OLEAN TIMES HERALD

December 17, 2021

Slump in earth near West Valley trenches being monitored

This Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad train hauls containers of dirt last week from a trench at the West Valley Demonstration Project to an approved disposal site.

Rick Miller/Olean Times Herald

By RICK MILLER
Olean Times Herald

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority is closely monitoring a 3-foot slump in the earth near the state's low-level radioactive waste disposal area adjacent to the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Andrea Mellon of NYSERDA told members of the West Valley Citizens Task Force Wednesday night that cracks began to develop along the North Slope overlooking Erdman Brook in 2018.

The cracks were filled and the area was monitored regularly. Then, in October, the earth slumped about 18 inches on the downslope portion of the north slope. Monitoring was stepped up.

When the area was measured in November, the slump had increased to about 3 feet, Mellon said. There's been no movement spotted at the top of the slope. Weekly monitoring is now being conducted.

NYSERDA believes the slump is limited to loose soil pushed over the slope during construction of trenches of low-level radioactive waste in the 1960s and 1970s.

Mellon also pointed out that NYSERDA recently completed improvements to the membrane covering the trenches and water diversion measures designed to keep leachate from gathering in the trenches.

Citizens Task Force member Joe Pati expressed concern over the slide — particularly in light of an increased number of extreme weather events. Many slopes in the West Valley area are prone to failure in heavy rains.

Mellon said that NYSERDA is hiring a soil specialist to do an investigation to help determine what is causing the slump. The slope is about 100 feet from the nearest trench.

“Erosion is going to happen,” Pati said during the meeting held via video conference. “The soils are going to slump.” He said he wants to make sure a sudden localized rain event didn’t breach any of the trenches.

Later, Pati said, “In my heart I think we should exhume it all. Is it feasible? I don’t know. In 50 years there’s already been some slumping.”

Besides the state and Nuclear Regulatory Commission low-level waste trenches, there are issues involving underground tanks that once held 600,000 gallons of high-level radioactive liquid waste. The waste has since been processed and is contained in 275 glass logs stored in 10-foot-high stainless steel containers. The steel containers are in concrete overpack containers stored on site.

There have been proposals to leave the tanks in place and fill them with grout. Others point out that with the site’s history with heavy rains and erosion, the tanks would eventually be compromised.

Most all of the task force members are believed to favor exhumation and removal of all wastes and tanks including the NYSERDA and NRC low-level burial sites.

The U.S. Department of Energy and NYSERDA are working toward release of a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) in about two years for Phase II of the cleanup.

Task force member Ray Vaughan and several other members of the task force have a working group looking into a number of issues concerning a probabilistic study of erosion at the WVDP site over the centuries if the radioactive material remains in the ground.

Vaughan asked whether the Department of Energy and NYSERDA would help fund some independent expert review on a number of issues including erosion, climate change, long-term stability of the site, legacy waste, high-level waste and defense waste.

Vaughan included a list of tasks where the working group thought input from experts would help them in their decision whether to support the draft SEIS for the Phase II cleanup. His 100-page letter was not made public. The task force will discuss whether to release it after its January meeting.

Pati expressed concern over a parallel study by the task force, but agreed Vaughan’s working group should continue it work. He asked whether the task force was wasting time or assuming they (DOE) will try to leave it behind (trenches).

Vaughan said outside experts could help the task force sort out what they may think is a faulty decision by DOE officials.

“We need to get them on the right road,” agreed Pati. The range of options includes the remove everything alternative and close in place alternative, he added.

Paul Bembia, the NYSERDA site director, said hybrid alternatives are being examined such as removing certain trenches, or parts of trenches. The trenches were about 20 feet wide and nearly as deep.

Pati said torrential rain causes “a vast amount of water coming off the hills.”

“That’s the driver for this,” replied Vaughan.

Meanwhile, Kelly Wooly, deputy director of CHBWV, the contractor for the Phase I cleanup, said decommissioning continues inside the Main Plant Process Building. In one cell, liquid nitrogen is being used to remove the radioactive concrete surface.

The demolition of the Main Plant Process Building is scheduled to begin in March. Crews have tested a water management system to remove water from the spray devices that will be used to reduce dust — some of which could contain radioactive material.

Crews have worked for the past 20 years removing hazardous materials like asbestos and radioactive equipment from the plant and shipping it to approved facilities. There are still a couple of cells where crews are working on the decommissioning prior to the planned demolition.

Wooly said the soil excavated years ago to install trench for a permeable treatment wall with material capable of intercepting a strontium plume coming from the foundation of the Main Plant Process Building is about 80% removed. It is placed in intermodal containers and placed on railcars for removal to an approved site. The excavated soil is not radioactive.

THE SALAMANCA PRESS

December 19, 2021

Slump in earth near West Valley trenches being monitored

By Rick Miller | County Reporter

This Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad train hauls containers of dirt last week from a trench at the West Valley Demonstration Project to an approved disposal site.

Press photo by Rick Miller

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority is closely monitoring a 3-foot slump in the earth near the state's low-level radioactive waste disposal area adjacent to the West Valley Demonstration Project.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 13, Issue 49 | Dec. 21, 2021

West Valley Declares Food Drive a Success After Stocking Nine Pantries

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. *– The workforce at EM's West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) completed its annual food drive after 15 employees volunteered to deliver more than 119,000 pounds of food, including 400 turkeys, to nine area food pantries. This year's tally brings the cumulative donation total to more than 2.1 million pounds of food since the inception of the food drive in 1989. "The success of this annual food drive is a direct result of the generosity and kindness of employees, partners and subcontractors," said Lettie Chilson, the site's facility manager and food drive organizer. "It demonstrates the positive impact that kindness can have on a community."*

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 13, Issue 49 | Dec. 21, 2021

West Valley Prepares for Next Signature Achievement: Main Plant Demolition

Workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project prepare a section of a ventilation duct to be cut inside the Vent Wash Room. The room had been used to support former reprocessing cells inside the Main Plant Process Building.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – EM workers continue to reduce risks and prepare to deactivate the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) for what will be the West Valley Demonstration Project's (WVDP) most complex demolition since crews knocked down the Vitrification Facility in 2018.

As part of the latest work, crews are removing a 26-inch-diameter ventilation duct that carried exhaust from past operations at the MPPB. They are performing the work remotely to reduce exposure risk.

"The effort in the Vent Wash Room involves extensive planning and deliberate execution to perform the work safely and compliantly," said Steve Bousquet, EM WVDP deputy federal project director for the Main Plant. "The WVDP team continues to reduce legacy risks while protecting employees, the public and the environment."

EM Update | Vol. 13, Issue 49 | Dec. 21, 2021

The Vent Wash Room had housed a ventilation "scrubber" that removed airborne particulates resulting from fuel reprocessing operations that ceased in 1972. The location supported former reprocessing cells inside the MPPB.

EM and prime contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) have completed 14 of 28 cuts to the ventilation duct and removed seven of 19 sections of the duct from the Vent Wash Room. Prior to this work, crews constructed a containment tent above the work area and an access door to support the project.

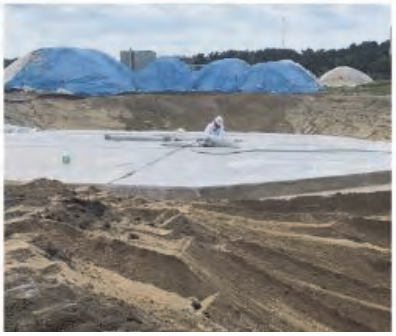
“Close work activities like this involve teamwork and sharing lessons learned throughout the process,” said Tom Dogal, CHBWV facility disposition manager. “The WVDP team used employee feedback to further improve execution while also adhering to enhanced COVID-19 protocols.”

Several other areas within the MPPB — including the product purification and chemical process cells, and a fuel receiving and storage facility — sent exhaust to the Vent Wash Room through the ductwork. The exhaust was then directed to a ventilation exhaust cell where it was filtered before being discharged to the plant’s stack.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

EM News Flash | Dec. 30, 2021

2021 Year in Review' Highlights EM Cleanup Progress, Priorities



The Office of Environmental Management leveraged the results of years of successful work in 2021 to launch a new era for the U.S. Department of Energy's cleanup mission, all while continuing to manage the challenging conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. EM summarized its cleanup accomplishments across the complex, including numerous major program priorities, in its 2021 Year in Review released today.

"I am proud that this year EM again made significant strides in completing key projects, reducing the cleanup footprint, awarding major contracts that accelerate progress, and driving mission innovation and improved performance," EM Senior Advisor William "Ike" White said. "We embarked on an ambitious slate of cleanup priorities this year, and thanks to the dedication of our workforce, we were able to achieve the vast majority of what we set out to do."

The 2021 Year in Review highlights progress and accomplishments at each EM site, including:

- Completed demolition of the High Flux Beam Reactor exhaust stack at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York.
- Completed construction and startup testing of all Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant facilities needed at the Hanford Site in Washington State to start immobilizing tank waste in glass using vitrification.
- Completed building and testing the Tank-Side Cesium Removal system at the Hanford Site that will start treating tank waste in 2022 to build up a supply to feed directly to a vitrification facility in 2023—*an EM 2021 priority.*
- Completed more than 50 equipment modifications focused on contamination control and off-gas filters in preparation for operations at the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit at the DOE Idaho National Laboratory Site. The facility will convert about 900,000 gallons of liquid radioactive waste into a granular solid.
- Certified and completed 30 legacy transuranic waste shipments from the Los Alamos National Laboratory to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico—*an EM 2021 priority.*
- Completed the Nevada National Security Site Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex infrastructure expansion project to allow for future construction of low-level waste disposal cells.
- Processed and disposed the low-dose portion of Oak Ridge's uranium-233 inventory and provided medical isotopes for next-generation cancer research.
- Initiated demolition activities on the X-326 Process Building at the Portsmouth Site in southern Ohio, and demolished 40 percent of the building — the first of three massive structures being demolished—*an EM 2021 priority.*
- Opened the Portsmouth On-Site Waste Disposal Facility and moved the first demolition debris generated from deactivation and decommissioning at the site into the facility.
- Opened the Critical Infrastructure, Industrial Control System Cybersecurity Laboratory at the Georgia Cyber Center in downtown Augusta, Georgia, establishing the South Carolina-based Savannah River National Laboratory's (SRNL) physical presence in Georgia.
- Completed construction eight months ahead of schedule and $32 million under budget for Saltstone Disposal Unit (SDU) 7, the second mega-sized SDU built at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina to permanently dispose of decontaminated saltstone—*an EM 2021 priority.*
- Received more than 200 transuranic waste shipments at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. More than 13,000 shipments have been received since the facility opened in 1999.

- Continued preparation for the Main Plant Process Building demolition at the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York by installing a new water collection and treatment system, and by repurposing an administrative trailer complex into a multipurpose building to support demolition activities.

The 2021 Year in Review can be accessed here.

[https://www.energy.gov/em/department-energy-office-environmental-management-2021-year-review]

OLEAN TIMES HERALD
Wednesday, January 5, 2022

WVDP to complete teardown of seventh Main Plant support facility

Photo provided

An excavator with shear attachment is used to safely cut and size-reduced the structural steel building in a planned and deliberate manner.

By Olean Times Herald staff

WEST VALLEY - Crews are set to complete the 69th building demolition at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) early this year when they finish knocking down the seventh structure standing that supported operations at the former Main Plant Process Building.

Workers recently began the demolition of the load-in facility, the last ancillary support structure that surrounds the Main Plant Process Building. The 4,500-square-foot building has been used for several purposes over the years and is no longer needed for current or future cleanup activities.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD
Wednesday, January 5, 2022

To date, the following ancillary support structures have been removed from the site's footprint: contact size-reduction facility, manipulator repair shop, main plant office building, utility room building, utility room extension and laundry facility.

The load-in facility is a two-floor structural steel building with metal siding and roof. It was first used to store and inspect empty High-Level Waste (HLW) stainless steel canisters before they were filled with HLW glass during vitrification operations – solidifying high-level liquid radioactive waste into glass.

It was later used during the HLW relocation project, which removed the HLW canisters from the Main Plant Process Building to an onsite storage area; and then as an area to stage equipment for decontamination and demolition of the vitrification facility.

DOE Deputy Federal Project Director for the Main Plant Stephen Bousquet commended the team for its work.

"The work of our team of dedicated employees continues to change the landscape and footprint around the Main Plant Process Building," Bousquet said. "I continue to be impressed by the accomplishments of our team as we move forward to the future demolition of the main plant."

John Rendall, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), EM' s cleanup contractor, said employees used their combined knowledge and lessons learned to safely plan and begin this demolition.

"The CHBWV team continues to make great progress towards the demolition of these historically significant facilities at West Valley," Rendall said. "Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and environmentally-sound manner."

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL
Vol. 153 - Issue 46 | Published Each Thursday by Neighbor-to-Neighbor News Inc. | January 6, 2022

Photo provided

Restoring rail shipment capabilities for the site was one of the many accomplishments in 2021 by crews at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Progress with WVDP decommissioning to continue in 2022

Max Borsuk
Editor

Workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project continue to move forward in their efforts to decommission the West Valley Nuclear Service Center and build on the success from last year. New projects and goals have been set for 2022 as crews continue work on the site.

In 2021, crews from CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC at the West Valley Demonstration Project completed a variety of projects including restoring rail shipment capabilities for the site, continuing preparation for the main plant process building demolition, installing a new water collection and treatment

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL
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system, repurposing an administrative trailer complex into a multipurpose building to support MPPB demolition, placing several cells used during spent fuel reprocessing operations into a readiness state for future demolition, removing the west wall of the MPPB to continue deactivation inside the acid recovery cell and continuing aggressive decontamination in the product purification cell-south.

Since the start of the contract, crews have also completed the removal and restoration of 46 balance of site facilities that are no longer needed for current or future cleanup efforts, which this year included a septic system and well associated with a former schoolhouse at the WVDP.

"The West Valley Demonstration Project team continues to deliver results in a manner that is safe and protective of employees, the local community and environment. Employees continue to reduce legacy risks at the site in an environmentally sound manner, which is a testament to their dedication and commitment. The removal and area restoration of 46 site structures that are no longer needed changed the landscape of the site and the community. The safe and deliberate deactivation of several fuel reprocessing cells, along with the removal of the west wall of the main plant process building, signals that demolition of this last and largest remaining structure is in the very near future. I am truly proud to be a part of this team, and I look forward to continuing our work together," WVDP Director Bryan Bower said.

Along with its decommissioning work, crews at the WVDP pride themselves on being able to help the local community. In 2021, work throughout the community included giving community support checks to Mercy Flight, West Valley Fire District #1 and Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, participating in the Day of Caring by performing work at Springville Youth Incorporated, hosting its annual food drive that collected more than 120,000 pounds of food for nine food pantries, donating $15,945 to the United Way and donating approximately $11,000 in 2021 to local not-for-profits for a variety of needs.

"We have a strong commitment to our community and I am proud of the positive impact our employees, partners and subcontractors have made throughout the year," CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC President John Rendall said. "The success of our community outreach efforts is a direct result of the generosity of everyone involved and it shows the positive impact that kindness can have on a community."

Looking toward 2022, the CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC crews look to complete a number of goals in their decommissioning efforts at the West Valley Demonstration Project. Goals include performing all work safely and compliantly, completing deactivation activities in the product purification cell and completing the disposition of waste, complete remaining MPPB demolition preparations, beginning demolition of the MPPB and ship four million pounds of debris, beginning rail shipments from WVDP for MPPB demolition, completing PTW soil containment escalation and disposal, processing and overpacking degraded containers and completing demolition of the load-in facility.

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JOURNAL

Vol. 153 - Issue 46 | Published Each Thursday by Neighbor-to-Neighbor News Inc. | January 6, 2022

Journal file photo

Crews at the WVDP completed a variety of community outreach projects in 2021, including its annual food drive.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Saturday, January 8, 2022

WVDP continues prep for main plant demolition

WEST VALLEY — Workers continue to reduce risks and prepare to deactivate the Main Plant Process Building for what will be the West Valley Demonstration Project's most complex demolition since crews knocked down the Vitrification Facility in 2018.

As part of the latest work, crews are removing a 26-inch-diameter ventilation duct that carried exhaust from past operations at the main plant. They are performing the work remotely to reduce exposure risk.

"The effort in the vent wash room involves extensive planning and deliberate execution to perform the work safely and compliantly," said Steve Bousquet, EM WVDP deputy federal project director for the main plant. "The WVDP team continues to reduce legacy risks while protecting employees, the public and the environment."

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 14, Issue 1 | Jan. 11, 2022

‘2021 Year in Review’ Highlights EM Cleanup Progress, Priorities

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EM leveraged the results of years of successful work in 2021 to launch a new era for DOE’s cleanup mission, all while continuing to manage the challenging conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. EM summarized its cleanup accomplishments across the complex, including numerous major program priorities, in its 2021 Year in Review released in late December.

“I am proud that this year EM again made significant strides in completing key projects, reducing the cleanup footprint, awarding major contracts that accelerate progress, and driving mission innovation and improved performance,” EM Senior Advisor William “Ike” White said. “We embarked on an ambitious slate of cleanup priorities this year, and thanks to the dedication of our workforce, we were able to achieve the vast majority of what we set out to do.”

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 14, Issue 1 | Jan. 11, 2022

West Valley Improves Rail Line Supporting Safe, Efficient Waste Disposal

Using a small excavator, workers replace railroad ties along a track within the West Valley Demonstration Project used to ship waste offsite for disposal. A railroad engineering company inspects the rail line annually, and employees at the site also assess the line each month to ensure it operates effectively.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – EM and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) have replaced six railroad ties along nearly 8,000 feet of track within the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) following an annual inspection.

EM resumed using the rail line in June to ship waste offsite for disposal. Shipping the waste by rail enhances safety by reducing vehicle traffic associated with completing the shipments via truck. Train shipments increase efficiency by allowing more material to be shipped compared to trucking. The train shipments also cost less than truck shipments, saving taxpayer dollars.

“The rail line will be used for the future demolition of the Main Plant Process Building and future cleanup work at the site,” said Linda Michalczak, CHBWV projects manager. “This rail line will continue to play an important role in the present and future cleanup of the site. It represents a better method for waste disposition that’s safer and more efficient; it will ultimately accelerate remediation efforts in the future.”

The project is shipping tens of thousands of cubic feet of soil crews had removed to make way for a unique groundwater treatment system that has been constructed. A structure used to store that soil also will be shipped for disposal by train.

WVDP worked with the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Railroad (BPRR) Administration to rehabilitate the Western New York Nuclear Service Center rail spur and BPRR's main line prior to WVDP's use. The WVDP continues to maintain the track inside the service center's perimeter.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

Energy Communities Alliance

ECA Update

Thursday, January 13, 2022

EM sets aggressive goals with 2022 priorities to advance cleanup mission

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Environmental Management (EM) has established its key priorities for calendar year 2022, covering planned cleanup, project construction, acquisition, and other important accomplishments to advance EM's environmental and risk-reduction mission.

"Our many accomplishments in 2021 positioned EM to achieve an equally challenging slate of priorities in 2022," EM Senior Advisor William "Ike" White said. "Our 2022 priorities underscore our goals to accomplish cleanup that is safe and protective of our workforce, the public and the environment, and in a manner that is transparent to the communities that host and support our sites."

The EM Calendar Year 2022 Priorities set objectives at sites across the nation and for the program, including:

- Completing cold commissioning of the first melter at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant and beginning operation of the Tank-Side Cesium Removal system at the Hanford Site in Washington state, essential steps toward the treatment of tank waste at that site.
- Processing the first 100 liquid waste containers as operations begin at the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit, a major milestone at the DOE Idaho National Laboratory Site.

- Beginning construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative in Aiken, South Carolina, a key facility near the Savannah River Site that will enable the U.S. Department of Energy to partner with industry and academia on the development of technology to benefit environmental cleanup and national security missions.

- Completing 30 shipments of transuranic waste from the EM Los Alamos Field Office to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.

- Completing demolition of Building X-326 at the Portsmouth Site in Ohio, making the former uranium enrichment facility the first of three massive structures to be torn down at the site.

- Completing removal of another 1 million tons of uranium mill tailings from the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project in Utah, moving the site to a cumulative 13 million tons of tailings relocated away from the Colorado River and into an engineered disposal facility.

- Awarding the Hanford Integrated Tank Disposition Contract, the largest single contract that EM will award for cleanup activities.

- Updating climate vulnerability assessments at all EM sites, a commitment to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas impacts from EM facilities and activities, and managing the effects of climate change.

- Implementing the Justice 40 Initiative pilot project at the EM Los Alamos Field Office.

The full set of EM 2022 priorities can be accessed here.
[https://www.energy.gov/em/em-cy22-mission-priorities]

EM CY22 MISSION AND PRIORITIES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

MISSION STATEMENT:

To complete the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy brought about from decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research.

PRIORITY #1: ACHIEVE SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION MILESTONES

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- Begin construction of K-East Reactor Cocooning Enclosure at Hanford
- Begin construction of the AMC Facility at Savannah River
- Complete all concrete placements for SDU-9 at Savannah River
- Complete construction of New Filter Building for SSCVS at WIPP

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- Begin tank waste pre-treatment at Hanford through TSCR operations
- Complete processing of 100 sodium-bearing waste containers at the IWTU at Idaho
- Complete all Subsurface Disposal Area buried waste remediation at Idaho
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- Begin hot cell processing of the high-activity uranium-233 inventory at Oak Ridge
- Install equipment to support Los Alamos transuranic waste removal from WCS
- Complete 30 shipments of transuranic waste from Los Alamos to WIPP
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- Transfer former Biology Complex footprint at Oak Ridge to NNSA

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- Award new Hanford Integrated Tank Disposition Contract
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- Issue 2022-2032 Update of EM Strategic Vision and New EM Program Plan
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- Update climate vulnerability assessments for all EM sites

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Thursday, January 13, 2022

WVDP improves rail line to support safe, efficient waste disposal

Using a small excavator, workers replace railroad ties along a track within the West Valley Demonstration Project used to ship waste offsite for disposal. A railroad engineering company inspects the rail line annually, and employees at the site also assess the line each month to ensure it operates effectively.

Photo provided

By Olean Times Herald staff

WEST VALLEY — The Department of Energy and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) have replaced six railroad ties along nearly 8,000 feet of track within the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) following an annual inspection.

DOE resumed using the rail line in June to ship waste offsite for disposal. Shipping the waste by rail enhances safety by reducing vehicle traffic associated with completing the shipments via truck.

“The rail line will be used for the future demolition of the Main Plant Process Building and future cleanup work at the site,” said Linda Michalczak, CHBWV projects manager. “This rail line will continue to play an important role in the present and future cleanup of the site.”

Train shipments increase efficiency by allowing more material to be shipped compared to trucking. The train shipments also cost less than truck shipments, saving taxpayer dollars.

“It represents a better method for waste disposition that’s safer and more efficient,” Michalczak said. “It will ultimately accelerate remediation efforts in the future.”

The project is shipping tens of thousands of cubic feet of soil crews had removed to make way for a unique groundwater treatment system that has been constructed. A structure used to store that soil also will be shipped for disposal by train.

WVDP worked with the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Railroad (BPRR) Administration to rehabilitate the Western New York Nuclear Service Center rail spur and BPRR’s main line prior to WVDP’s use. The WVDP continues to maintain the track inside the service center’s perimeter.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL
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West Valley prepares for next signature achievement: Main plant demolition

Photo provided

Workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project prepare a section of a ventilation duct to be cut inside the Vent Wash Room. The room had been used to support former reprocessing cells inside the main plant process building.

Workers continue to reduce risks and prepare to deactivate the main plant process building for what will be the West Valley Demonstration Project's most complex demolition since crews knocked down the vitrification facility in 2018.

As part of the latest work, crews are removing a 26-inch-diameter ventilation duct that carried exhaust from past operations at the MPPB. They are performing the work remotely to reduce exposure risk.

"The effort in the vent wash room involves extensive planning and deliberate execution to perform the work safely and compliantly," Steve Bousquet said, EM WVDP deputy federal project director for the Main Plant. "The WVDP team continues to reduce legacy risks while protecting employees, the public and the environment."

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The vent wash room had housed a ventilation “scrubber” that removed airborne particulates resulting from fuel reprocessing operations that ceased in 1972. The location supported former reprocessing cells inside the MPPB.

EM and prime contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley have completed 14 of 28 cuts to the ventilation duct and removed seven of 19 sections of the duct from the vent wash room. Prior to this work, crews constructed a containment tent above the work area and an access door to support the project.

“Close work activities like this involve teamwork and sharing lessons learned throughout the process,” Tom Dogal said, CHBWV facility disposition manager. “The WVDP team used employee feedback to further improve execution while also adhering to enhanced COVID-19 protocols.”

Several other areas within the MPPB – including the product purification and chemical process cells, and a fuel receiving and storage facility – sent exhaust to the vent wash room through the ductwork. The exhaust was then directed to a ventilation exhaust cell where it was filtered before being discharged to the plant’s stack.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 14, Issue 2 | Jan. 18, 2022

EM Sets Aggressive Goals With 2022 Priorities to Advance Cleanup Mission

EM has established its key priorities for calendar year 2022, covering planned cleanup, project construction, acquisition and other important accomplishments to advance EM's environmental and risk-reduction mission.

"Our many accomplishments in 2021 positioned EM to achieve an equally challenging slate of priorities in 2022," EM Senior Advisor William "Ike" White said. "Our 2022 priorities underscore our goals to accomplish cleanup that is safe and protective of our workforce, the public and the environment, and in a manner that is transparent to the communities that host and support our sites."

Completing demolition of the X-326 process building at the Portsmouth Site, pictured here, is among the EM Calendar Year 2022 Priorities.

The EM Calendar Year 2022 Priorities sets objectives at sites across the nation and for the program, including:

- Completing cold commissioning of the first melter at the Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant and beginning operation of the Tank-Side Cesium Removal system at the Hanford Site in Washington state, essential steps toward the treatment of tank waste at that site.
- Processing the first 100 liquid waste containers as operations begin at the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit, a major milestone at the DOE Idaho National Laboratory Site.

- Beginning construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative in Aiken, South Carolina, a key facility near the Savannah River Site that will enable the U.S. Department of Energy to partner with industry and academia on the development of technology to benefit environmental cleanup and national security missions.
- Completing 30 shipments of transuranic waste from the EM Los Alamos Field Office to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico.
- Completing demolition of Building X-326 at the Portsmouth Site in Ohio, making the former uranium enrichment facility the first of three massive structures to be torn down at the site.
- Completing removal of another 1 million tons of uranium mill tailings from the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project in Utah, moving the site to a cumulative 13 million tons of tailings relocated away from the Colorado River and into an engineered disposal facility.
- Awarding the Hanford Integrated Tank Disposition Contract, the largest single contract that EM will award for cleanup activities.
- Updating climate vulnerability assessments at all EM sites, a commitment to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas impacts from EM facilities and activities, and managing the effects of climate change.
- Implementing the Justice 40 Initiative pilot project at the EM Los Alamos Field Office.

The full set of EM 2022 priorities can be accessed here.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

EM Update | Vol. 14, Issue 2 | Jan. 18, 2022

EM CY22 MISSION AND PRIORITIES

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Energy Communities Alliance

Local concerns. National impact.

ECA Update

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

New EM site 101 videos featured on ECA webpage capture history, cleanup mission status

***DOE-EM + ECA Staff* | 1/19/2022**

The Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (DOE-EM) recently released new five-minute "site 101" videos. The videos provide a brief history and the current cleanup mission status at EM's active cleanup sites, and may be found on ECA's Site Profiles webpage [http://www.energyca.org/site-profiles].

The following seven EM site 101 videos are currently available:

- Hanford
- Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action Project
- Nevada National Security Site
- Oak Ridge
- Paducah
- Portsmouth
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

The videos premiered Dec. 7-9, 2021 at the National Cleanup Workshop [https://www.cleanupworkshop.com/]. Five additional site 101 videos are currently in production.

The clips begin with introductory remarks from Nicole Nelson-Jean, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations at EM, before launching into an overview of the former weapons complex. Each video then narrows in focus on one of the 16 remaining active cleanup sites.

ECA Update

The videos are also highlighted on new site-specific webpages [https://www.energy.gov/em/cleanup-sites] that provide a “one-stop shop” for high-level information about each site. They may also be found on the EM webpage [https://www.energy.gov/em/office-environmental-management].

Follow the latest DOE budget updates with ECA's budget tracker

Monitor DOE spending bills, detailed site budgets, and more.

Find everything you need to know about the DOE budget here!

[http://www.energyca.org/budget-tracker]

Department of Energy Budget & Appropriations Highlights*

(amounts in thousands of dollars)

	FY 2021 Enacted	FY 2022 Request	FY 2022 House Approp.	FY 2022 Senate Approp.
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	38,592,625	46,189,430	45,126,500	44,987,751
Environmental Management	7,569,390	8,011,670	7,757,393	7,756,863
Defense Environmental Cleanup	6,426,000	6,841,670	6,592,000	6,810,000
Hanford Richland	926,100	926,897	926,897	939,026
Office of River Protection	1,645,000	1,540,642	1,645,000	1,645,300
Idaho National Laboratory	433,500	369,583	433,500	369,583
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory	1,764	1,806	1,806	1,806
Separations Process Research Unit	15,000	10,000	15,000	15,000
Nevada NNSA Sites	60,737	60,737	79,737	80,737
Sandia National Laboratory	4,990	4,576	4,576	4,576
Los Alamos National Laboratory	226,000	275,119	275,119	275,119
Los Alamos Excess Facilities D&D	0	58,381	17,000	17,000
Oak Ridge Reservation	475,383	424,244	475,383	424,244
Savannah River Site	1,531,699	1,581,775	1,587,641	1,581,775
Carlsbad Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	413,269	430,424	430,424	430,424
Non-Defense Environmental Cleanup	322,200	336,660	333,863	336,963
West Valley Demonstration Project	88,113	88,120	88,120	88,120
Gaseous Diffusion Plants	115,554	116,203	116,203	121,203
Small Sites	110,983	129,337	124,340	124,340
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination & Decommissioning Fund	841,000	831,340	831,340	860,000
Oak Ridge	134,701	105,000	105,000	105,000
Paducah	240,000	198,995	198,995	240,000
Portsmouth	430,332	467,346	467,346	467,346
Legacy Management	163,059	425,730	175,730	175,730
National Nuclear Security Administration	19,732,200	19,743,000	20,193,000	20,041,000
Weapons Activities	15,345,000	15,484,295	15,484,295	15,484,295
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation	2,260,000	1,934,000	2,340,000	2,264,000
Naval Reactors	1,684,000	1,860,705	1,866,705	1,840,505
Nuclear Energy	1,507,600	1,950,505	1,675,000	1,550,800
Science	7,026,000	7,440,000	7,320,000	7,400,000
Nuclear Waste Disposal	27,500	7,500	27,500	27,500

* These figures are compiled from different sources: the Office of Management and Budget, Congressional Appropriations Committee reports, DOE budget justifications, and various press releases. There are some discrepancies in how each source calculates government spending.

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West Valley to complete teardown of seventh main plant support facility

Photo provided

Workers start the demolition of the load-in facility at the West Valley Demonstration Project, which is the last of seven ancillary support buildings that have been demolished at the site.

Crews are set to complete the 69th building demolition at the West Valley Demonstration Project early this year when they finish knocking down the seventh structure standing that supported operations at the former main plant process building.

Workers recently began the demolition of the load-in facility, the last ancillary support structure that surrounds the main plant process building. The 4,500 square foot building has been used for several purposes over the years and is no longer needed for current or future cleanup activities. To date, the following ancillary support structures have been removed from the site's footprint: contact size-reduction facility, manipulator repair shop, main plant office building, utility room building, utility room extension and laundry facility.

The load-in facility is a two-floor structural steel building with metal siding and roof. It was first used to store and inspect empty High-Level Waste stainless steel canisters before they were filled with HLW glass during vitrification operations (solidifying high-level liquid radioactive waste into glass). It was later used during the HLW Relocation Project which removed the HLW canisters from the main plant process building to an onsite storage area; and then as an area to stage equipment for decontamination and demolition of the vitrification facility.

DOE Deputy Federal Project Director for the Main Plant Stephen Bousquet commended the team for its work.

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"The work of our team of dedicated employees continues to change the landscape and footprint around the main plant process building," Bousquet stated. "I continue to be impressed by the accomplishments of our team as we move forward to the future demolition of the main plant."

John Rendall, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM's cleanup contractor, said employees used their combined knowledge and lessons learned to safely plan and begin this demolition.

"The CHBWV team continues to make great progress towards the demolition of these historically significant facilities at West Valley. Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and environmentally-sound manner."

The WVDP is located about 35 miles south of Buffalo. The Project is conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy in cooperation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC manages and operates the WVDP under contract to DOE. The CHBWV team is comprised of Jacobs, BWX Technologies and the Environmental Chemical Corporation.

Ashford board hosts 2022 organizational meeting

Max Borsuk

Editor

The Ashford Town Board, at its Jan. 12 meeting, made its annual appointments and approvals to start the new year at its annual organizational meeting for 2022.

Appointments by the board included Patricia Dashnaw as water district clerk, Susan Feldman as the supervisor's bookkeeper, Larry Feldman as code enforcement officer, William King and Erin Parish as town historians, Jean I. Kwasnik as deputy town clerk/registrar and justice court clerk, Frances Engels as justice court clerk, King as budget officer, H. Michael Parish, Kasey Cummings and Todd Miller as constables to 2023, John Syms as dog control officer, Angela Ghani as deputy supervisor and Jason Foley as deputy highway superintendent.

The board also approved to change the time of regular town board meetings to 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of April which will be held on Tuesday, April 12. Other approvals from the board included the Springville Journal as the town's official newspaper, board member committee appointments and salaries for town officials.

After the organizational meeting, the town board transitioned into its regular board meeting. Supervisor John Pfeffer reported the new streetlights at the intersection of Route 219 and Peters Road are set to be installed by Jan. 21.

In other board news:

– Highway Superintendent Keith Butcher reported a new employee has been hired and has been working out great so far.

– The board approved to advertise for Spring trash pickup to start May 2.

The next Town of Ashford board meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.