

West Valley Demonstration Project completes annual food drive

Max Borsuk

WEST VALLEY – With many people in the local community in need of food this holiday season, the workforce at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** did their part to help the families this winter. The **WVDP** hosted its annual food drive, donating food to nine food pantries across the area.



Workers from the West Valley Demonstration Project drop off donations to the West Valley Food Pantry during its annual food drive.

During this year's food drive, each food pantry was able to get 44 turkeys and pallet filled with over 150 cases of food. The **WVDP** food drive donated food to its home pantry, the West Valley Food Pantry, along with food pantries in Little Valley, Cattaraugus, Dayton, Franklinville, Ellicottville, Delevan, Concord and the Trading Post in Springville. After this initial drive, the food pantries will also be getting additional donations later that were not able to be given during the initial drive.

"We try to support all our neighbors locally," WVDP Facility Manager and Food Drive Coordinator Lettie Chilson said. "For 20 years I've been directly involved with the food drive and every year, the need just doesn't go down and it's always amazing to see what the volunteers in our community are doing. So this little bit that we can help them to deliver those services is amazing."

Kris Aldrow, who runs the West Valley Food Pantry, said the donations from the **West Valley Demonstration Project** food drives have always been a big help for local families. The West Valley Food Pantry, which is open twice a month and located at the Ashford Town Barns on Fox Valley Road, normally serves around 12-15 families and helps provide meals each month for approximately 62 men, women and children.

“We couldn’t survive the year without their donations,” Aldrow said. “It makes it all possible for us to provide this service to the community. We are very grateful for all they do for us ... and I’m sure all the surrounding towns and other food banks are just as grateful as I am for their donations.”

As the workforce at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** continues their cleanup efforts at the site, helping with other initiatives within the community is something the crews at the **WVDP** strive for and the food drive is just one of their many ways of supporting the communities around them.

“The whole mission is to make this site better for the community in the future and we are just so blessed that we get to be a part of that mission and to be able to work here and be able to share that with the local community,” Chilson said. “[The food drive] dovetails into our mission.”

Reed’s bill for long term West Valley funding headed to Trump’s desk to be signed into law

Springville Journal Staff

WEST VALLEY – Rep. Tom Reed announced his bill to authorize \$75 million dollars a year for the **West Valley Demonstration Project** through 2026 to secure and remove nuclear waste from the site passed the Senate and is headed to President Trump’s desk to be signed into law.

“For the first time in more than 35 years, our friends and neighbors will have the peace of mind that the **West Valley Demonstration Project** cleanup is a top priority and has long term funding authorization from Washington,” Reed said. “We are proud to be an unrelenting advocate for **West Valley** and care about ensuring fair funding for the complete and total cleanup of this nuclear site. We are excited about this bill’s success as we ensure the health and safety of our environment in Western New York for years to come.”

“I would like to thank Congressman Higgins, members of the Energy and Commerce Committee and my colleagues in the Senate for their support of this bill,” concluded Reed.

Reed’s bill to authorize West Valley funding passed the House in March.

“The Department of Energy appreciates Congress’s action to reauthorize, for the first time, the **West Valley Demonstration Project** in New York state.” Under Secretary of Energy for Science Paul Dabbar said. “DOE is proud of the cleanup success that has been accomplished at the **West Valley** site, including the demolition last year of the former Vitrification Facility, which represented the largest and most complex demolition of a radioactively contaminated facility at the site to date.”

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“This is certainly good news for the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#),” Scott Anderson, CHBWW President and General Manager, said. “The authorization for funding at the \$75 million level supports the capacity to continue making good progress at the site, eliminating potential environmental risks, and reducing West Valley’s footprint and lifecycle costs. Our employees remain committed in performing cleanup activities in a safe and compliant manner, while protecting themselves, the public and the environment.”

“The Town of Ashford is extremely grateful to Congressman Tom Reed for his efforts in getting this legislation introduced and passed,” Town of Ashford Supervisor-Elect John Pfeffer said. “With dedicated funding and an understanding of possible disposal pathways, DOE, New York state and the Town of Ashford can now begin to better plan for the future of the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#). Without Congressman Reed’s determination and problem-solving attitude, The Town of Ashford would continue to have to fight for funding on an annual basis.”

Reed has worked with stakeholders, including the West Valley Citizen Task Force, to successfully achieve the goal of complete cleanup.