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## WVDP hosts International Decommissioning Network

06-29-2018



WEST VALLEY – The West Valley Demonstration Project recently hosted the United States meeting for members of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s International Decommissioning Network Steering Committee. This IDN group included members from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, UK, the United States and the IAEA Secretariat.

“We were honored to have hosted the IDN at our EM site,” WVDP Director Bryan Bower, said. “Their work on decommissioning and remediation is important to West Valley, as well as other EM sites across the country.”

During their visit, IDN members toured the site and met with representatives from DOE, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the prime contractor CHBWV to learn more about the site’s history, current cleanup efforts, and future activities.

“The Steering Committee was very appreciative of both DOE and CHBWV senior personnel for their hospitality, participation and group discussions on lessons learned. The tour and project presentations provided an outstanding level of understanding of the West Valley cleanup program and how the work being done there relates to the IDN’s mission objectives” Andrew Szilagy, Director of EM’s Office of Infrastructure, Deactivation and Decommissioning Network; and co-chair of the IDN Steering Committee said.

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The IDN was launched at an IAEA conference in September 2007 involving its Departments of Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Safety and Security and Technical Co-operation. Its purpose is three- fold; to create awareness of decommissioning needs and priorities, promote implementation of safe, timely and cost-effective decommissioning and enhance training and the sharing of experience.

“Meetings like this one are aimed at taking advantage of a diversity of knowledge and experience from people involved in a senior capacity in a wide range of decommissioning programs to unlock impactful solutions to decommissioning activities,” Con Lyras, IDN Chair said. “Ultimately, the IDN strives to create an environment that fosters open and efficient worldwide sharing of practical and effective decommissioning experiences that lead to safe, economic, and timely dismantlement of disused nuclear facilities.”

“In sharing knowledge across country borders, the IDN looks to attract additional resources to the field to help accelerate the pace of decommissioning activities worldwide. Essentially, the IDN is a global ‘community of practice’ for decommissioning professionals focused on increasing visibility and leveraging learning for effective decommissioning solutions,” Patrick O’Sullivan from the IAEA Secretariat said.

The IAEA was created in 1957 as the world’s “Atoms for Peace” organization within the United Nations family following an initiative by President Eisenhower. It continues to work for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology. Its key roles contribute to international peace and security, and to the United Nations goals for social, economic and environmental development.