



EM Sites Clean Up Trash, Focus on Sustainability for Earth Day,

Tue 4/30/2019 4:41 PM



Members of the Seneca Nation of Indians and others in the local community gather for a sunrise ceremony at the West Valley Demonstration Project to celebrate Earth Day.

At the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) in New York state, EM and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley hosted the Seneca Nation of Indians' annual Earth Day event that pays tribute to the Cattaraugus Creek.

Participants attended a sunrise ceremony before kicking off the "Run, Walk and Paddle" event.

"Each step taken today is a prayer for healing for all," event coordinator Maria Maybee of the Seneca Nation said to the participants. "This event is a reminder that we must work together to protect the environment for it provides everything we need in life. It's important that this message is never forgotten, for we only have one environment."

Later, participants ate lunch at the Cattaraugus Community Center and gathered for a sunset ceremony at Seneca Nation Beach.



Jun Son, left, and Irene Ayumi participated in Earth Day events held by the Seneca Nation of Indians.



WVDP Presents Checks to Emergency Services Organizations for Site Support



WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Representatives from [EM](#), cleanup contractor CH2MHILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) recently presented checks to Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, Mercy Flight, and the West Valley Fire District 1 on behalf of the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP). The fire district received \$70,000 and the hospital and the emergency air ambulance organization received \$5,000 apiece. “All three organizations take part in joint emergency planning and on-site drills to ensure readiness at a moment’s notice,” EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “The Department appreciates their continued commitment and effort to protect the health and safety of our workforce.” EM and CHBWV conduct cleanup at the site in cooperation with NYSERDA. Left to right: Bryan Bower, EM WVDP director; Scott Anderson, CHBWV president and general manager; John Rendall, CHBWV deputy general manager; Ken Whitham, CHBWV vice president of environmental, health, safety, and quality; Kevin Murray, CHBWV emergency management specialist and WVVHC captain; Dave Schuman, CHBWV safeguards and security manager; Paul Bembia, NYSERDA director; \\Shawn Lafferty, West Valley Fire District #1 Board chair; Craig Rieman, EM WVDP deputy director; and John Patti, West Valley Volunteer Hose Company (WVVHC) first assistant chief.

-Contributor: Joe Pillittere

West Valley receives blue ribbon at Waste Management Symposia

CH2MHILL BWXT West Valley, the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management's West Valley Demonstration Project cleanup contractor, received a blue ribbon for its professional poster session on Open-Air Demolition Air Monitoring at this year's Waste Management Symposia.

The Environmental Protection Agency-approved alternative method for emission estimation was used at the West Valley Demonstration Project during the demolition of its vitrification facility, which was completed on Sept. 20, 2018. Air monitors setup around the perimeter and inside the demolition area were successfully used to track and record air data to protect the health and safety of employees, general public and the environment. All worksite and perimeter air sample results were below regulatory lim-



Photo provided

CHBWV Regulatory Strategy Vice President Janice Williams and Brent Blunt, Consultant and Subject Matter Expert on air monitoring and modeling stand in front of the informational poster at this year's Waste Management Symposia held in Phoenix, Ariz.

its and compliant with the requirements in the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants and the Occupational Radiation Protection Regulations.

CHBWV Regulatory

Strategy Vice President Janice Williams presented the informational poster on her department's research, planning and implementation efforts for open-air demolition monitoring at the WVDP site. Wil-

liams' department, along with subject matter experts and cross-disciplinary team members, developed this innovative monitoring approach from extensive modeling, historical best practices and lessons learned.

This year's Waste Management Symposia, which also marked the 30th Anniversary of Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management, featured exhibits, panel discussions, videos, presentations and poster sessions.

"This was a team effort that involved several months of planning," Williams said. "I'm proud of this accomplishment on behalf of the WVDP Team. We are committed to performing our work in a safe and environmentally sound manner by implementing safe, innovative and regulatory compliant cleanup practices in everything we do."



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 18 | May 7, 2019

West Valley Contractor Supports Environmental Competition for Students



SALAMANCA, N.Y. – Students in a team from Franklinville High School observe a taxidermy mount of a fisher during a practical exam at a wildlife station in last week's Cattaraugus County Envirothon in New York state. [EM West Valley Demonstration Project](#) cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley is a sponsor of the local outdoor environmental competition for area students. In the event, students test their knowledge of aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, soils, and agriculture. A team from Cattaraugus-Little Valley High School won the competition and will represent the county at the state's Envirothon later this month.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

WVDP presents \$80,000 to area organizations for site support

05-08-2019



Representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC (CHBWV) presented checks

April 23 to Springville Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, Mercy Flight and the West Valley Fire District 1 on behalf of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).

These three organizations serve as valuable resources for WVDP employees and the surrounding community. The Bertrand Chaffee Hospital and its staff provide medical support, Mercy Flight provides air ambulance service to the Project in the event of an emergency and the West Valley Fire District volunteers provide fire and emergency services.

“We are fortunate to have these services available for our employees should the need arise,” said Scott Anderson, CHBWV President and General Manager. “It provides an extra level of security and care for all our employees.”

“All three organizations take part in joint emergency planning and onsite drills to ensure readiness at a moment’s notice,” said Bryan Bower, WVDP Director for the U.S. Department of Energy. “The Department appreciates their continued commitment and effort to protect the health and safety of our workforce.”

“The commitment and time that the first responders and medical staff put into protecting the safety of the personnel at the West Valley Demonstration Project is greatly appreciated,” said Paul Bembia, Program Director at NYSERDA. “The fire and emergency services ensure that outstanding care will be provided to those working at the Project and living in the surrounding community in the event of an emergency.”



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 18 | May 14, 2019

EM Awards WVDP Contractor \$346,000 of Available Fee for Six-Month Period



CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley workers remove a 900-pound section of the ventilation exhaust cell duct from the roof of the Main Plant Process Building in November 2018.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) Site recently awarded cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) [nearly \\$346,000, or 75 percent, of the available fee](#) for its performance in the first half of the evaluation period of fiscal 2019.

CHBWV's noteworthy achievements for the period from Aug. 29, 2018 through Feb. 28, 2019 include:

- Surpassing 1 million work hours without lost-time injury or illness;
- Good planning and partnering associated with infrastructure improvements, rail line upgrades, and facility removals;
- Overall increase in effective training, responsiveness, communication, and document production relative to CHBWV safeguards and security operations;
- Good planning in Vitrification Facility demolition and associated waste removal;
- Submittal of exceptional quality environmental and regulatory reports; and
- Excellent support for stakeholder meetings and timely, high quality public communications.

These accomplishments were offset by some areas for improvements. Even though CHBWV achieved 1 million work hours without lost-time injury or illness, its reported work injuries increased. The contractor's rate for total reportable cases was 1.7, 55 percent higher than EM's goal.

The contractor took longer than expected to submit quality contract proposals, and did not submit some reports on time. CHBWV also provided limited support to EM to reduce the time required to complete some time-sensitive activities. The contractor also demonstrated weakness in project controls, which could affect project performance issues. Additionally, CHBWV was not proactive in planning for the collection and disposition of stormwater associated with demolition activities.

View the scorecard [here](#).



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 11, Issue 18 | May 14, 2019

West Valley Advances Facility Deactivation by Relocating Containers for Disposal



Workers use a 100-ton crane to lift a waste container and its interior concrete shield onto a flatbed trailer. They also placed the container's exterior steel shield on the trailer.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) and its cleanup contractor at the [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\) Site](#) gained ground in the deactivation of a Cold War facility after recently relocating two 69,000-pound containers for eventual offsite disposal.

Workers with CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) are deactivating the Fuel Receiving and Storage facility for future demolition. The work includes removing asbestos-containing material from

the facility, which was used to receive and store spent nuclear fuel during fuel reprocessing operations from 1966 to 1972.

“This accomplishment allows for the continuation of the Fuel Receiving and Storage facility deactivation,” EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “By performing this work now, we can use our highly skilled workforce to further reduce legacy risks.”



Using a 200-ton crane, workers return a waste container to its exterior steel shield at its new location at an outdoor storage area.



A crew safely finishes relocating two waste containers to their new location at an outdoor storage area.

The containers, each with a 14-inch-thick inner concrete shield and 2-inch-thick exterior steel shield, were used to store low-level waste left by the facility's water treatment system.

Workers used cranes and a tractor-trailer to move the containers from a cask loading area inside the facility to a secure outdoor storage area.

"Our team continues to use their combined knowledge to safely and deliberately complete high risk work activities," CHBWV President Scott Anderson said. "I'm proud of their efforts and accomplishments and the work they continue to do on this project."

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

May 16, 2019

Town hears updates at WVDP

Max Borsuk
Associate Editor

As decommissioning work continues at the West Valley Demonstration Project, the Ashford Town Board heard the latest updates at its May 8 meeting. WVDP Director for the U.S. Department of Energy Bryan Bower reported about a recent contract modification proposal and work progress at the plant.

Bower reported the Department of Energy received the contract modification proposal from CH2M HILL BWXT

West Valley, LLC to put the demolition of the main plant back into the contract for phase one decommissioning. The demolition of the main plant was previously put on hold and DOE is currently reviewing the proposal.

Work is progressing at the WVDP as crews work on the inside of the main plant building. Bower said DOE got a proposal last fall from CHBWV to do additional deactivation working within the main plant, which is

See "Ashford board" on page 2

continuing in planning and execution. Crews are also continuing the deactivation of the fuel receiving and storage facility and CHBWV is looking into doing additional source term removal in the main plant.

"It will buy us some margin if we proceed with open air demolition to make sure that we are not going to have any unanticipated releases," Bower said. "One of the ways we can help improve that is by removing additional material."

Upcoming "skyline changes" at the plant will include work at the liquid pre-treatment system and the utility room extension, Bower said.

Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis presented the idea of having a grant writer for the town. The board later approved a resolution for Davis to get quotes and more information from grant writers for the town and bring it back at a later board meeting.

"The reality is there are a number of grants that are available, but the planning board doesn't really have the time nor is it really part of our charter to be doing a lot of grant applications," Planning Board Chairperson Andrea Mellon said. "Anybody that can help that has that type of experience would be very beneficial to the town and the community."

In other board news:

– Mellon reported work continues for hosting a community market later this year at West Valley Central School. The market would be on Sundays starting Aug. 1 until the end of October from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. It would be held outside in the circle at WVCS or in the auditorium during inclement weather.

– John Pfeffer reported Armstrong and Spectrum have started stringing cable in Ashford for high-speed internet.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

West Valley Demonstration Project Quarterly Public Meeting

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019,
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Ashford Office Complex

9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY 14171

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will hold a public meeting to provide an update on the WVDP project activities and to discuss progress on the Phase 1 Studies. NYSERDA and DOE will provide the public with an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

For further information, please contact Joseph Pillittere at Joseph.Pillittere@chbwv.com or (716) 998-4900.



West Valley Workers Finish Demolition of Former Treatment Plant



Two excavators create efficiencies, with one demolishing the concrete pad for a former facility that treated low-level waste while the other size-reduces and loads debris.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Workers finished the last step in a demolition project by digging out and removing a concrete pad used to hold equipment for a facility that treated low-level waste at [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) Site.

“The WVDP team continues their demolition work in a safe and deliberate manner,” EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “It is this methodical approach that results in legacy risk reduction in an environmentally sound manner.”



A large excavator digs near a sump that collected water from the drains of a facility formerly used to treat low-level waste.



Workers recently completed the building pad demolition and restored the area.

Crews shipped containers with an estimated 950 cubic yards of demolition debris from the pad removal project offsite for disposal before restoring the site.

The pad held major process tanks for the facility, which treated water used in spent nuclear fuel reprocessing operations at the site from 1966 to 1972. Crews decommissioned and demolished that two-story, steel-framed concrete building in 2006 after it was replaced by a new low-level waste treatment building. All that remained until recently was the steel-reinforced concrete pad with depths of up to 17 feet.

EM cleanup workers have torn down 61 legacy facilities at the WVDP Site to date.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Another month, another modern-day low for Buffalo Niagara unemployment



Toni Sawyer of CH2M Hill BWXT West Valley, left, talks with Rafel Lopez, right, during the Buffalo News Job Fair earlier this month. (Mark Mulville/News file photo)

By David Robinson | *Published May 22, 2019*

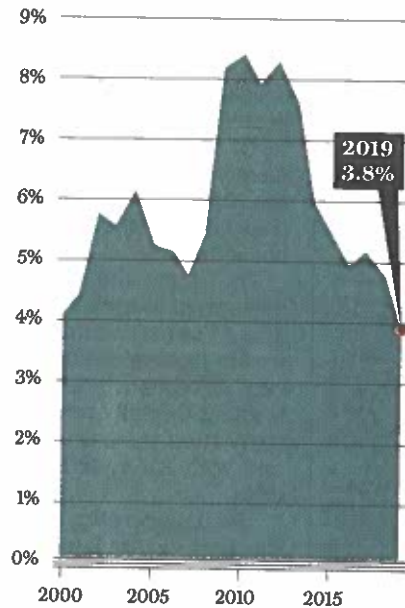
The Buffalo Niagara unemployment rate dropped to another nearly 30-year low in April.

The region's jobless rate fell to 3.8% during April – its lowest level for any April since at least 1990 – and almost a full percentage point below the 4.7% rate of April 2018.

Local unemployment rate drops

Unemployment rate dips

Region's jobless rate for April fell to more than 29-year lows of 3.8%



Not seasonally adjusted. Rates are for April of each year.

Source: State Labor Department

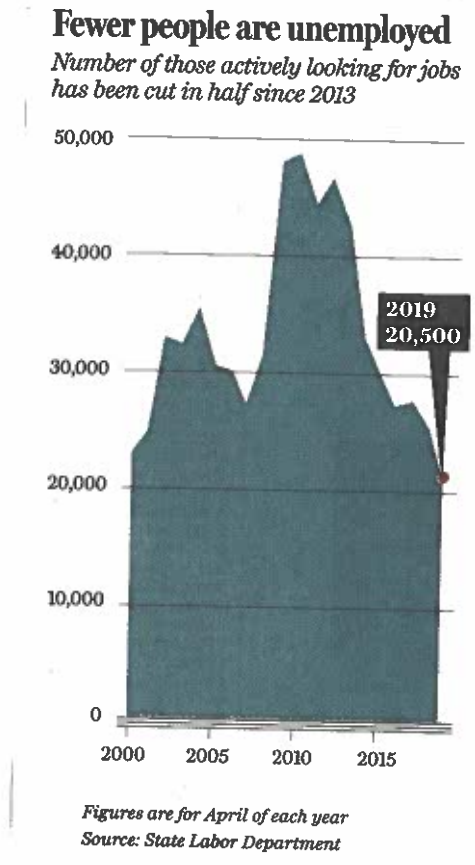
While the pace of hiring across the Buffalo Niagara region remains well below the national average, the latest report on unemployment from the State Labor Department shows that the Buffalo Niagara job market remains tight.

With a labor pool that is about the same size as it was two years ago, even a modest uptick in hiring can push down the jobless rate, and the shortage of qualified workers makes it hard for businesses to hire.

“It’s getting harder and harder for employers to find people,” said Timothy Glass, the Labor Department’s regional economist in Buffalo.

The local unemployment rate hasn’t been this low since at least the 1980s.

Fewer people are jobless



While local job growth is only about half of the national average, a steadily shrinking labor pool over the past decade, caused in large part by a wave of retiring baby boomers, has pushed unemployment to more than 29-year lows.

While the April jobless rate of 3.8% isn't adjusted for seasonal factors, so it isn't directly comparable with different months, the local unemployment rate has been this low only once before – when it was 3.7% in October 2018.

The number of people who are actively looking for work is at a 29-year low.

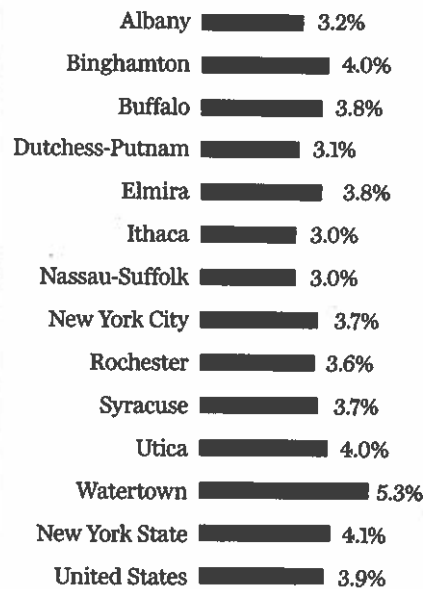
Over the last six years, the number of local workers who are unemployed has been cut in half. That means companies are facing much stiffer competition when they try to hire, and it also means that workers with sought-after skills are in especially short supply.

In the last year, the number of unemployed people has dropped by 18%. Many of the remaining unemployed face barriers to entering the workforce, such as a skills, child care, or transportation.

Unemployment rates by metro area

Unemployment rates by region

Buffalo Niagara jobless rate is the 11th-highest among 15 major New York metro areas



Unemployment rates are for April of each year; not seasonally adjusted

Source: State Labor Department

The local job market is tight, but it's even tighter in other places.

While unemployment is low by local standards, the jobless rate here still is higher than it is nationally and across all of New York State. In fact, only four of New York's 15 major metro areas – Binghamton, Glens Falls, Utica and Watertown – have a higher unemployment rate than the Buffalo Niagara region.

There's even a disparity across Buffalo Niagara, too. The 4.4% percent unemployment rate in Niagara County is well above the 3.7% jobless rate in Erie County.



David Robinson – *David Robinson is the deputy business editor for The News, where has*

worked since graduating from Syracuse University in 1985. A New Hampshire native, he started out in the News' Tonawanda bureau and moved into the business news department in October 1987, exactly a week after the stock market crash.

WVDP safely relocates high integrity containers



Photo Submitted

Using the 100-ton crane inside the Fuel Receiving and Storage Facility, crews lift the HIC and its interior concrete shield from its exterior carbon steel shield and onto a flatbed trailer. The exterior shield was then lifted and placed on the trailer next to the HIC.

EM and its cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC (CHBWV) recently completed the relocation of two 69,000-pound High-Integrity Containers (HIC) from their location inside

the Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) facility at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Each HIC, which includes a 14-inch thick inner concrete shield and a two-inch thick exterior

carbon steel shield, was relocated from the FRS decontamination pit to a secure outside storage area. Each HIC contained filtering materials used in the FRS water treatment system.

“This accomplishment allows the continuation of the FRS deactivation,” said DOE-WVDP Director Bryan Bower. “By performing this work now, we can use our highly-skilled workforce to further reduce legacy risks.”

A tractor with a low-boy trailer (very low deck to carry tall loads) was backed into the FRS. Using the inside 100-ton crane, each HIC and its exterior shield were moved from the decontamination pit onto the trailer.

Once the HICs were secured, the trailer was driven out of the FRS in parallel to a 200-ton mobile crane. Each HIC was safely and deliberately lifted from the trailer and placed in its new location.

“Our team continues to use their combined knowledge to safely and deliberately complete high-risk work activities,” CHBWV President Scott Anderson said. “I’m proud of their efforts, accomplishments, and in the work, they continue to do on this project.”

The FRS was historically used to receive and store spent nuclear fuel during fuel reprocessing operations from 1966 to 1972.

This work scope, which includes the HIC relocation and the removal of asbestos-containing material, was recently added to the current contract to further prepare the facility for future demolition.



March/April 2019
BULLETIN

ECA Publishes Paper: Making Informed Decisions on DOE’s Proposed High-Level Waste Interpretation

In October 2018, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposed a new interpretation of the statutory definition of high-level waste (HLW). This new interpretation could speed up cleanup at several sites (Idaho National Laboratory, Hanford, **West Valley** and the Savannah River Site); develop a path forward for waste stranded in interim storage and tanks; and potentially save tens of billions of dollars.

ECA’s new paper, *“Making Informed Decisions on DOE’s Proposed High-Level Waste Definition – Guide for Communities and Recommendations for DOE,”* is developed as a guide for communities to understand the DOE proposal and to make recommendations for DOE to move the proposal forward. The paper aims to provide local communities information needed to enable informed decisions and constructive input to the Department as it determines next steps and implementation.

“ECA wants to see DOE move waste out of our communities and dispose it in licensed facilities as safely, efficiently and cost-effectively as possible,” explains ECA Chairman and Roane County Executive, Ron Woody. “After more than thirty years of operations, DOE is taking an important review of its waste management strategies, looking to apply lessons learned. ECA members believe DOE’s proposed HLW interpretation is one such alternative that should be considered.”

In an effort to maintain momentum as DOE evaluates input received during its Public Comment period, ECA’s new paper outlines 12 key recommendations for DOE. These recommendations echo ECA’s earlier report released in September 2017, *“Waste Disposition: A New Approach to DOE’s Waste Management Must Be Pursued,”* also written to assist ECA members, their communities and other impacted stakeholders to better engage with DOE on technical, alternative waste management strategies. In its latest paper, ECA highlights the need for a formal stakeholder engagement process, outlining *“The Path to Progress,”* as an example for consideration.

ECA Recommendations to DOE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a full evaluation of DOE's proposed interpretation to define the specific waste that will be affected at each site. • Clearly identify each disposal pathway and what needs to occur at potential disposal sites for shipments to begin. • Identify the process and the timing of any new potential shipments. • Pursue active and transparent engagement of all affected communities and stakeholders. • Determine the realistic cost savings and revised timeline for cleanup. • Provide the States and local governments with resources to analyze the change and educate the communities. • Consider legislation to codify the proposed HLW definition to ensure consistency over time and maintain focus on cleanup versus litigation. • Revise the DOE radioactive waste management policy and manual (DOE Order 435.1) to clarify that waste will be managed and dispositioned according to its characteristics, not its origin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work directly with the State of New Mexico on a permit modification for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) to remove the blanket prohibition on tank waste and wastes managed as HLW. • Consider legislation to amend the Land Withdrawal Act, which governs WIPP, to expand the volume of TRU waste (in particular Remote Handled TRU) to accommodate projected inventory and capacity. • Ensure communities can provide input into the Administration's implementation of its "End States Contracting Strategy," particularly in regard to DOE's plans to implement any updated or revised approaches to waste management and disposal. • Continue to identify well-scoped pilot projects and waste management policy evaluations.

WVDP presents checks for site support

By reporter@springvillejournal.com | on May 24, 2019

Springville Journal Staff

WEST VALLEY – Representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC presented checks on April 23 to Springville Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, Mercy Flight and the West Valley Fire District 1 on behalf of the West Valley Demonstration Project.



Representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC present a check to the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company.

These three organizations serve as valuable resources for WVDP employees and the surrounding community. Bertrand Chaffee Hospital and its staff provide medical support, Mercy Flight provides air ambulance service to the Project in the event of an emergency and the West Valley Fire District volunteers provide fire and emergency services. “We are fortunate to have these services available for our employees should the need arise,” Scott Anderson, CHBWV President and General Manager, said. “It provides an extra level of security and care for all our employees.”

“All three organizations take part in joint emergency planning and onsite drills to ensure readiness at a moment’s notice,” Bryan Bower, WVDP Director for the U.S. Department of Energy, said. “The Department appreciates their continued commitment and effort to protect the health and safety of our workforce.”

“The commitment and time that the first responders and medical staff put in to protecting the safety of the personnel at the West Valley Demonstration Project is greatly appreciated,” Paul Bembia,

Program Director at NYSERDA, said. "The fire and emergency services ensure that outstanding care will be provided to those working at the project and living in the surrounding community in the event of an emergency."



A check is presented to representatives from Bertrand Chaffee Hospital.



Worker Learns While Following in Father's Footsteps at West Valley



Jessica Krzemien is a deactivation and decommissioning (D&D) waste operator for EM's West Valley Demonstration Project prime contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Jessica Krzemien, a deactivation and decommissioning (D&D) waste operator at [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP), began learning to respect and care for the environment at a young age.

“I spent most of my time enjoying outdoor activities, so my interest in the environment came at an early age. I also helped my father with his landscaping business,” Krzemien said. “I was taught the importance of leaving a small footprint wherever I was, and to do my part in keeping nature looking beautiful.”

Krzemien continues to follow in the footsteps of her father, Jerome, a former WVDP D&D operator for 20 years. He often shared his experiences and knowledge of WVDP with his daughter.

Hired by EM’s WVDP prime contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) in February, Krzemien has worked on the [Vitrification Facility demolition](#) and more recently on the deactivation of the Main Plant Process Building.

As a local resident, Krzemien feels it’s important to be a part of the WVDP cleanup.

“I appreciate working with experienced and knowledgeable people who are willing to share their experience and expertise with me,” Krzemien said. “As a former special education teacher, I am now the student learning from WVDP veterans and subject-matter experts who, like me, are helping to reduce risks and legacy waste for generations to come.”

Krzemien is assigned to the Main Plant to remove asbestos-containing material from the wall plaster inside a control room — some of the most physically challenging work at the site right now, according to CHBWV D&D Manager Dale Macklem.

“Jessica is a hard worker who is always dedicated to learning something new, and then putting that knowledge into practice. She has a bright future at WVDP,” Macklem said.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

May 30, 2019

WVDP relocates high integrity containers safely

EM and its cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC recently completed the relocation of two 69,000 pound high-integrity containers from their location inside the fuel receiving and storage facility at the West Valley Demonstration Project. Each HIC, which includes a 14-inch thick inner concrete shield and a two-inch thick exterior carbon steel shield, was relocated from the FRS decontamination pit to a secure outside storage area. Each HIC contained filtering materials used in the FRS water treatment system.

"This accomplishment allows the continuation of the FRS deactivation," DOE-WVDP Director

Bryan Bower said. "By performing this work now, we can use our highly-skilled workforce to further reduce legacy risks."

A tractor with a low-boy trailer was backed into the FRS. Using the inside 100-

ton crane, each HIC and its exterior shield were moved from the decontamination pit onto the trailer. Once the HICs were secured, the trailer was driven out of the FRS in parallel to a 200-ton mobile crane. Each HIC was safely and deliberately lifted from the trailer and placed in its new location.

"Our team continues to use their combined knowledge to safely and deliberately complete high risk work activities," CHBWV President Scott Anderson said. "I'm proud of their efforts, accomplishments, and in the work they continue to do on this project."

The FRS was historically used to receive and store spent nuclear fuel during fuel reprocessing operations from 1966 to 1972. This work scope, which includes the HIC relocation and the removal of asbestos-containing material, was recently added to the current contract to further prepare the facility for future demolition.

LOCAL

Solarize Southtowns to kick off in Springville this summer

The Solarize Southtowns campaign will be launching this June to help residents across southern Erie County connect to low-cost solar installations at their home or business.

Led by Green Springville, a local not-for-profit focused on promoting sustainable practices and technology, the Solarize Southtowns Campaign will help residents and local businesses in Concord, Colden, Eden, Evans and Sardinia connect with a vetted offer for high quality, solar installations at their properties.

The group will be hosting a number of workshops throughout summer and is expected to have a presence at several events including Eden Corn Festival and Colden Arts Festival as well as local farmer's markets and concert series.



Photo Submitted

The Solarize Southtowns Campaign was given approval by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NY-SERDA) in conjunction

with their Clean Energy Communities effort.

Solarize campaigns bring together groups of potential solar customers through widespread outreach and education

and help customers work with a vetted solar installer that offers competitive, transparent pricing. Participants in Solarize Campaigns save as much as 20 per-

cent compared to what the market is offering.

Solarize Southtowns is currently in the process of selecting a qualified solar installer based on responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP) released earlier this spring. The installer will be introduced during a campaign launch event June 20 at UNOVA CoWorking space in the village of Springville.

Residents and businesses that sign up throughout the summer will have the advantage of discounted pricing and working with a vetted installer to help them through the process of having solar installed at their homes or businesses. The deadline to sign up for a free solar evaluation for your property is Sept. 30, 2019.

The Solarize Southtowns campaign is also the first in New York state to support NY-

Sun's "Solar-for-All" program. The Solar-for-All option provides a no-cost option for income-qualified homeowners and renters to connect with a community solar array and receive cost-saving credits on their electric bill.

Green Springville is working with PUSH Buffalo's energy advocacy division, PUSH Green, to assist residents with signing up for the Solar-for-All program as well as other energy-related services provided by NYSERDA.

Be sure to attend the June 20 launch of Solarize Southtowns. The event will start at 5 p.m. at the UNOVA CoWorking space, 29 Mechanic St., Springville, during the village's Thursday, Downtown concerts at Heritage Park.

For additional information, visit Solarize-BuffaloNiagara.org.

Police Reports

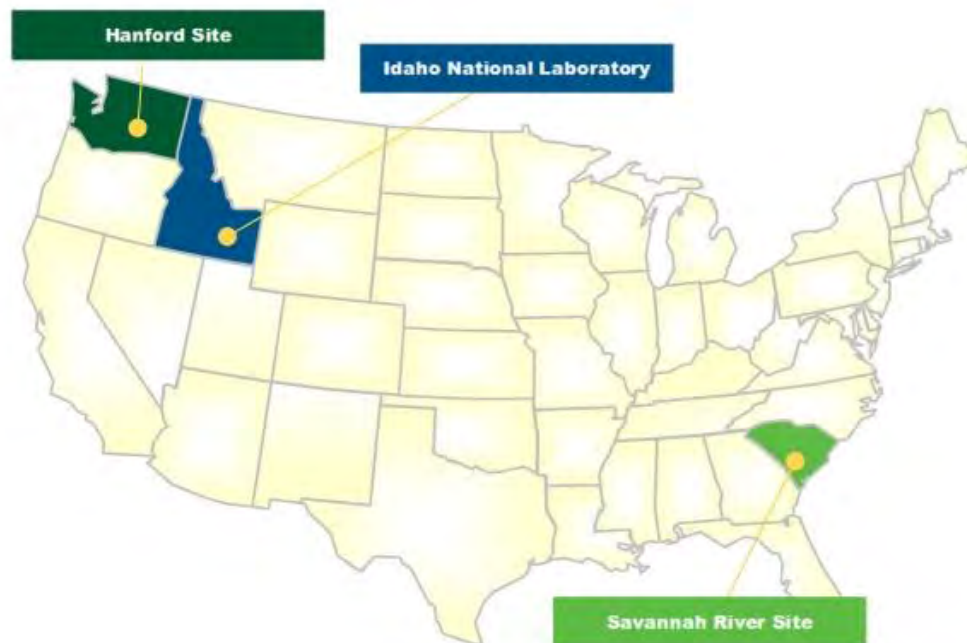
Thursday, May 30, 2019

West Valley – Gerald A. Weeks, 22, of Springville and Jack T. Stuebchen, 23, of West Valley were both charged with trespassing after allegedly entering the property ran by the **West Valley Demonstration Project**, according to the Cattaraugus County Sheriff’s Office. Both suspects were ticketed and are to appear in Ashford Town Court on a later date.

US DOE changes waste interpretation

07 June 2019

The US Department of Energy (DOE) has published a new interpretation of high-level radioactive waste (HLW) in which reprocessing waste streams are defined by their radiological characteristics rather than solely on how they were made.



The locations of the US DOE's reprocessing HLW inventories (Image: DOE)

Up to now the DOE has managed nearly all reprocessing waste streams as HLW regardless of radioactivity in a one-size-fits-all approach. This, it says, has led to decades of delay, cost billions of dollars, and left the waste 'trapped' in DOE facilities in Idaho, South Carolina and Washington without a permanent disposal solution.

"Recognising this failure, this Administration is proposing a responsible, results-driven solution that will finally open potential avenues for the safe treatment and removal of the lower level waste currently housed in three states," US Under Secretary for Science Paul Dabbar said. "DOE is going to analyse each waste stream and manage it in accordance with Nuclear Regulatory Commission standards, with the goal of getting the lower-level waste out of these states without sacrificing public safety."

The USA's 1954 Atomic Energy Act, as amended, and the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, define HLW as: "the highly radioactive material resulting from the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, including liquid waste produced directly in reprocessing and any solid material derived from such liquid waste that contains fission products in sufficient concentrations; and ... other highly radioactive material that the [Nuclear Regulatory] Commission, consistent with existing law, determines by rule requires permanent isolation." This means that nearly all reprocessing waste streams have up to now been managed as HLW regardless of their radioactivity.

The DOE's new interpretation was drawn up after a 90-day public comment period and was informed by more than 5000 comments from stakeholders including members of the public, Native American tribes, members of Congress, state and local governments, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Under the new interpretation, DOE may determine that waste is not "highly radioactive", and therefore not HLW, if it does not exceed concentration limits for Class C low-level radioactive waste as set out in section 61.55 of title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations; or if it does not require disposal in a deep geologic repository. Waste meeting either of these tests could be classified based on its radiological content and disposed of accordingly.

The interpretation does not change or revise any current policies, legal requirements, permits or agreements, DOE said. Decisions about whether and how it will apply to existing wastes and whether such wastes may be disposed of as non-HLW will be the subject of subsequent actions, and any actions to implement the interpretation will be done on a site-specific basis with appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders, it added.

Benefits from the new interpretation, if implemented, include reducing the length of time that radioactive waste is stored on-site at DOE facilities; enhancing site safety by using lower-complexity waste treatment and immobilisation approaches; aligning the USA with international guidelines for management and disposal of radioactive waste based on radiological risk; and using available commercial facilities and capabilities to achieve shorter mission completion schedules, DOE said.

Reprocessing of used nuclear fuel as part of the US defence programme began in the 1940s and continued through much of the Cold War. Weapons development activities occurred primarily at Hanford in Washington and Savannah River in South Carolina, while reprocessing activities supporting nuclear research and development and naval propulsion programmes took place at the Idaho National Laboratory. According to DOE, Savannah River currently holds 4,190 canisters of vitrified waste and 35 million gallons of reprocessing waste; Idaho National Laboratory, 4,400 cubic metres of solid calcine waste - a dry, granular waste form from the processing of liquid wastes - and 3,210 cubic metres of sodium-bearing waste; and Hanford 56 million gallons of waste stored in 177 underground tanks and 1,936 caesium and strontium capsules.

Reprocessing waste from the only commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant to have operated in the USA is not included in this inventory of defence waste. The West Valley Demonstration Project, which was established in 1980 to complete the clean-up of the site in New York state, operates under a distinct statutory and regulatory basis from the three DOE sites where the defence reprocessing waste is stored.

DOE also announced it is initiating a National Environmental Policy Act analysis to determine the potential environmental impacts of the disposal of a Savannah River reprocessing waste stream as non-HLW at a commercial disposal facility licensed to receive low-level radioactive waste.

Researched and written by World Nuclear News

Latest Demolition Brings EM's West Valley Teardown Total to 62



Demolition equipment takes the first bite out of a facility housing a liquid pretreatment system at EM's West Valley Demonstration Project.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Workers recently tore down a facility housing a former liquid pretreatment system, bringing the total number of structures demolished in [EM's](#) cleanup at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) Site to 62.

The pretreatment system facility was located in an inactive disposal area closed years ago. Workers left the cap and cover for that disposal area intact during the recent demolition work. They will extend the cover to the area where the pretreatment system facility was removed. An interim protective cover is in place until a permanent one is installed later this year.

“The WVDP team’s work was well planned and executed in an effort to maintain safety and prevent any damage to the existing disposal area’s cap and cover during demolition,” EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “This work is part of DOE’s efforts to reduce legacy risks while promoting sustainable environmental work practices and stewardship.”



A crew tears down the liquid pretreatment system structure.



Workers position a temporary protective cover over the pretreatment system facility demolition area until a permanent one is installed later this year.

Located along the northern and eastern edges of the disposal area, the liquid pretreatment system was built in the late 1980s to remove kerosene, an oil-like chemical, from the groundwater after it was detected in some of the disposal area's monitoring wells. The kerosene came from waste buried in the disposal area during fuel reprocessing operations in the 1960s and 1970s.

"Our team continues to leverage their combined knowledge and expertise to safely complete the demolition, disposition, and restoration of facilities no longer in use or needed," said Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's WVDP cleanup contractor. "I'm proud of their accomplishment, and in the work they continue to do on this project."

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



WVDP workers finish demolition of former treatment plant



Two large excavators create work efficiencies as one demolishes the structure and the other size-reduces and loads debris.

WVDP workers finish demolition of former treatment plant Workers finished the last step in a demolition project by digging out and removing a concrete pad used to hold equipment for a facility that treated low-level waste at the West Valley Demonstration Project site.

“The WVDP team continues their demolition work in a safe and deliberate manner,” EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “It is this methodical approach that results in legacy risk reduction in an environmentally sound manner.”

Crews shipped containers with an estimated 950 cubic yards of demolition debris from the pad removal project offsite for disposal before restoring the site.

The pad held major process tanks for the facility, which treated water used in spent nuclear fuel reprocessing operations at the site from 1966 to 1972. Crews decommissioned and demolished that two large excavators create work efficiencies as one demolishes the structure and the other size-reduces and loads debris. story, steel-framed concrete building in 2006 after it was replaced by a new low-level waste treatment building. All that remained until recently was the steel-reinforced concrete pad with depths of up to 17 feet.

EM cleanup workers have torn down 61 legacy facilities at the WVDP site to date.

Letter to the Editor:

BCH Foundation thanks all who made Garden Party a success

Editor: On behalf of the BCH Foundation, we would like to thank the sponsors, attendees and volunteers who made our seventh annual Garden Party on May 30 a resounding success.

Peony Sponsors – Bertrand Chaffee Hospital Medical Staff, RP Oak Hill Building Company Inc., Stansberry and Knight; Iris Sponsors – Arcade-Springville Dental Arts, Community Bank N.A., Nils and Erika Gunnerson, Mercy Flight; Rose Sponsors – Freed Maxick CPAs, Julie’s Pizzeria, Keystone Healthcare Management, STC Construction, Springville Pediatrics; Ivy Sponsors – AllPro Parking, CH2M Hill BWXT West Valley LLC, Eaton Office Supply, Gernatt Asphalt Products, Grover and Elizabeth Riefler, Premier Consulting Associates, Springville Door and Window, WNY Imaging Systems, Inc.

Our celebration of the careers of Gerard Diesfeld, MD and Mary Kwiatek, RN was made possible by a friendly and loving crowd, some of whom were able to share remarks about their work with these two tremendous healthcare professionals. Their impact on our hospital, our nursing home and our community has been and continues to be meaningful to BCH patients and employees.

Dozens of other individuals, business representatives and volunteers came together to support the purchase of a new electrocautery generator for the BCH Surgical Department and we are thankful to them all. Special thanks to the members of the Springville Jazz Orchestra and their conductor William Cocca for performing, to the Springville Concord Garden Club for beautiful centerpiece arrangements and to Empire Merchants North for our wine tasting display.

The Foundation’s mission is to fund equipment and improvements for your local healthcare facility and with community support through events like this, we continue to do so. Thanks to all who are a part of our work in keeping healthcare local.

Judi White
BCH Foundation
Board Member

Ashford approves fire alarm system for highway Department

Max Borsuk Editor

The Town of Ashford took steps at its June 12 meeting to help protect the town highway barn and the equipment stored inside from fire. The Ashford Town Board approved purchasing a new fire alarm system for the town highway barn on Fox Valley Road.

The board approved the purchase and installation of a new fire alarm system from Amherst Alarm at the cost of \$7,490 in the three buildings at the Ashford Highway Department. With fires previously happening at other highway department buildings in Hinsdale, Mansfield and Centerville, the board did not want anything similar happening in their town and waiting any longer would be too much of a risk for the town and its equipment.

“At this point after I have looked at everything, what we need to do is get [the fire alarm system] done,” Councilman John Pfeffer said. “We can’t wait any longer because we are at too much risk.”

Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis also reported the town is moving closer toward a grant for the feasibility of a boat launch, parking lot and trailhead within the town. Davis reported that after speaking with Cattaraugus County Director of Economic Development, Planning and Tourism Crystal Abers’ office, Deborah Fenn from Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail and Justin Booth from Complete Streets, they are willing to help the town with writing the 2019 Consolidated Funding Application Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grant. While the town is still exploring the best options, Davis proposed a parking area, trailhead and kayak launching area into

Cattaraugus Creek off Edies Road that can also be used for the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail.

“The good news is that we are not spending \$3,000 on a grant,” Davis said. Davis gave an update to the board about proposed streetlights at the intersection of Route 219 and Peters Road.

Davis sent a request to National Grid to get an updated cost for the streetlights that he will send to the New York State Department of Transportation, who as of now is going to be paying for the lights. The town might have to purchase the lights and have the money reimbursed to the town by NYSDOT.

“We are going to get lights there,” Davis said. “The bottom line is that it is not going to cost the taxpayers which is huge.”

In other board news: – The board honored Town Clerk Patricia Dashnaw after being awarded recertification as a registered municipal clerk by the New York State Town Clerks Association. – **CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC Communications Manager Joe Pillittere reported crews have started demolition on the utility room extension at the WVDP.**

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



West Valley's Mobile Trailer Delivers Protective Clothing for Workers, Cost Savings



Renea Call, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) warehouse manager, and Cole Green, CHBWV demolition readiness manager, stand in front of the West Valley Demonstration Project Site's personal protective equipment trailer.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – The [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) Site has saved money, improved safety, and increased efficiency by changing how it orders and provides personal protective clothing for the [EM](#) cleanup workforce.

EM and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) worked with a vendor to create a “one-stop shop” for items such as gloves, coveralls, hats, belts and hoods. The arrangement is a first of a kind for an EM site.

CHBWV places an order and the vendor loads a mobile trailer with items for delivery to WVDP, where the trailer remains to supply clothing for future work activities.



“It’s encouraging that site personnel continuously work to identify solutions that can improve day-to-day operations and facilitate changes that will make the work environment more safe and efficient while at the same time uncovering cost-cutting opportunities,” said Jennifer Dundas, EM’s WVDP safety and site program team leader.

Cost savings from use of the trailer is about \$2,000 per week. The initiative reduces the number of employees needed for ordering and distributing items to workers. Risk of injury decreases as warehouse workers spend less time offloading, stocking, and delivering items. And the trailer contains a six-month supply of items, eliminating weekly ordering and freight charges.

“As a cleanup site, our goal is to reduce legacy risks and the associated footprint,” said Cole Green, CHBWV’s demolition readiness manager. “The site’s warehouse is no exception, as it, too, has been reduced in size over the years. This new initiative creates more room, which increases our capabilities to store more items. In other words, we’ve made the warehouse bigger by thinking outside its four walls.”

Lessons learned from use of the trailer led to CHBWV to arrange for a different trailer with a side door for better access, lights, and racks for designated storage areas.

“This has had a trickle-down effect on how we stock basic necessities such as paper towels and tissues,” said Renea Call, CHBWV’s Warehouse Manager. “Previously we had to place orders every time we hit our set minimum quantity due to warehouse space limitations. Now, because this initiative allows more stock room in the warehouse, we can place larger orders, saving on volume and freight. It’s a win-win for the site and the taxpayers.”

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

WVDP employees answer the call onsite and offsite

Employees at the West Valley Demonstration Project continue to ‘answer the call’ 24/7 when emergencies arise onsite and in surrounding communities. Cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley has 16 employees who volunteer at several local fire departments and some of those hold officer-level positions.

“Volunteers help balance the needs for responding to emergency medical needs, especially in rural areas,” CHBWV Emergency Preparedness Manager and volunteer firefighter Kevin Murray said. “In the event of any emergency, you have volunteer professionals who are trained and ready to provide lifesaving interventions.”

Employee volunteer firefighters also assist with in-house, hands-on safety training using their knowledge and expertise from years of community service. If you ask any of them why they do it, the answer is simple: “To protect, serve and give back.” Among these volunteers, there’s a sense of pride knowing that their time is being devoted to something greater than themselves – the safety and well-being of a community.

“We understand the importance and benefit of having trained emergency responders working at West Valley,” Bryan Bower, WVDP Director for the U.S. Department of Energy, said. “We

appreciate their continued commitment and effort to protect the health and safety of our workers and communities.”

Ashford Town Supervisor Charlie Davis commended the commitment of these brave men and women. “The men and women who volunteer their time to help others is an added benefit for our town and surrounding communities. These professional volunteers play a vital role in providing prehospital care quickly in emergency situations.”

In emergency medical situations where minutes saved can mean the difference between life and death, it’s an advantage to have several onsite employees that can be called upon to help.

“This was clearly demonstrated last summer when employees, who are also Emergency Medical Technicians, provided life-saving care to an onsite visitor, Ken Whitham, vice president of CHBWV Safety, Quality, Health and Security said. “If it wasn’t for their knowledge, training and past experience, this medical emergency could have had a different outcome.”

“The site and community are fortunate to have these individuals to help when the need arises,” Scott Anderson, CHBWV President and General Manager said. “It provides an extra level of safety and care for anyone in need of emergency or medical assistance.”

Solarize Southtowns hosts launch party

June 27, 2019

Max Borsuk

SPRINGVILLE – The start of a new cost-saving initiative has begun throughout local towns in Erie County for people who are interested in installing solar panels on their home or business. Green Springville hosted its Solarize Southtowns launch party on June 20 to show people the benefits of the Solarize campaign and how they can receive high-quality, low-cost solar installations.



Representatives from Solar by CIR talk to interested residents at the Solarize Southtowns launch party.

Solarize Southtowns is a program from the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#) that looks to bring potential solar customers together and have customers work with a vetted solar installer to provide a cheaper price for solar installation. Led by Green Springville, residents in the participating municipalities of Concord, Colden, Eden, Evans and Sardinia can work with the chosen solar installer to receive cheaper prices for solar. The signup period for discounted solar installation will run until Sept. 30.

“Probably the biggest benefit the fact that through this program you negotiate a best price, Green Springville President Reed Braman said. “[The solar installers] came to us with their best price so right there [residents] are getting close to a 20 percent saving as compared to if they went to the companies by themselves.”

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Friday, June 28, 2019

After receiving proposals from multiple solar companies, Solar by CIR was chosen as the installer for Solarize Southtowns. At the Solarize Southtowns launch party at UNOVA Coworking in Springville, residents were able to talk with Solar by CIR representatives, ask questions and learn about the cost, savings and installation process.



People in attendance at the launch event were able to see a presentation about Solarize Southtowns.

“Once we had a kickoff meeting with [Solar by CIR], we were really excited, they are energetic ... and looking to help people especially in our market. So giving them access to this market, they are very energized and looking to spread the word,” Braman said. “There was a constant flow of people [at the launch event] and a lot of people were speaking with [Solar by CIR] ... so we got a lot of positive feedback. I think there are a lot of people who are interested and we are just trying to work hard to get the message out.”

Along with helping the environment, installing solar panels this year under Solarize Southtowns can save people money on their energy bills. Starting on Jan. 1, 2020, changes will be made to the net metering program, which offers credits to customers who make excess electricity and send it back to the grid, and to the availability of tax credits. Braman said with these benefits going away next year, installing solar panels now can provide additional advantages to residents.

“This is the last year you will be guaranteed 20 years on net metering and starting next year it is going to shift to a new model. There is no real guarantee on how much they will reimburse you for your unused energy,” Braman said. “We are still in an environment where you get the full 30 percent tax credit if you get it installed this year top that with the 25 percent from New York state tax credit and **NYSERDA** has an additional incentive that once you put all those together, it knocked the price down to a manageable investment.”

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Friday, June 28, 2019

For those who cannot participate in the Solarize Southtowns program, the Solar for All program is also available for residents. Solar for All allows eligible households to subscribe to community solar at no cost. If homeowners meet certain requirements, participants can receive monthly credits on their electricity bills.

“It’s a great way to get involved and take advantage of the solar programs that New York state offers,” Braman said.

Additional Solarize workshops will be held in the participating municipalities including Colden on July 10, Evans on July 18, Concord on July 23, Eden on Aug. 7 and Sardinia on Aug. 21. Green Springville will also be in attendance at local events including the Eden Corn Festival, Colden Arts Festival, local farmer’s markets and local concert series to provide information about Solarize Southtowns.

For more information or to learn how to participate in Solarize Southtowns and Solar for All, visit solarizebuffaloniagara.org, email greenspringvilleinfo@gmail.com or visit the Green Springville, Inc. Facebook page.

SPRINGVILLE TIMES

June 28 – July 4, 2019

West Valley Citizen Task Force to Meet July 24

The West Valley Citizen Task Force will not meet in June.

The July 24 meeting will go forward as scheduled and the agenda for that meeting will be available in mid-July.

Information about past meetings can be found online at westvalleyctf.org/meeting-information/prior-meeting-information/.

West Valley Team Creates Conveyor, Furthering Safety for Asbestos Removal



Workers remove a 900-pound lift bag of asbestos material from the Main Plant Process Building at EM's West Valley Demonstration Project. The bag was carried out of the facility on a conveyor system created by employees at the site.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) deactivation and decommissioning (D&D) crew members used ingenuity and lessons learned to develop a conveyor system to safely remove material containing asbestos from inside a building at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#).

Workers used the conveyor system to get rid of about 56,000 pounds of plaster containing asbestos material from the walls of a control room on the fourth floor of the Main Plant Process Building. They are clearing away asbestos material to prepare the structure for demolition.



The crew helped design, test, and build the conveyor system to further improve safety and limit contact with asbestos material during the project. Drawing from lessons learned from previous work, the team built the system with readily available equipment, saving time and money.

“This team took an issue and turned it into an opportunity by putting their knowledge into practice,” EM WVDP Federal Project Director Dan Sullivan said. “The safe and compliant disposition of asbestos-containing material is another important step in the progress towards the future demolition of the Main Plant.”



The EM West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) team that developed the conveyor system for asbestos removal. Front row, from left, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) operators Jessica Krzeimien, Nathan Hebdon, Jolene Biela, and Nathan Low; and Jim Moshier, supervisor with WVDP subcontractor American Demolition & Nuclear Decommissioning; back row, from left, CHBWV operators Marcus Perrington and Ryan Mackey; Tom Whittemore, radiological control technician with WVDP subcontractor InTomes; CHBWV Operator Jonathan Schurr; CHBWV Safety Technician Dan Rzucek; and InTomes Radiological Control Technician Michael Carlin.



Three 900-pound lift bags filled with asbestos material sit on a conveyor system designed by workers at EM's West Valley Demonstration Project.

Crew members filled 25-pound-capacity bags with the asbestos material and placed them into 900-pound-capacity lift bags. They transported the lift bags on the conveyor system from inside the building to an outside overhead crane. The crane lowered each lift bag to the ground where a fork truck added them to a waste container for off-site disposal.

Dale Macklem, D&D manager with EM cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, commended his crew for the creativity to turn an idea into reality.

“Working with asbestos-containing material is the most physically challenging work at the site when you include radiological and industrial hazards, layers of protective clothing, and warm temperatures,” Macklem said. “This crew used lessons learned to enhance safety, improve efficiency, and reduce exposure to job-related hazards. They put their collective knowledge into practice, and that’s to be commended.”

Constructed in the 1960s, the Main Plant, a commercial reprocessing facility, was used to recover reusable plutonium and uranium from spent nuclear reactor fuel.

The crew will use the conveyor system to remove asbestos-containing material from the three-story Main Plant Office Building before demolishing that structure later this year.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



West Valley Continues Progress in Knocking Down Support Buildings



Workers begin demolishing a former utility room extension building at EM's West Valley Demonstration Project. It was one of seven support buildings of the Main Plant Process Building. Three of those structures remain and are scheduled for demolition.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) crews recently demolished a former utility building at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP), bringing the total number of structures removed at the site to 63.

"The completion of this work changes the landscape and footprint of the WVDP site, and is a reminder of the ongoing progress here," EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said.

Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), EM's cleanup contractor at the site, said his employees used their combined knowledge and lessons learned to safely complete this work.

"The CHBWV team continues to make great progress towards the demolition of these historically significant facilities at West Valley with the completion of the utility room extension building," Anderson said. "Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and environmentally sound manner."



A crew demolishes two boilers at the former utility room extension building. Workers then size-reduced and packaged them for off-site disposal.



A view of debris following completion of demolition of the former utility room extension building.



The 4,500-square-foot utility room extension building was built in the mid-1990s to provide additional power for operations to solidify 600,000 gallons of high-level liquid radioactive waste at the Main Plant Process Building. Those operations ended in 2002.

The utility building housed new equipment to support a decades-old electrical supply system, avoiding the need to replace aging equipment and preventing long outages or other impacts to site operations.

Included in the building were air compressors to supply workers with breathing and instrument air, two boilers to provide steam for heating and process operations, an emergency generator, control room, and an electrical switchgear room to support the building and its equipment.

The utility building was one of seven ancillary structures of the Main Plant Process Building, where vitrification activities occurred. Three other ancillary structures have been torn down, and three remain to be demolished.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Ribbon cutting held for third solar farm in Olean, 17-acre Homeridae

By RICK MILLER Olean Times Herald / July 18, 2019 (3 hrs ago)



Olean Mayor Bill Aiello cuts a ribbon for the Homeridae Solar Farm project in Olean under a tent Wednesday morning as other city, county, state and project officials look on. The 17-acre solar farm has 11,800 solar panels generating electricity and energy credits for the city.

Rick Miller/Olean Times Herald

OLEAN — The city's third solar farm was celebrated with a ribbon cutting Wednesday morning at Homeridae, a 17-acre former brownfield between Homer Street and Interstate 86.

The site is generating enough electricity to supply 652 typical New York homes with power for a year and helping Olean

taxpayers with about \$100,000 in annual energy credits, Olean Mayor Bill Aiello said before cutting the ribbon in front of dozens of invited guests.

Aiello noted they were standing on the site of an old tank farm for a local oil refinery. Oil was the energy of the day in the 1880s and Olean, with six different railroads and several pipelines, was a hub of energy activity.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

It was also the time of Thomas Edison, who invented the lightbulb and started marketing it in New York City. Olean investors formed the Olean Electric Light and Power Co. in 1888, and threw the switch to power 30 light poles along North Union and West State streets, Aiello said.

“Meet our newest power source, the sun,” the mayor said.

Aiello noted that, coincidentally, one of the descendants of the original Olean Light and Power Co., investor F.W. Higgins, was in attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony: Cattaraugus County Legislator Frank Higgins, R-Olean.

City officials and BQ Energy of Wappingers Falls are reviewing the first month of operation of Homeridae, which has 11,800 solar panels. BQ Energy will receive a portion of the city’s credits in addition to the electricity they send to National Grid power lines.

“We’ll see significantly reduced electric bills,” Aiello said.

The agreement with BQ Energy is for 25 years. The net metering credits should save the city at least \$90,000 annually, he said. It could be as much as \$125,000. Over the 25 years, it could be worth more than \$3 million in reduced costs.

Two other solar farms on the south side of I-86 behind Dresser-Rand are benefiting St. Bonaventure University and Olean General Hospital with long-term significant savings on their energy bills as well.

St. Bonaventure expects to tap into more than \$280,000 a year in energy credits, or \$7.3 million over 25 years, and Olean General is looking at \$40,000 a year in energy credits, or \$1 million over 20 years.

BQ Energy president Paul Curran told those assembled for the ribbon cutting that the company only deals with brownfield sites.

“This is about making energy,” he said, noting Olean is part of the state’s plan to generate 70 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2030.

“It was land that didn’t have a purpose,” Curran said. Like a new solar farm planned at **the West Valley Demonstration Project site**, Curran said, “That’s where renewable energy belongs.”

Davetta Thatcher of the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority** said the Olean solar farms generated 4 megawatts of electricity last month, making it number 6 in the state for output out of 102 solar facilities in New York.

Town discusses possible funding opportunity for projects

Max Borsuk Editor

The Ashford Town Board discussed projects within the town that could be considered for funding including the possibility of a town park. Supervisor Charles Davis, at the July 10 meeting, reported he has sent a letter to the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Hazard Mitigation Section regarding the submission of projects for possible funding.

One of the projects would be for the triangle of land between County Road 32, Ashford Hollow Road and White Street in Ashford. Councilwoman Jean Bond asked Davis whether the triangle affected by the hazard mitigation could be used as a town park and Council - man John Pfeffer asked if the property was going to be given to the town or be county property. Davis said a town park is possible for the land and he will work to get the exact information on the property for the board.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Energy Grant project is nearing its completion and the town is expecting to receive the funds for the project soon. The energy grant project included installing new efficient lighting at the Town of Ashford Highway Barn and the Ashford Community Center and the installation of a new hot water heater. Bond and Councilman William Heim brought up recent issues within the highway department with their radios, which appear to need updating. After discussing the possible problem with the radios, board members will meet with Ashford Highway Superintendent Tim Engels to get additional information and figure out the best solution to the issue.

In other board news: – Code Enforcement Officer Larry Feldman report - ed there are a couple of new builds and remodeling projects currently happening in Ashford.

– Davis reported he is planning a meeting with Congressman Tom Reed to discuss the classification of waste at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CLOSURE PLAN

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) as operator of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) has notified the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) of its intention to commence final closure of the Chemical Process Cell-Waste Storage Area (CPC-WSA) at the WVDP facility in West Valley, NY 14171-9799. The CPCWSA is one of several hazardous waste management (HMW) units at the WVDP facility that required closure under Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations (6 NYCRR) Part 373. The DOE maintains a closure plan for each HWM unit as stipulated in §373-1.2(b) and §373-3.7. The CPC-WSA closure plan was revised in response to Department comments and resubmitted on June 11, 2019 for Department review and approval. Closure activities for the CPCWSA have already been implemented by DOE in the form of removing waste containers from the unit. The Department has tentatively determined that the revised CPC-WSA closure plan is consistent with the regulatory requirements for the decontamination and closure of a hazardous waste container storage area and, as such, can be approved. The intention of this public notice is to solicit comment from the public on the CPC-WSA closure plan,

The revised closure plan (Doc. ID Number WVDP-150, Rev. 14, dated 6/6/19) includes removal of all containers of hazardous waste, establishing a 20-foot by 20-foot sampling grid across the 60-foot by 120-foot waste storage area resulting in eighteen (18) grid areas, inspection of the gravel pad and collecting soil samples at a depth of 0-6 inches below the bottom of the compacted gravel pad in each grid area. The plan states that a biased sampling approach would be implemented to collect eighteen (18) soil samples from areas where staining is visible, otherwise the sample shall be collected from the center of the grid. The sampling equipment decontamination residues and wash washer would be collected, characterized and dispositioned as either a hazardous or non-hazardous waste, as necessary.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) status: Closure of the CPC-WSA hazardous waste container storage area will not result in significant changes to the surrounding areas of the WVDP facility. The closure activities will be performed entirely inside the CPC-WSA and will use only portable equipment. This action is intended to leave the CPC-WSA clean and uncontaminated. The Department has determined that the closure of the CPC-WSA is a Type II action which is not subject to SEQR.

State regulation requires that the public be given thirty (30) days to provide written comments on this draft closure plan. The public comment period begins on 07/18/19 and will extend through 08/19/19. A copy of the closure plan is available for public review at NYSDEC Central and Regional 9 Offices.

(continued from page 2)

Copies of the closure plan may be obtained by contacting either Mr. Patrick Concannon, Engineering Geologist, at NYSDEC Region 9, Division of Materials Management, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203 [Telephone Number: (716) 851-7220] or Mrs. Lynn Winterberger, Chief, RCRA Permitting Section at NYSDEC, Central Office, Division of Materials Management, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7256 [Telephone Number: (518) 402-8651].

Comments on the closure plan must be sent no later than August 19, 2019 to:

Mrs. Lynn Winterberger, P.E. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Materials Management Bureau of Hazardous Waste & Radiation Management 625 Broadway Albany, New York 12233-7256.

All comments will be considered and evaluated in making the final determination for approving the closure plan. Prior to the approval of the closure plan the Department will respond to any comments submitted by the public. The Department will approve, modify or disapprove the draft closure plan based on the information received during the comment period and public hearing, if required. A notice of the final decision will be sent to each interested citizen or organization who submitted written comments or have requested such notice. #21

West Valley Recycles Demolition Debris, Offsets Cleanup Costs



A truck hauls a transformer from EM's West Valley Demonstration Project to a recycling facility. Funds from recycling are used to offset the site's cleanup costs.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Workers at [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) recently shipped a large transformer to a recycling facility, bringing the site's cost savings from recycling to more than \$14,000 to date.

During demolition projects, crews identify non-contaminated materials suitable for recycling. Payments received for recycling offset EM's cleanup costs at WVDP.

"Recycling is part of our commitment to be good stewards of the environment," EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. "It's the right thing to do and helps save money for taxpayers and the government."

The transformer was housed within the site's former utility room extension building, which [crews recently demolished](#). Built in the 1990s, the facility provided additional power for the WVDP vitrification melter used to solidified 600,000 gallons of high-level liquid radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002.

"Performing our cleanup efforts in a safe and environmentally sound manner is a formula for success," said Joe Ebert, site operations manager of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's cleanup contractor at the site. "West Valley and other DOE Environmental Management sites continue to reduce legacy risks while staying focused on safety and the environment."

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere