

WVDP repurposes facility to support main plant demolition



Workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project safely remove a section of a concrete shield wall as part of modifications to a former waste storage facility. A new rollup door will be installed in the opening.

Photo provided

WEST VALLEY — **The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP)** is altering a former storage facility for use in processing waste during the demolition of the Main Plant Process Building.

“The modifications to this facility are a step towards the future demolition of the Main Plant Process Building,” said Bryan Bower, EM WVDP Director. “This work also saves taxpayers money by using this former storage facility for a different purpose and operation. The **WVDP** team is doing an excellent job in planning and executing this work.”

Operating from 1966 to 1972, the five-story, 350,000-square-foot main plant is a former commercial reprocessing facility that had been used to recover plutonium and uranium from spent nuclear reactor fuel.

September 29, 2021

EM and its **WVDP** cleanup contractor, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, modified the former waste storage facility by constructing an opening to accommodate a large fork truck for transporting waste containers in and out of the building. The waste will be shipped by rail for off-site disposal.

Workers removed sheet metal that covered the storage facility to expose an interior concrete shield wall, which they safely cut into sections for removal. They reinstalled the metal covering around the new opening, and a rollup door will be installed. Crews also will build entrances and exits for workers.

The 17,250-square-foot storage facility was constructed in 1987 for remote loading, placement, and shielded storage for approximately 20,000, 71-gallon square drums of waste generated from previous operations. Workers shipped the drums for off-site disposal in 2006 and 2007.

(Contact editor/reporter Kellen Quigley at kquigley@oleantimesherald.com.)

WVDP partners with sheriff's office for security training



Travis Radomski, Gregory Jacobs and Tage Soderlund are West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) security police officers (SPO) who recently completed basic security police officer training.

Photo provided

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WEST VALLEY — The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) recently conducted a graduation ceremony for three security police officers who completed a seven-week security training course through a first-time partnership with the local sheriff's office.

The officers, Travis Radomski, Gregory Jacobs and Tage Soderlund, would normally take the course at DOE's National Training Center (NTC) in Albuquerque, N.M. However, there was no space available for them at the center's basic security police officer training course this year due to a large number of new recruits from across the DOE complex requiring training.

As a result, the WVDP management team — which consists of representatives from EM, its cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) and security subcontractor Paragon Energy — developed a plan for the officers to be trained by instructors from Paragon and the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Office using facilities of the sheriff's office. The training plan was approved by the NTC.

"We understand the importance and benefit of having trained emergency responders working at West Valley," said Bryan Bower, EM WVDP director. "As trained and qualified officers, they now have increased responsibilities to protect the health and safety of our workers and the public. We appreciate their continued commitment and dedication to integrity, vigilance and helpfulness."

The three officers who completed the course had previously worked as unarmed security officers at WVDP. The course included firearm qualifications, defensive tactics, use of force, first aid and combat casualty care, improvised explosive device and bomb training, vehicle stops, DOE tactical doctrine, physical fitness and other required courses of study.

"Partnering with the WVDP on their security police officer training was an easy decision to make," said Sheriff Timothy Whitcomb. "We have partnered with them before and welcome future opportunities to work together to protect the site, workers and the public."

The sheriff's office training coordinator, bomb squad technician and special response team helped conduct the training.

"We recognize and celebrate this continued partnership and its successes," said Anthony Lechanski, acting security manager at WVDP. "Over the past couple weeks, our leaders trained, developed and mentored these employees and showed that this team has what it takes at all levels. It is because of the dedicated efforts of this small group of individuals that I humbly say, 'Thank you,' and look forward to what will be accomplished in the future."

Dave Schuman, CHBWV safeguards and security manager, said it was important for the WVDP management team to recognize the graduates for completing the training, and to show their families gratitude for their efforts.

"This training pushed these recruits both mentally and physically, and we applaud them for their commitment and perseverance," Schuman said.

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