

Plans for EM Progress Detailed in New Budget Document



A crew at the Y-12 National Security Complex at Oak Ridge conducts deactivation work inside Alpha-2, a former enrichment facility that dates back to the Manhattan Project. EM's budget request for fiscal year 2023 supports the transition to a greater focus on the cleanup of Alpha-2 and other high risk excess facilities at Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

[EM's budget request](#) for fiscal year 2023 will support advancements across the program complex, including progress on treating tank waste, skyline-changing building demolition, and initiatives to bolster cybersecurity, workforce development and outreach to communities, according to a newly released document.



The program's plans for continued progress in environmental cleanup are discussed in a detailed accounting that was provided to Congress last week. DOE's [490-page "congressional justification" book](#) for EM provides the most in-depth information about the program's plans for the next fiscal year.

"The FY 2023 investment of \$7,643,202,000 in discretionary budget authority will fund activities to maintain a safe and secure posture in the EM complex, while maximizing cleanup activities," according to the document. "EM is ready to effectively and efficiently utilize the resources the request provides to make significant progress."

Among highlights:

- At the [Hanford Site](#), the budget request is focused on work to begin hot commissioning and ramp up the capability of the Direct-Feed Low-Activity Waste Program. It also supports safe operations, including a robust tank integrity program at the site's tank farms to protect workers, the public and the environment, and meet regulatory commitments.
- At the [Idaho National Laboratory Site](#), the request continues operation of the Integrated Waste Treatment Unit to begin treating sodium-bearing tank waste, and supports spent nuclear fuel activities such as continued progress to meet a state milestone of moving all spent nuclear fuel out of wet storage by 2023.
- At [Oak Ridge](#), the budget request supports the transition to a greater focus on the cleanup of high risk excess facilities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Y-12 National Security Complex, following successful deactivation and decommissioning activities at the East Tennessee Technology Park.
- At the [Portsmouth Site](#), the request will support continued construction at the On-Site Waste Disposal Facility; completion of demolition of the X-326 process building; initiation of pre-demolition of the X-333 process building; and initiation of deactivation of the X-330 process building.
- At the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#), the budget request continues to support the ongoing demolition of the Main Plant Process Building, the highest hazard facility remaining on the site.

The budget request also provides a significant focus on cybersecurity activities, and on initiatives that make investments and advancements in equity to address the concerns of underserved communities.

"To advance cleanup, EM will utilize science-based approaches; apply best practices and lessons learned; identify, develop, and deploy practical technological solutions derived from scientific research; and look for innovative and sustainable practices that make cleanup safer, more efficient, and more cost-effective," according to the document.

Full details of the DOE budget request for EM are available [here](#).

West Valley, Seneca Nation Honor Mother Earth With Sunrise Ceremony, Walk



WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM's West Valley Demonstration Project \(WVDP\)](#) marked Earth Day this year by joining the Cattaraugus Creek Water Walkerz and Onondowaga' Water Protectors to pay tribute to Mother Earth and bring awareness to the importance of protecting the Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie watershed for future generations. Members of the Seneca Nation and local community and others gathered for a sunrise ceremony at [WVDP](#). As the sun rose, Maria Maybee, Seneca Nation tribal member and event coordinator, asked everyone to form a circle as a symbol of togetherness, and they shared prayers to thank Mother Earth for all she provides. Participants then walked several miles, ending on the Seneca Territory. A cleanup of Cattaraugus Creek took place the following day. "We enjoy the many offerings Mother Earth provides, from the water we drink, the fish, deer, and vegetables we eat. It is important that we protect these natural resources from harm, especially for future generations so they, too, can benefit from these offerings. Water is life," Maybee said. Pictured are participants in the sunrise ceremony.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

Emergency Services Organizations Receive \$90,000 in Donations From West Valley



West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) representatives recently presented checks to three local emergency services organizations for providing services to the **WVDP** site. From left are Paul Bembia, director of the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority**; Jennifer Dundas, EM WVDP safety and site programs leader; Bryan Bower, EM WVDP director; Eric Boberg, chairman of the West Valley Fire District #1 Board of Fire Commissioners; Derrick Miller, West Valley Fire District #1 commissioner; John Rendall, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) president and general manager; Dave Schuman, CHBWV safeguards and security manager; and Kevin Murray, CHBWV senior emergency management specialist.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – **EM** and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) joined the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)** to give \$90,000 in donations to Mercy Flight, West Valley Fire District #1 and Bertrand Chaffee Hospital on behalf of the **West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP)**.



The three organizations serve as valuable resources for WVDP employees and the surrounding community. The fire district, which handles fire and emergency services in the event of an incident, received \$80,000. The hospital, which provides medical support, and Mercy Flight, which maintains air ambulance service, received \$5,000 apiece.

“We understand the importance and benefit to our workforce for having trained emergency responders supporting the project,” said Jennifer Dundas, EM WVDP safety and site programs leader. “We appreciate their continued commitment and effort to protect the health and safety of our workers and the community. All three organizations ensure readiness at a moment’s notice, which makes a difference in the outcome of any emergency related situation.”

Paul Bembia, program director at **NYSERDA**, commended the organizations for their assistance. EM and CHBWV conduct cleanup at the site in cooperation with **NYSERDA**.

“The men and women who work and volunteer for these organizations play a vital role in providing care in emergency situations,” Bembia said. “Their partnership speaks volumes to their dedication and commitment to the site, but also to the community they serve. We thank them for their service.”

CHBWV President and General Manager John Rendall noted that the three emergency services organizations provide an extra level of care for all employees.

“Our employees are fortunate to have these dedicated organizations available should the need arise,” Rendall said.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere