

OLEAN TIMES HERALD



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

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

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

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

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

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

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