



Sheibley running for trustee position in Gowanda - Observer Today

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Local/Region

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POSTED: March 16, 2009

GOWANDA - Carol A. Sheibley is seeking election to a two-year term as a Gowanda village trustee, one of two trustee positions in the March 18 village election. Sheibley served as village trustee from 1990 to 2002, 10 of those years as deputy mayor. She has been board member since March 2005.

She said, "I am and always have been a 'community person,' as well as a community volunteer. My volunteerism spans many years with Gowanda Recreation and with the Gowanda Volunteer Fire Department. I believe in affordable and accountable village government. My experience with and knowledge of village operations, the budget process, and village and general municipal law is advantageous for the taxpaying residents. My record shows that I am visible in the community and approachable if someone has a question. I feel the next few years will be very challenging at all levels of government including federal, state, county and at the local level. Well studied and well thought out financial decisions will be a must for 'economic survival.' I feel my experience will help me arrive at the correct decisions for village residents."

Sheibley served as fire commissioner for 11 years and as liaison to the Gowanda Recreation Commission for 12 years. She was a past member of the Gowanda Recreation Commission for 16 years before being elected to office in 1990. During her tenure in office, her responsibilities included buildings and general maintenance, public works, sidewalks, ordinances, garbage and recycling, lighting, playgrounds and beautification. Currently, she serves as deputy mayor. She is board liaison to recreation, code enforcement, solid waste and recycling, and the TLC Network. During the spring and summer of 1996, she served as village board liaison to the New York State Department of Transportation Route 62/39 road reconstruction project, and in 1998 to the Broadway Road Project. She also served as a member of the Collins/Gowanda Master Plan Committee, village audit committee and currently reviews bank reconciliations. She is a member of the Cattaraugus Creek Basin Task Force. She worked cooperatively for the infrastructure grant to retain the Gowanda Electronics Corporation in the village.

During her tenure on the village board, she was instrumental in grant application and realized over \$900,000 for village projects including water line replacements, Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, sidewalks/curb corner replacement, Walnut Street storm drainage, FEMA funds due to the 1998 flood, and a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation grant for Change Hu Park. She recently assisted with the Community Development Block Grant application for generators for the village water department. The village was awarded \$90,000 for this project.

As Gowanda Recreation Commissioner, she brought the Food for All, federally funded food program, available to all school age children, to the Gowanda Recreation playground site. In 2006, she was instrumental in obtaining funding for a sign for the Hidi Playground and was instrumental in restoring state funding for the recreation programs. Also, in 2006, she obtained funding through Erie County Legislator John Mills office, and the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation for four new entrance signs for the village.

In 2008, Sheibley assisted with the Cattaraugus County Bicentennial Wagon Train project as a village committee member and spearheaded the villages contribution to the Cattaraugus County time capsule from the Village of Gowanda.

Sheibley is a seven-year member of the Gowanda Volunteer Fire Department, three years as past treasurer, and currently holds the office of treasurer for Hidi Hose 4. She served as an active member of the Southwestern Volunteer Fireman's Association Convention Committee 2002-2004 and served as treasurer. She is a member of the Gowanda Fire Department Marching and Cadence Unit and is an active volunteer for all fund-raising activities. In 2003 and 2004 during her first two years as a department member, she was a top 10 responder. In 2005, Ms. Sheibley was named "Fireman of the Year" "I enjoy what I do in the fire department. There are many excellent volunteers in our department helping those each day that are truly in need."

Sheibley graduated from Mary Manse College in Toledo, Ohio and holds a BA degrees in education and English. She completed her graduate work at State University of New York at Buffalo and Fredonia, and Findlay College in Ohio. An elementary physical education teacher for 34 years in the Gowanda Central School District, Sheibley is a retired member of the New York State United Teachers.

Sheibley has received two national awards. Both awards were presented for community service and involvement. In September 2000, Carol received the American Hometown Leadership Award presented to her in Washington, D.C. for her efforts and achievements as village trustee. For her efforts, the Village of Gowanda received a check for \$5,000. The National Catholic Education Association Award was presented to Sheibley on Jan. 30, 2002 in Fostoria, Ohio, where she attended elementary and high school. This award is presented to a graduate of a Catholic elementary school who reflects outstanding community commitment and service to her fellow man.

A Gowanda Chamber of Commerce "Spirit of Gowanda" Service Provider recipient, she was also selected Gowanda Business and Professional Women's "Woman of the Year" in 1996.

Memberships include Saint Joseph Church where she is a trustee, Eucharistic Minister, member of the parish council, St. Joseph school board, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, and Generations of Faith core team. She is a member of the Cattaraugus County Youth Board, the Collins Correctional Facility Community Advisory Board as past chair, past member of the Visitor's Hospitality Center Board of Directors at Collins Correctional Facility, **an alternate member of the West Valley Citizens Task Force**, Cattaraugus County Firemen's Association, and the Southwestern Volunteer Firemen's Association. Other memberships include Women of the Moose, Slovenian Club of Gowanda, and social member of American Legion Post 409, and VFW Post 5007.

Sheibley resides on Torrance Place in Gowanda.

03/18/09 06:52 AM

WEST VALLEY

Groups offer help with comments on N-site cleanup

By Kathy Kellogg
CATTARAUGUS CORRESPONDENT

ASHFORD - ASHFORD — As a list of public hearings was announced Monday, several groups stepped forward to help the public prepare comments on the environmental impact studies for cleaning up and monitoring the nuclear wastes and facilities at a former commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing facility near West Valley.

The Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes will review an updated draft environmental impact study during a public meeting from 7 to 9 p. m. Tuesday in the Concord Town Hall at 86 Franklin Street in Springville.

Discussion will center on recent cost studies of full exhumation and assessments of the buried wastes, the erosion potential and public participation in the environmental review.

Also, the Citizens Environmental Coalition, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and the Center for Health, Environment and Justice are providing “Real Costs of Nuclear Waste Cleanup,” a study available at www.besafenet.com. For information, call Diane D’Arrigo at (301) 270-6477, Ext. 16, or Anne Rabe at (518) 732-4538. The U. S. Department of Energy released the draft environmental statement in November describing the agency’s preferred option for phased decision-making for cleanup and long-term stewardship over wastes on the site. It also outlines two alternatives, sitewide removal and sitewide close-in-place, along with a fourth option: no action.

“Decisions made with this impact process will affect the future of the 40-year-old West Valley facility and its radioactive waste,” said announcement by the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes.

A series of public hearings will be held to receive comments on the document. The first hour of each hearing will be devoted to public registration, viewing exhibits and examining informational materials. A presentation on the draft statement will follow. Finally, the public will be given a chance to provide oral comments, which will be recorded.

The first hearing will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p. m. March 30 in the Crowne Plaza Albany, at State and Lodge Streets, in Albany. A second hearing is scheduled in Western New York on Seneca Nation of Indians territory from 6 to 9 p. m. March 31 in the William Seneca Building, 12847 Route 438 in Irving.

Two more Western New York hearings are scheduled to follow: from 6:30 to 9:30 p. m. April 1 in the Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219 in Ashford, and April 2 in the City Campus auditorium of Erie Community College at 121 Ellicott St. in Buffalo.

Written comments will be accepted at the hearings or by fax, e-mail or U. S. mail through June 8. They may be mailed to Catherine Bohan, EIS Document Manager, West Valley Demonstration Project, U. S. Department of Energy, P. O. Box 2368, Germantown, MD 20874.

Submissions also can be e-mailed to www.westvalleyeis.com or sent by toll-free fax to (866) 306-9094. All submissions should be marked "Draft Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship EIS Comments."

For information on the draft statement, visit www.westvalleyeis.com or www.gc.energy.gov/NEPA.

Find this article at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/otherwny/story>

Buffalo News

03/21/09 07:04 AM

Everybody's Column

Seek sustainable energy, not more coal plants

I was astounded to read The News article, “Hopes rise for coal plant in Jamestown.” My hope is that coal plants will eventually disappear. Coal plants produce a huge amount of polluting emissions. Apparently this proposed plant plans to use a new technology to reduce emissions, by capturing the carbon dioxide and sequestering it underground.

First, this is a new and untested technology, and secondly, when considering the wisdom of putting waste materials into the ground, we need only look at the problems at West Valley—as yet unsolved.

There are a number of new technologies for producing sustainable energy— some still on the drawing board, but some being developed, and in use.

A recent television program, “Earth, The Sequel,” showed a gentleman stating, “I am not an environmentalist, I am a capitalist.” So it is happening now. Let us not develop new coal plants, but instead place our hopes on the development of sustainable energy.

Joan Herold

East Aurora

Buffalo News

03/24/09 06:50 AM

WEST VALLEY

Senecas endorse plan for radioactive waste cleanup

The Seneca Nation of Indians has endorsed a plan calling for the digging up and removal of all radioactive waste from the West Valley nuclear waste site in Cattaraugus County.

The nation agrees with a recent cleanup study that found removing toxic material from the site is the best way to ensure the health and safety of the population and ecosystem.

“We want this toxic and nuclear time bomb, which the [Seneca Nation] had nothing to do with, removed from upstream proximity to our lands,” Seneca President Barry E. Snyder Sr. said in a statement Monday announcing the tribe’s position. A spokesman said Seneca officials would not be available to comment beyond the statement.

The heavily contaminated 3,300- acre West Valley site is near Cattaraugus Creek, 17 miles upstream from the 2,500 or so Senecas who live on the Cattaraugus Territory.

Seneca officials say waste left at the site could leak and contaminate water that flows through nation territory, putting residents and wildlife at risk.

The study endorsed by the Senecas puts the cost of excavating the waste material at \$9.9 billion — costly but less expensive in the long term than other options.

This study was done by researchers at Synapse Energy Economics, Fredonia State College, Tufts University and Radioactive Waste Management Associates and released in December. A complete excavation of the radioactive waste at the site could take 70 years, the study found, but still is cheaper than permanently burying the waste.

Burying waste and maintaining the site could cost \$13 billion over the years—or up to \$27 billion if there is a major release of waste that contaminates the drinking water supply.

Soil erosion and instability are major concerns in the West Valley area, the Senecas contend.

“The Council of the Seneca Nation of Indians supports full cleanup of the entire West Valley nuclear site through waste excavation and the adoption of cleanup standards that are . . . fully protective of vulnerable populations, including children, fish, wildlife and water,” Tribal Council Chairman Richard Nephew said in the statement.

The state and federal governments have produced a draft report on cleanup options that favors a phased shutdown of the facility over 30 years. Part of the site would be cleaned up, but some buried radioactive material would be left behind.

The U. S. Department of Energy faces a June 8 deadline for submission of an updated draft environmental impact study of the site cleanup and closing options.

The West Valley Demonstration Project, 40 miles south of Buffalo in Ashford, opened in the 1960s as the country’s first facility for the commercial reprocessing of nuclear waste. The facility stopped processing the waste in 1972.

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Buffalo News, Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Another Voice / West Valley

Washington, Albany must remove all nuclear wastes

By Larry Beahan

Updated: 03/24/09 6:50 AM

The border between Erie and Cattaraugus counties is pretty country — forested hills cut by deep ravines. The snow pack is beginning to melt there. Dark tree trunks stand outlined against patches of snow on the forest floor. Fog shrouds the hollows. Occasional cabins peer through the woods.

Then at West Valley, out of the mist, looms a moonscape with an alien space station at its center, the Western New York Nuclear Service Center. In the next few months, state and federal governments will decide how much radioactive material to leave on this 3,300-acre ulcer.

My wife, Lyn, and I drove down Route 219 to West Valley on a rainy day in March. We crossed the roaring Cattaraugus Creek where Route 219 construction attempts have loosed a fault line that started it sliding into Zoar Valley. There, on Scobey Hill Road, a house is off its foundation, trees stand at odd angles and turf, undercut by mudslides, hangs over in a fringe. Geologically speaking, not long ago our beloved Boston Hills were a flat lake bed. Erosion is rapidly cutting it into this rugged terrain.

In the 1960s, nuclear fuel reprocessing sounded like a marvelous idea. Cattaraugus County had empty space and needed jobs. Nuclear energy was the power source of the future and reprocessing spent uranium would take care of its radioactive waste. From 1966 to 1972, Nuclear Fuel Services, a private corporation, reprocessed more than 600 metric tons of high-level uranium nuclear waste there. NFS got out of the business when radioactive leftovers of reprocessing leaked into nearby streams, when employee radiation exposure became a problem and when federal regulation tightened up. It walked away, leaving tons of high-and low-level nuclear waste that will be a threat to health for thousands of years.

The federal government and New York State are left with the cleanup and are now about to decide how thorough a job to do.

The nuclear site is on two plateaus divided by the eroding waters of Erdman Creek and surrounded by Franks and Quarry creeks. They join Buttermilk Creek and it pours into the Cattaraugus a few miles west. Radioactive waste has leaked into West Valley's ditches. It sends a plume of radioactive groundwater toward Buttermilk Creek. Buttermilk's 160-foot bluff, a few hundred yards away, has had a landslide. Plutonium has been found in Cattaraugus Creek behind Scobey Hill dam. There is the potential of polluting the waters of Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River with West Valley's poisons.

We wonder if, when we took the kids wading in Zoar Valley, they were in a dilute solution of Strontium 90.

Clearly it was a terrible mistake to put such a dangerous facility into such unstable terrain. The only conceivable answer now is complete removal of nuclear materials from West Valley.

Larry Beahan is conservation chairman of the Sierra Club Niagara Group.

EmpireStateNews.net, Tuesday, March 24, 2009

SENECA NATION, CATTARAUGUS TERRITORY – The Seneca Nation of Indians Monday endorsed and plans to advocate for the complete waste excavation of the West Valley nuclear site, located near Cattaraugus Creek just 17 miles upstream from Nation territory.

Economists and scientists recently released the first study on the long-term cleanup costs of the site, located south of Springville off Route 219. A New York State grant obtained by Sen. Catharine M. Young, R-Olean, resulted in the report, *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste: A Full Cost Accounting of Cleanup Options for the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site*. Conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, it involved experts from Tufts University, the State University of New York at Fredonia and Radioactive Waste Management Associates.

The study investigated the costs of digging up radioactive waste, versus leaving it buried on site, and found that a full waste excavation cleanup costs less, at \$9.9 billion. That method also presents the least risk to the surrounding population, compared to leaving buried waste on site, at a cost of \$13 billion. Leaving it on site also carries high risks to people, including a potential cost of \$27 billion or more if a catastrophic release of radioactive waste contaminated drinking water supplies, the study found.

“The Seneca people have long lived by the custom of considering how an action will affect Senecas seven generations from now. That is our way,” said President Barry E. Snyder Sr. “We want this toxic and nuclear time bomb, which the Nation had nothing to do with, removed from upstream proximity to our lands. As the study shows, such a move not only makes sense from health, security and safety perspectives, but from an economic one as well.”

The Tribal Council on March 14 authorized the president to inform federal and state authorities of the Nation’s stance.

► Senecas

Nation urges excavation of West Valley location

IRVING — The Seneca Nation of Indians has endorsed and plans to advocate for the complete excavation of nuclear waste at the West Valley Demonstration Project site.

The nuclear cleanup project is located just south of Springville, located near Cattaraugus Creek just 17 miles upstream from Seneca Nation territory west of Gowanda.

A New York state grant obtained by Sen. Catharine M. Young, R-Olean, funded a recently-released study by economists and scientists on the long-term cleanup costs of the site, "The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste: A Full Cost Accounting of Cleanup Options for the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site."

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to do with, removed from upstream proximity to our lands. As the study shows, such a move not only makes sense from health, security and safety perspectives, but from an economic one as well."

The Tribal Council on March 14 authorized the president to inform federal and state authorities of the Seneca Nation's stance.

The West Valley nuclear waste site is burdened with vast amounts of toxic and radioactive waste, much of which will remain radioactive for tens of thousands of years, some for millions of years.

These toxic elements include plutonium, uranium, strontium-90 and iodine-129, which can cause leukemia and cancer at low doses.

The West Valley site sits on top of a sole-source aquifer and has been plagued with problems, such as radioactive contaminated groundwater, and radioactivity from the site being found as far as 75 miles away at the mouth of the Niagara River at Lake Ontario.

Leaving buried radioactive waste on site poses a risk to the Nation and its people if controls fail and dangerous radioactive waste pollutes the creek, the Council resolved.

The Department of Energy faces a June 8 deadline for submission of an 800-page updated Draft Environmental Impact Study of the cleanup and closing options.

Three local hearings are to be held in the next few months on this plan. One will be March 31 at the William Seneca Building on the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Territory, 12837 Route 438.