

West Valley to complete teardown of seventh main plant support facility



Photo provided

Workers start the demolition of the load-in facility at the West Valley Demonstration Project, which is the last of seven ancillary support buildings that have been demolished at the site.

Crews are set to complete the 69th building demolition at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** early this year when they finish knocking down the seventh structure standing that supported operations at the former main plant process building.

Workers recently began the demolition of the load-in facility, the last ancillary support structure that surrounds the main plant process building. The 4,500 square foot building has been used for several purposes over the years and is no longer needed for current or future cleanup activities. To date, the following ancillary support structures have been removed from the site's footprint: contact size-reduction facility, manipulator repair shop, main plant office building, utility room building, utility room extension and laundry facility.

The load-in facility is a two-floor structural steel building with metal siding and roof. It was first used to store and inspect empty High-Level Waste stainless steel canisters before they were filled with HLW glass during vitrification operations (solidifying high-level liquid radioactive waste into glass). It was later used during the HLW Relocation Project which removed the HLW canisters from the main plant process building to an onsite storage area; and then as an area to stage equipment for decontamination and demolition of the vitrification facility.

DOE Deputy Federal Project Director for the Main Plant Stephen Bousquet commended the team for its work.

“The work of our team of dedicated employees continues to change the landscape and footprint around the main plant process building,” Bousquet stated. “I continue to be impressed by the accomplishments of our team as we move forward to the future demolition of the main plant.”

John Rendall, president of CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, EM’s cleanup contractor, said employees used their combined knowledge and lessons learned to safely plan and begin this demolition.

“The CHBWV team continues to make great progress towards the demolition of these historically significant facilities at **West Valley**. Our team continues to complete demolition work at the site in a safe and environmentally-sound manner.”

The **WVDP** is located about 35 miles south of Buffalo. The Project is conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy in cooperation with the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority**. CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC manages and operates the **WVDP** under contract to DOE. The CHBWV team is comprised of Jacobs, BWX Technologies and the Environmental Chemical Corporation.

Ashford board hosts 2022 organizational meeting

Max Borsuk

Editor

The Ashford Town Board, at its Jan. 12 meeting, made its annual appointments and approvals to start the new year at its annual organizational meeting for 2022.

Appointments by the board included Patricia Dashnaw as water district clerk, Susan Feldman as the supervisor’s bookkeeper, Larry Feldman as code enforcement officer, William King and Erin Parish as town historians, Jean I. Kwasnik as deputy town clerk/registrar and justice court clerk, Frances Engels as justice court clerk, King as budget officer, H. Michael Parish, Kasey Cummings and Todd Miller as constables to 2023, John Syms as dog control officer, Angela Ghani as deputy supervisor and Jason Foley as deputy highway superintendent.

The board also approved to change the time of regular town board meetings to 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, with the exception of April which will be held on Tuesday, April 12. Other approvals from the board included the Springville Journal as the town’s official newspaper, board member committee appointments and salaries for town officials.

After the organizational meeting, the town board transitioned into its regular board meeting. Supervisor John Pfeffer reported the new streetlights at the intersection of Route 219 and Peters Road are set to be installed by Jan. 21.

In other board news:

– Highway Superintendent Keith Butcher reported a new employee has been hired and has been working out great so far.

– The board approved to advertise for Spring trash pickup to start May 2.

The next Town of Ashford board meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.