

EM Contractors Recognized for Safety Excellence



Dae Chung, far right, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance, presents the DOE Voluntary Protection Program Star of Excellence award to John Rendall, far left, deputy general manager for CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), EM [West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) cleanup contractor; and James Wilkinson, with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers – Local 2401, which represents a portion of CHBWV employees, at a recent employee safety recognition picnic at [WVDP](#).

At EM's [West Valley Demonstration Project Site](#), Dae Chung, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Security, and Quality Assurance, presented employees with contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley with the Star of Excellence award during a recent visit to the site.

“The safety and health of our employees, both contractor and federal, are the highest priorities for the Department,” Chung said.



WVDP first received the Star of Excellence award in 2000, the second DOE site to receive the honor after EM's [Waste Isolation Pilot Plant](#). WVDP has received the award every year since. Next year will mark 20 years that WVDP has flown the VPP flag over the site. WVDP also was the first DOE site to receive the Legacy of Stars award.

"It is my honor to present this award to the WVDP in recognition of your ongoing commitment to safety," Chung said. "I look forward to your continued success."

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Agency's Reuse of Equipment Leads to \$1 Million Savings for West Valley



Cleanup equipment leaves EM's [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) Site for a six-hour trip to its new home in Messena, New York for reuse by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. WVDP is transferring the specialized piece of equipment to the corporation, which maintains a portion of the seaway between the Port of Montreal and Lake Erie within the U.S.



WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) Site will achieve \$1 million in savings by transferring cleanup equipment for reuse by a U.S. agency that operates facilities on the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

The transfer allows WVDP to avoid the time and expense of disposing of the equipment as waste. [West Valley](#) crews had used the equipment to lift and move 86.5-ton concrete casks containing waste canisters [in a project successfully completed in 2016](#), a year ahead of schedule. In that project, workers relocated nearly 280 canisters of vitrified high-level waste from the site's Main Plant Process Building to an onsite interim storage pad, a necessary step to support the building's eventual demolition.

"Sharing highly specialized equipment like this that we no longer need at [West Valley](#) helps save money for taxpayers and the government," EM [WVDP](#) Director Bryan Bower said. "It will save the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation time and money because the equipment is already built, tested, and used, even with minor retrofitting for our application."

[WVDP](#) workers helped load the equipment into a truck to transport to the corporation, which is an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation that operates and maintains the U.S.-owned and operated facilities of the joint U.S.-Canadian Seaway. The corporation's operations are located at two U.S. seaway locks in Massena, New York.

"This cost savings is the result of employee engagement, innovation, and commitment in getting work done safely and maximizing resources," said Scott Anderson, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, the [WVDP](#) cleanup contractor. "I am confident that our employees will continue this effort as we further reduce legacy risks at the site."

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