

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

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Vitrification demolition 72 percent complete

ASHFORD—As work continues on a number of projects throughout Ashford, the town board heard updates on a proposed solar facility as well as the decommissioning work at the West Valley Demonstration Project at a meeting June 13.

Over the past few years, the Town of Ashford has been working with the New York State Energy Research and Development Agency to build a solar farm on the Western New York Nuclear Service Center property. Recently, an agreement between the town and NYSERDA has been drafted for the town's use of the property, NYSERDA West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia said.

Along with the agreement, NYSERDA has completed its detailed information package to be sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for their evaluation of the project, which will be sent in the coming week.

At the West Valley Demonstration Site, crews continue to remove legacy waste from the site. Currently, there is around 5,000 cubic feet of legacy waste remaining on the site, which should take less than 10 shipments to get rid of and be completed in around a month, WVDP Director for the U.S. Department of Energy Bryan Bower said.

Demolition of the vitrification facility is around 72 percent complete and should be finished late summer or early fall. While the winter weather put them behind schedule, Bower said the recent good weather has allowed crews to make up some of that lost time.

Decommissioning work on the main plant is currently around 88 percent completed. Bower said after looking at the main plant with the contractor, it was decided to take down the facilities attached, but push the actual demolition of the main plant until the next contract.

“We will still be getting the utility room, the utility room extension, the load out facility, the office buildings and all those things attached to the main plant, but the core of the plant we are going to push out to the next contract,” Bower said.

With the term of the town’s assessor expiring in October 2019, Supervisor Charles Davis introduced a resolution to enter into a partnership with Cattaraugus County for all assessment functions to start in January 2019. After discussion, councilmembers John Pfeffer and Richard Bernstein, along with Davis, voted to go with the Cattaraugus County assessing, while councilmembers Jean Bond and William Heim voted no.

In other board news:

- Heim and Bond thanked the residents for starting to clean up their properties of dilapidated buildings and cars and hopes the trend continues to grow with more residents.
- The board approved a proclamation honoring resident June Churchill’s 100th birthday.
- Planning Board President Andrea Mellon reported they are researching signage designs for the Community Revitalization matching grant from Cattaraugus County, as it was determined that a lack of signage was noticeable for travelers.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.