

WVDP shares equipment with SPRU resulting in cost savings



Photo provided

A transport truck delivers an excavator to the West Valley Demonstration Project for use in demolition activities.

Two Department of Energy Environmental Management sites have saved more than \$1.8 million by sharing heavy-duty equipment for large demolition activities, and the savings continue to grow.

In December, workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York received an excavator from the EM program at Separations Process Research Unit in Niskayuna. EM workers at SPRU also delivered a heavy-duty hydraulic hammer and shears to the site in October. EM received two larger excavators at WVDP last week under this arrangement.

“Working together, these two DOE-EM sites found a way to increase cost-savings. Many times, innovation results just from thinking differently about how we conduct our business, and this is a good example,” EM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Gilbertson said.

“West Valley and SPRU figured that out in this case. We need to continue our efforts to enhance safety, reduce risks, and increase cost-effectiveness,” Gilbertson continued.

WVDP shares equipment (continued)

Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM’s cleanup contractor, commended the team for its work.

“Sharing equipment and lessons learned between sites is a formula for success,” Anderson said. “Our employees will continue to work with other EM sites in reducing risks in a safe, cost-effective and environmentally compliant manner.

The equipment will be used in the demolition of five ancillary structures surrounding the main plant process building and 19 other facilities at WVDP including trailers, an old sewage treatment plant and water and septic tanks.

“This is a collective effort by everyone involved,” Steven Feinberg, EM’s SPRU federal project director said. “Cost savings and increased productivity among DOE’s EM sites are the results of working together.

“We are glad to be a part of this initiative.”

Work continues at WVDP in 2019

Max Borsuk Staff Reporter



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 2019 as crews continue work on the site.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC crews continue working through their four milestones as they continue to complete phase one of decommissioning the West Valley Demonstration Site. An accomplishment for 2018 was completing its second of four milestones – the disposal of legacy waste – seven months ahead of schedule. Workers are looking to make further progress on other milestones this year.

“The CHBWV team continues to perform its work in a safe and compliant manner,” CHBWV Communications Manager Joseph Pillittere said. “The completion of this work further changes the landscape and footprint of the WVDP site and is a reminder of the ongoing progress here.”

Work continues at WVDP in 2019 (continued)

Milestone three for CHBWV is to complete the demolition and removal of the main plant process building and vitrification facility. Workers were able to complete the demolition of the vitrification facility in 2018 and a goal for 2019 will be to complete the disposition of the vitrification waste.

While the demolition of the main plant is currently delayed until the next contract, CHBWV will be demolishing the remaining five support buildings around the main plant and disposing of the demolition waste.

The fourth milestone at the WVDP consists of the disposition of remaining site facilities, completing site operations, maintenance and utilities at the site. CHBWV workers have demolished and restored the areas for 28 of 47 facilities; plans for 2019 include completing the demolition for another 15 sites.

“We are getting the work done, reducing the environmental risks, making the footprint here smaller and preparing the site for the next part of cleanup efforts,” Pillittere said. “Everything we do here is going to benefit the future cleanup efforts.”

Helping the community along with the decommissioning work has always been a goal of CHBWV. CHBWV supported a variety of initiatives in 2018 including collecting 108,000 pounds of food in its annual food drive, donating \$18,000 to the United Way and other community donations to West Valley Fire District #1, Bertrand Chaffee Hospital and Mercy Flight, with plans to continue community support in 2019.

“When you are in a community, you want to be a part of the community and one way to be a part of that community is finding ways to make a difference,” Pillittere said. “We want to be a part of that community and want to be a good neighbor.”

Safety is something stressed at the West Valley Demonstration Project on a daily basis and workers look to continue their positive track record into this year. Pillittere appreciates all the hard work and safety precautions the CHBWV crews have accomplished in 2018 and he hopes to continue that trend with the 2019 projects.

“It is all about safety. If we are not safe then we are not productive,” he said. “Our workers enjoy what they do and there is a sense of pride when we can look at something, plan for it, put everything in place, have the right tools and you go in and complete that job.” Photo provided The West Valley Demonstration Project site.