstration Project Act, which established a solidification demonstration project for high-level waste at the site, led by the U.S. Department of Energy in cooperation with NYSERDA. While progress had been made since then, both the DOE and NYSERDA are continuing the decommissioning and cleanup of the site.

Waste at the WNYNSC

At the WNYNSC, radioactive waste is present in two disposal areas, along with several other storage areas at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

The two disposal areas include the State Licensed Disposal Area and the NRC-Licensed Disposal Area. The SDA contains lower-level radioactive waste that was generated during reprocessing activities by Nuclear Fuel Services. According to NYSERDA, there is about 2.5 million cubic feet of waste in the SDA, which also

contains waste from offsite facilities that worked with radioactive materials. At the NDA, there is around 360,000 cubic feet of waste generated by Nuclear Fuel Services' reprocessing activities and during the initial stages of the WVDP cleanup operation. The wastes disposed of in the NDA have higher levels of radioactivity than those in the SDA.

Removal of waste from both the SDA and the NDA will be determined during phase two of decommissioning by DOE and NYSERDA.

Stored in other sites of the WVDP are four other types of waste: low-level waste, mixed waste, transuranic waste and high-level waste.

Low-level waste includes contaminated equipment, piping, clothing, building debris or other waste generated during the decommissioning process. Wastes are generally shipped off site soon after generation. Mixed waste is waste that is considered both radioactive and hazardous. While these wastes can vary in radioactivity, they are usually either stored safely on site or shipped off site, as long as they meet safety standards of everything mixed in the waste.

Transuranic waste has higher concentrations of certain elements and re-



Crews demolish an ancillary building on site.



The vitrification facility is torn down by CHBWV crews.

quires additional isolation from the environment when disposed. There's 34,000 cubic feet of transuranic waste currently stored on site because the DOE considers that waste to be commercial waste; the disposal facility for transuranic waste only accepts defense waste. NYSERDA is currently in the process of getting the waste reclassified as defense waste in order to relocate it off site.

High-level waste consists of highly radioactive materials. The waste was originally stored in liquid and sludge forms in underground tanks before being solidified into a durable, solid glass form to be suitable for transportation and disposal during the decommissioning process. In 2017, a milestone was reached at the site when the solidified waste was moved into 278 sealed stainless steel canisters to a storage pad on site, ready to be transported. There is no disposal facility in the U.S. for high-level waste, so it must continue to be stored on site.

Cleanup and safety measures

In 2011, DOE selected CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC to conduct phase one of the decom-

missioning activities, which are ongoing. CHBWV Communications Manager Joseph Pillittere said phase one focuses on four main goals, relocating the high-level waste canisters to the storage pad, process, ship and dispose of all legacy waste, demolish and remove the main process building and vitrification building to grade and demolish ancillary facilities. While the relocation of canisters was completed in 2017 and disposal of legacy waste completed in 2018, CHBWV is working on the other two goals and expects them to be completed by 2020.

"We have a really good team that does the work not just diligently but methodically. The idea is that we plan for the work and then we work the plan," Pillittere said. "The work we have accomplished to date ... really demonstrates our commitment to safety and environmental stewardship."

NYSERDA and DOE's next plan of action is to make a decision on what to do with the remaining facilities and waste after phase one. The decommissioning alternatives include no action, which consists of no further action after phase one; sitewide removal, which would remove

site facilities, contaminated groundwater, sediment and soil once a disposal location is available; sitewide close-in place, which would close up phase two facilities with management and isolation of certain radiation with barriers and structures; and hybrid alternatives, which would combine elements from other alternatives. A phase two decision is set to be made in 2022.

Residents weigh-in

With major decisions for the wastes on the horizon, Ashford residents have voiced opinions on the waste and the best ways of making the nuclear site safe for everyone, now and in the future.

"A lot of that [low level] stuff can be left right in the ground and not touched," resident George Neudeck said. "The high level should be shipped out of there."

For some, working together is seen as the best way to address the project site.

"I think it's taking the time and doing it the right way, getting the proper things in place and know that we have to work with it and they have to work with us," resident Dawn Que-

Continued on page 5

Future planning key in keeping town safe

09-28-2018

Continued from page 4



Journal File Photo

The main plant stands against the West Valley sky.

senberry said.

For others, there's an underlying concern.

"It just doesn't seem right for it to be here in the country," Rachel Mitchum said. "What if something goes wrong ... the environment you have to protect."

NYSERDA and DOE have extensive emergency planning if an incident were to occur. Along with onsite resources and personnel to help handle emergencies, agreements are in place with the West Valley Volunteer Hose Com-

pany, Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, Mercy Flight, New York State Police, Erie County Medical Center, Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department and Cattaraugus County Office of Community Services to aid if an emergency arises.

"If there is a call there, we go and we have people that are trained to understand what to do in a radiological situation and we have been trained in radiological contamination methods," West Valley Volunteer Hose Company President John

Pfeffer said.

With more work and decisions to be made in the coming years, the involved parties continue to think on the best solution for the Western New York Nuclear Service Site.

"I feel it is my responsibility to try and set the stage for what happens with that stuff 500 years from now," Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis said. "Do I think [a disaster] is going to happen tomorrow, probably not, but I can't speak for 200 years down the road."



Solar farm planned for former West Valley nuclear site

By [MIKE DESMOND](#) · OCT 1, 2018

Cattaraugus County is continuing its aggressive move into solar energy, with a solar farm planned for an unused section of the Nuclear Fuel Services complex in West Valley.

The plant is being built by BQ Energy from Wappingers Falls, a company that specializes in solar farms on landfills and brownfield sites. Once complete, the plant will contain enough solar panels to supply 10 megawatts of electricity - enough for 1,500 homes and small businesses.

The property is owned by NYSERDA, but this project would pay about \$50,000 in annual property taxes. BQ Director Jim Falsetti says his firm has three other sites in Cattaraugus.

"One is for St. Bonaventure, one is for Olean General Hospital and the other one - is that's under construction - is for the City of Olean," Falsetti said. "So there's just one customer for each one of those. New York State has carefully considered that and now they are offering what's called Community Distributed Generation, where people can sign up for the electricity."

The project is being handled through the Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency, which handles a lot of the legal procedures and developed the payment in lieu of taxes fee and the savings in electric bills for customers working through an energy broker.

Falsetti says the solar farms are good for the Cattaraugus economy.



The West Valley site is under construction.

CREDIT BQ ENERGY

"Solar energy is great, but solar energy requires a lot of real estate to make it work," Falsetti said. "So here is a spot that people are okay with us doing it there. It's not a pasture. It's not a farm. It's simply property that has very limited other use." "Things happening that are supporting the local industry and supporting the local institutions and using property that has a limited other use," he says.

IDA Executive Director Corey Wiktor says there are some other solar farms in the works.

West Valley Site Celebrates Cleanup Successes



EM West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Site Director Bryan Bower recognizes employees for their hard work and diligence in completing their latest cleanup accomplishments. At left are Paul Bembia, the WVDP project director for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and Alison Hunt, district director for U.S. Rep. Tom Reed of New York.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) and its cleanup contractor at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) Site commended workers during a celebration last week for safely [completing demolition of the first vitrification facility built in the U.S.](#)



EM Senior Advisor Taylor Playforth speaks to employees and guests at last week's celebration at the West Valley Demonstration Project Site.

Scott Anderson, president of EM cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, told people gathered at last week's celebration that the site's crews worked safely and creatively to complete the Vitrification Facility demolition and disposal of more than 3,000 containers of waste from past cleanup activities.



Officials with EM and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley also recognized the workers for disposing of more than 3,000 containers of waste resulting from past cleanup activities.



EM WVDP Site Director Bryan Bower noted that the latest accomplishments demonstrate EM's commitment to safe and compliant cleanup.

"I want to thank the WVDP team for achieving these major accomplishments in a safe and environmentally sound manner," Bower said. "It is the dedicated men and women at this site that make this cleanup possible."

EM Senior Advisor Taylor Playforth conveyed greetings from EM Assistant Secretary Anne White to the West Valley workforce, "and she asked me to personally thank you for all you've accomplished in the safe cleanup of environmental legacy resulting from previous operations."

Tear-down of the 10,000-square-foot vitrification plant — once used to solidify thousands of gallons of radioactive waste at the WVDP — is EM's largest and most complex environmental cleanup achievement at the West Valley site to date.

Work continues on remaining cleanup, including deactivation of the Main Plant Process Building and demolition of its ancillary buildings and structures.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

The Post-Journal

Reed Announces Plan To Assist Disaster Victims

LOCAL NEWS

SEP 28, 2018

ERIC ZAVINSKI

ezavinski@post-journal.com

In the wake of disasters such as Hurricane Florence and the California wildfires, Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, expressed his desire to help out survivors of natural catastrophes with a bipartisan tax credit through The Disaster Savings and Resilient Construction Act.

Reed provided details for the bill he has recently introduced that would help provide financial relief to disaster victims and allow for resilient construction to replace fallen structures with more durable buildings. Reed said the goal of the bill is to mitigate the loss of life and property.

“We care about those who have been impacted by the devastating effects of natural disasters,” Reed said. *“We want to ensure our friends and neighbors are incentivized to rebuild with materials which have a chance of withstanding the next disaster.”*

Providing tax relief and encouraging the use of building with resilient materials is paramount to other lawmakers as well, some of which have said that in some areas of the country, it’s only a matter of time before the next disaster strikes.

The act was said to provide tax credit to homeowners and building owners who use resilient construction techniques when building and renovating homes and commercial structures in federally declared disaster areas in hopes to reduce future destruction of lives and property. In a press release from Reed’s office, research was said to have shown that investing in resilient construction methods and materials will limit future need for emergency funding, something that is made possible by taxpayers’ dollars.

The Post-Journal

“I think it’s only appropriate,” Reed said, “as we care deeply about families and individuals impacted by the devastating natural disasters, that we have a tax code that recognizes that these individuals not only need the immediate relief in their communities...but also as they rebuild, that the tax provisions are accessible to them.”

As author of this bill, Reed said he thinks it would allow for areas stricken by natural disasters to better be able to fully recover. In response to the flooding in the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes areas, Reed has also written a letter to President Donald Trump, urging him to declare the damage caused by severe storms a major disaster.

Reed also commented on how he and 18 other members of Congress plan on voting for a new Speaker of the House only if a candidate will support House Rules that are intended to *“break the gridlock”* according to Reed, who is the co-chairman of the Republican Problem Solvers Caucus.

“With a slim majority expected on either side of the aisle next Congress, a block of 19 members will have a tremendous say over who will get to 218 on the House floor and secure the gavel for Speaker in January,” Reed said.

The majority of legislators interested in withholding their votes are members of the problem solvers caucuses, and representatives from both the Republican and Democratic parties support the plan.

“This shows me that there is an appetite by members on both sides of the aisle that we need to get the institution of the House working again for the American people,” Reed said.

Reed also recently spoke on the House floor in favor of his bill to authorize \$75 million per year be allocated for the West Valley Demonstration Project, through 2025, to remove nuclear waste from the plant. Reed said he has worked with plant employees to make cleanup a primary investment.

“They work tirelessly over the years to clean up this nuclear waste and this threat to our environment and our communities,” Reed said.

October 3, 2018

Milestones celebrated at WVDP

ASHFORD—As decommissioning continues at the West Valley Demonstration Project, the completion of two major milestones was celebrated during an event Sept. 27.

Representatives from CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC, the U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy and Research Development Authority came together at the site to celebrate the demolition of the vitrification facility and disposition of legacy waste.

The vitrification building was a 50-foot tall, 10,000 square foot building originally used to solidify radioactive high-level waste. From 1996 to 2012, the facility solidified 600,000 gallons of high-level waste.



CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley President and General Manager Scott Anderson speaks at the event.

Demolition on the vitrification facility started on Sept. 11, 2017, the largest and most complex demolition of a radioactively contaminated facility at the WVDP to date. From removing the 100-ton shield door to the demolition of the reinforced concrete process cell, crews solved all major challenges and worked together efficiently and safely.

“The crew and the team met these challenges head on as a team and it ensured a safe and successful project,” Vice President of Facility Disposition and Deputy General Manager Tom Dogal said. “No major upset conditions with this demolition and for that, I applaud everybody.”

During the disposition of legacy waste, over 180,000 cubic feet of waste was shipped offsite for disposal, with the milestone being completed seven months ahead of schedule. Along with the waste, crews completed the safe preparation, packaging and shipment of several large

components used in the waste vitrification and moved over 240 containers of transuranic waste into long-term storage.

“There is a common theme to how we met all those challenges and that is a team,” Vice President of Waste Management and Site Operations Peggy Loop said. “People of various departments on this site with various skill that work together in every one of those instances and to be creative and solve problems and finish the work.”

Representatives from NYSERDA and Department of Energy spoke about the success of the project and commended everyone for their hard work throughout the process. Alison Hunt, representative from Congressman Tom Reed’s office, announced a bill authorizing funding of \$75 million per year for the WVDP through 2025 has passed the House of Representatives.



Members of the Waste and Site Operations Department celebrate the completion of milestone two as they stand in front of the remaining half of the dissolver before it is shipped offsite for disposal.

It truly is a team effort here working with NYSERDA to keep the cleanup moving forward,” NYSERDA Program Director Paul Bembia said. “I want to thank each person here individually because ultimately although it is a team effort, teams are made up of people and each person here makes the Demonstration Project successful.”

Along with the milestone successes, U.S. Department of Energy Director of the WVDP Brian Bower commended crews on the removal of the ventilation stack from the main process building and administration building.

“That skyline change ... is really representative of over a decade of work that has gone on inside the main plant,” Bower said. “That is a very visual representation of our workers who suit up every single day and undertake that challenging job.”

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Cattaraugus County legislators approve bridge contract worth \$1.9 million

- By RICK MILLER, Olean Times Herald, October 11, 2018, 59 min ago

LITTLE VALLEY — Cattaraugus County lawmakers approved a \$1.9 million bid Wednesday to replace Franklinville Bridge No. 22 on Five Mile Road over Ischua Creek.

Keleman-Bauer Construction Co., West Seneca, had the lowest bid meeting specifications. The completion date for the bridge project is Oct. 25, 2019.

Another resolution calls for hiring Greenman-Pedersen Inc., Buffalo, for \$151,000 for construction inspection services for the bridge.

Legislators also approved a dress policy for county employees. The sponsors were Majority Leader Donna Vickman, R-Farmersville, and Vergilio "Dick" Giardini, D-Allegany.

"Attire worn by county employees shall be clean, neat and customary to the job duties," the resolution states.

Unacceptable attire includes:

- Soiled, stained, torn, patched, ripped or frayed clothing.
- Flip-flops or shoes not intended for outdoor wear.
- Sweatpants.
- Shorts or skirts that rest more than 3 inches above the knee.
- Clothing that reveals undergarments, or where undergarments typically are.

Legislators also approved a resolution updating the county's sexual harassment policy and rescinding a resolution approved in 1998. The sexual harassment policy was required of employers statewide under a provision of the state budget. It was approved effective Oct. 9.

The policy also includes a complaint form for reporting sexual harassment. The county unions have ratified the new dress code.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

IN OTHER NEWS, legislators:

- approved a three-year contract with Legal Assistance of Western New York, Bath, for \$1.2 million to represent Family Court clients who have a conflict with the Public Defender's Office. The contract will be in force through Dec. 31, 2021.

- heard an update from Scott Anderson, general manager and president of CH2M Hill BWXT — the West Valley Demonstration Project contractor — on the cleanup at the former Nuclear Fuel Services plant in Ashford.

There are currently about 300 employees at the West Valley Demonstration Project, Anderson said.

With the vitrification facility mostly a pile of rubble, Anderson said employees are concentrating on cleanup at the Main Plant, which is 92 percent deactivated. There are still three or four areas of high radioactivity in the building.

In order to use a similar open demolition practice on the Main Plant, crews are removing more contaminated material so it won't become airborne when the building is demolished, Anderson said.

- set a public hearing for Oct. 24 for a local law setting a new 10-year lease for the Conewango refuse transfer station on Route 241.

Owner Wayne McGuire will be paid \$2,500 a year in years one through five, \$2,600 a year in years six through 10 and \$2,700 a year in years 11 through 20. It takes effect Feb. 1, 2019.

- heard from Daniel DeMarte, the new president of Jamestown Community College.

DeMarte, an Angelica native, said he expects changes in regional workforce training, with a concentration on jobs for local companies.

(Contact reporter Rick Miller at rmiller@oleantimesherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, @RMillerOTH)



DOE Releases Request for Information/Sources Sought for Environmental Management (EM) West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Phase 1B D...

Cincinnati -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today issued a Request for Information (RFI)/Sources Sought for the Environmental Management (EM) WVDP Phase 1B D&D and Soil Remediation procurement at the West Valley site in western New York. The Phase 1 Decommissioning – Facility Disposition is currently performed by CH2M Hill – BWXT West Valley, LLC and expires on March 17, 2020.

The RFI/Sources Sought is seeking to solicit input via capability statements from interested parties with the specialized capabilities necessary to meet the Major Elements of Scope for the upcoming competitive procurement for the EM WVDP Phase 1B D&D and Soil Remediation requirement. Within these capability statements, DOE is seeking feedback from contractors and other interested parties regarding options for innovative approaches for the performance of the Major Elements of Scope as well as insight into potential contracting alternatives for accelerated achievement of project End States.

This market research will assist DOE with identifying interested and capable sources and developing its acquisition strategy. Key market research goals include identifying and minimizing barriers to competition, evaluating small business capabilities, and identifying risks. This contract is intended to align with the current EM End State contract model, however the final contract type, period of performance, amount of funding, and set aside possibilities will be determined through the acquisition planning process and this market research.

Additional information is available at: <https://www.emcbc.doe.gov/SEB/wvdpphase1/>

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Monday, October 15, 2018

Pillittere named Springville Chamber president

October 15, 2018

Max Borsuk

SPRINGVILLE—Joe Pillittere is leading the way for the Springville Area Chamber of Commerce after being elected the new president on Oct. 2.

Pillittere took over for Bill Gugino, who stepped back from the position after serving for nearly five years. Pillittere works as the communications manager for CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC, the prime contractor at the West Valley Demonstration Project. He previously served as the Commissioner of Public Works for Cattaraugus County and held positions at Cornell University, Westinghouse, Northeast Utilities and the New York Power Authority.



Joe Pillittere, second from right, with Treasurer Kellee Keating-Kucewicz, Secretary Helen Brogan, Vice President Michael Rose and past president Bill Gugino.

JOURNAL

SPRINGVILLE



Monday, October 15, 2018

“It’s very humbling and I’m very honored,” Pillittere said. “It’s a good organization that does a lot of beneficial things for the community at whole. I’ve always been an avid supporter of trying to help people in communities improve their lives ... and when you get an opportunity where you can help others, it’s really hard to pass that up.”

Pillittere is getting used to the new position and has already started setting up a strategic planning meeting to help the Chamber with the transition.

“I think [the Chamber] is at a nice time where we can build upon the success that we had and strive to move forward and grow even more.” Pillittere said. “We are in a really nice transitioning period to sit back, rethink our mission, rethink our goals and objectives and then move forward from there for sustainability and growth.”

Looking toward the future, figuring out its overall mission and hiring a new executive director are some of the major goals for the Chamber, Pillittere said. Pillittere also plans to look at new types of services for members and meeting with members to better learn their needs.

Working together as a team with everybody in the Chamber is crucial and Pillittere is excited to work with everyone as they continue to figure out the best ways to benefit members and residents.

“[The Chamber] is a really good group of people and they really want to see things happen for Springville and I get to be a part of that,” he said.

CHBWV receives American Heart Assoc. recognition



Photo provided

CHBWV receives American Heart Assoc. recognition Photo provided Tommy Fontaine, Wellness Committee; Michelle Mason, AHA; Rachel Charette, Wellness Committee; and CHBWV President and GM Scott Anderson hold a plaque from the American Heart Association.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley has been honored with a bronze level recognition from the American Heart Association for building a culture of health in the workplace. The prime contractor to the U.S. Department

of Energy at the West Valley Demonstration Project, CHBWV completed an American Heart Association Workplace Health Achievement Index, a reference for making improvements in health-related practices and policies. "The Index is an important science-based tool that will help us to further improve workplace health for all our employees," CHBWV Health and Wellness Committee Chair Rachel Charette said.

Along with Charatte, Tommy Fontaine, Lettie Chilson, Heather Lafferty and Joe Wolniewicz sit on the Health and Wellness Committee. The American Heart Association created the Index using evidence-based approaches to approve overall employee health. Using science-based practices, the Index evaluates the overall quality and comprehensiveness of workplace health programs. "We know that good health is good business and you have reached an important milestones in building a culture of workplace health," American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown said in a letter congratulating CHBWV on its recognition.

West Valley Continues Cleanup Progress at Contact Size Reduction Facility



A worker uses an excavator to lower a dust collector into a waste box for shipment to an offsite disposal facility.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Workers continued cleanup progress after recently removing a 2,000-pound dust collector from a facility slated for demolition at [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\) Site](#).

EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said clearing the dust collector from the Contact Size Reduction Facility will further improve safety for crews. The dust collector was part of the facility's ventilation system, collecting particles and dust from cutting and size-reducing of equipment no longer needed in the cleanup.

"The WVDP team did an excellent job in planning and executing this high hazard work," Bower said.

Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT, the WVDP cleanup contractor, said, "Using lessons learned and a deliberate approach from previous demolition activities has been an excellent combination for safety and success."

Workers used an excavator to open the building. They sprayed fixative on the collector for additional contamination controls, pulled the machine out, and size-reduced it before loading it into a waste box for shipment for offsite disposal.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Friday, October 19, 2018

Fee schedule changes proposed in Ashford

Max Borsuk Staff Reporter

Members of the Ashford Town Board made suggestions to change some of the building permit rates and fees at its Oct. 10 meeting. Jean Bond and William Heim met with Code Enforcement Officer Larry Feldman to review town licensing fees. The proposed changes would add a \$50 fee to apply for a variance and removing the fee for demolition of a building, but requiring a permit. The remainder of the fees would be kept the same.

“We looked at the rest of [the rates] and we are just in the middle ... higher on some things and lower on others,” Bond said. “We are real close to what all the other towns are doing, and we didn’t think it was enough ... to get into it a lot.”

Supervisor Charlie Davis asked Feldman for a finalized copy of the rates so they can be approved and added to the 2019 organizational meeting agenda.

Residents have started fixing up properties, according to Bond and Heim, who hope other residents will follow suit. Earlier this year, the town urged residents to maintain their properties and clean up dilapidated buildings. The board passed a resolution at its May 9 meeting to set up a committee to work with Feldman to identify properties with dilapidated buildings or junk cars that need to be remedied to comply with state laws.

“Things are happenings in town ... there are some things being cleaned up,” Bond said.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Agency board approved an agreement to lease property between the Western New York Nuclear Service Center and the town for the community solar project, NYSERDA West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia said.

Since NYSERDA is leasing the property to the town at less than market value, NYSERDA was required to notify the New York State Comptroller, Director of the Budget, New York State Legislature and the Public Authorities Budget office. The lease cannot take effect until around mid-December.

In other board news:

- The board adopted the 2019 annual budget of \$1,944,987.
- Bond announced the annual Christmas tree lighting will be Dec. 7.
- The board approved the Halloween curfew for 9 p.m.

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

West Valley \$21 million solar farm to get IDA PILOT

By RICK MILLER, Olean Times Herald

10-24-2018

ELLCOTTVILLE — A \$21 million solar farm that will provide up to 1,500 West Valley area homes and small businesses with electricity discounts was approved by the Cattaraugus County Industrial Development Agency on Tuesday.

West Valley Solar LLC, a project by developer BQ Energy of Poughkeepsie, will cover 20 acres and provide about 10 megawatts of electricity for the grid.

BQ Energy has two operating solar farms in Olean off Buffalo Street behind Dresser Rand. It is currently building a third, Homeridae, on a 23-acre site between Homer Street and Interstate 86.

IDA Executive Director Corey Wiktor said customers who sign up for the ESCO program would see a 10 percent to 15 percent savings show up as a credit on their electric bills.

The land is currently owned by the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)** and controlled by the town of Ashford. The land does not generate any tax revenue for the town.

Under the IDA's solar policy, the project would require a \$5,000 payment for each megawatt, or a \$50,000 payment in lieu of taxes (P.I.L.O.T.). This is the amount that would be split between the town of Ashford, West Valley Central School District and Cattaraugus County.

The town is also expected to seek additional host community fees from the developer.

The IDA board also heard from Terry Fuller of Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES on efforts to match vocational training to area manufacturing needs.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD



Fuller works to place student interns in local industry and wide variety of other businesses.

IDA board members discussed ways to work with Fuller on how stipends could be given to companies that work to train interns.

"We want to put some real dollars and cents behind this program," Wiktor said. "How can we help him and these companies."

The IDA board welcomed John Stahley, vice president and general manager of U.S. Operations for Siemens. Stahley oversees Dresser-Rand operations in Olean. Stahley replaces Gregory Fitzpatrick.

During the annual election of officers, Thomas Buffamante was re-elected chairman; Joseph Higgins first vice president and Joseph Snyder second vice president.

(Contact reporter Rick Miller at rmiller@oleantimesherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, @RMillerOTH)