

Town of Ashford to be lead agency in West Valley Solar LLC Project

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Editor

The Ashford Town Board, at its June 10 meeting, approved a resolution for the town's notice of internet to act as the lead agency for the BQ Energy LLC/West Valley Solar LLC Project.

The project is a 10-megawatt photovoltaic facility consisting of two five-megawatt projects from BQ Energy LLC and its affiliate West Valley Solar LLC planned to be constructed and operate on 54-acres of land on either side of Buttermilk Road at the **Western New York Nuclear Service Center** in Ashford. Work would include the installation of solar panels, installation of ancillary and support equipment, a buried electrical line and access road and related improvements. The project will provide two-megawatts of community distributed electricity and eight-megawatts to larger users.

Councilman Charles Davis reported on updates at the site of the solar project. Archeologists and surveyors have been out at the property, with one of the next steps in the process being tree removal.

"We are on the path forward to get this thing done," Davis said.

In other board news:

– Supervisor John Pfeffer reported he will check with Cattaraugus County about obtaining signage to be placed at the entrances of the town advising people that there is a fine for littering or dumping of garbage.

– Pfeffer announced the town will not be renewing the COVID-19 state of emergency. The previous state of emergency expired on June 15.

– The board approved advertising that the town is accepting bids to install wooden side rails on the new pedestrian bridge on the east side of Route 240 in the hamlet between Depot Street and Felton Hill Road.

The next Ashford Town Board will be Wednesday, July 8 at 7:30 p.m.

West Valley continues progress during mission critical operations



Photo provided

Workers Darren Rhodes and Brad Schurr begin the installation of a weather protective cover on one of four high-integrity containers located in a secure storage area onsite.

Crews continued work on a smaller scale than usual while in an essential mission-critical operating posture at EM's [West Valley Demonstration Project](#). While deactivation and decommissioning operations were put on hold, workers completed critical compliance inspections, environmental monitoring, and other activities.

“The protection of our workers, the public and the environment has always been our core value,” EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “During our pandemic response, the [WVDP](#) team maintained our focus on safety and compliance, while continuing to advance our mission to eliminate legacy risks at the site.”

Employees installed a new hoist in the equipment decontamination room inside the main plant process building. This new hoist will be used for moving waste boxes and drums when the site returns to full operations; and crews resume deactivation work inside a former reprocessing cell there.

Crews also encapsulated the main plant office building concrete slab so it is no longer posted as an asbestos area.

Workers installed protective covers on four 69,000-pound high-integrity containers stored in a secure location onsite to protect them from water infiltration. Each HIC contained spent ion exchange resins and diatomaceous earth from the FRS water treatment system.

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Employees performed annual inspections of a dam onsite as part of environmental monitoring.

Workers installed new trailers onsite for use as breakrooms, locker rooms, offices and meeting areas to increase social distancing efforts. They also installed other upgrades to site infrastructure, such as Plexiglas® shielding and reconfiguring breakrooms and meeting areas, to further protect workers from the potential spread of COVID-19.

“Our team continues to use their combined knowledge to safely maintain the site during essential mission critical operations,” CHBWV President John Rendall said. “I’m proud of their efforts, accomplishments and in the work they continue to do on this project.”