

Springville Journal, Thursday, March 26, 2009

West Valley Claimants Hear Presentation on Occupational Illness Compensation Program

SEC Petition Counselor of National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Laurie Breyer visits Concord Town Hall

"I'm here tonight to talk to West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) workers, former workers, and surviving spouses about the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (EEOICPA) and the role of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) under the Act," said Laurie Breyer, SEC Petition Counselor of NIOSH.

"I am also here to answer any questions that you may have about a claim that you have made with NIOSH." Breyer was accompanied by Mark Lewis, with Advanced Technologies & Laboratories International, a NIOSH contractor and union outreach specialist.

On March 18, at the Concord Town Hall, about 12 members of the West Valley Nuclear Compensation Support Group (WVNCSG) came to hear Breyer discuss different parts of the compensation program, particularly explaining what is known as the dose reconstruction process and the Special Exposure Cohort (SEC) process, differences between the two, and how a claimant can file an SEC petition.

Breyer explained that dose reconstruction is an accepted scientific method used to estimate how much radiation an energy worker was exposed to while working at a Department of Energy work site such as the WVDP. When an individual makes a claim for compensation and benefits as a result of contracting a cancer-related illness as a result of occupational radiation exposure, or a qualified survivor of a deceased employee makes a claim, NIOSH is responsible for providing an estimate of the claimant's radiation dose for the Department of Labor (DOL). The DOL will in turn use the final dose reconstruction report to make a recommended decision on the claim.

The SEC refers to a category of employees established by the EEOICPA who worked at a specific site during a specified period of time, and who have any one of 22 cancers following exposure to radiation, beryllium, or silica.

Breyer also spent time listening and talking to individuals at the meeting about their own related issues and concerns, and answering questions.

"While the EEOICPA is complicated, NIOSH strives to provide claimants, advocates, and unions with information that will make the program more understandable and less complex. Outreach meetings like the one tonight are a great way to sit down with individuals on a one-on-one basis and explain the program in a way they can better understand," said Breyer.

More information can be obtained from the NIOSH website at www.cdc.gov/niosh/ocas. WVNCSG is still looking for individuals or widows or widowers of individuals who worked at the site from the 1960s to 2002 because, as Sue Klein, a deceased worker's widow says, "We are still fighting for everybody."

Springville Journal, Thursday, March 26, 2009

Vote for West Valley nuclear waste cleanup on April 1

Help protect Great Lakes and Western New York

Editor:

Help protect your drinking water, environment and community. We need you to testify at upcoming hearings on the West Valley nuclear waste site cleanup plan (described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement) released by the federal and state government.

The safest, most cost-effective cleanup is to dig up the waste. Economists and scientists found in a new study that leaving buried waste on-site at West Valley is very risky and expensive while a full waste excavation cleanup protects the Great Lakes, poses the least health risk and is a lower cost. The leaking site, 30 miles south of Buffalo, threatens Lakes Erie and Ontario, with tons of highly radioactive waste. The new study also found major erosion will plague the site in the near future resulting in high doses of radioactivity to future generations.

Will you help protect the Great Lakes and Western New York for future generations? Please testify in support of the safest cleanup - an immediate decision to dig up the waste so it cannot leak into our drinking water. Without public pressure, the Department of Energy will select their "preferred alternative," which is to wait up to 30 years on a final cleanup decision, while the deadly waste continues to spread underground. Here are more details on the hearings and fact sheets to help you with your testimony.

To help you prepare your testimony, we can send you a "Testimony Talking Points" Memo with a critique of the government's proposal, and a summary of the exciting new study revealing the real costs — economic, environmental and health — of the West Valley cleanup which found digging up the waste is the best plan.

Please contact us at dianed@nirs.org (301-270-6477 X16) or annerabe@msn.com (518-732-4538) and we will send you the packet. We also have sample West Valley Cleanup Resolutions and letters to the editor which succinctly summarize the issues. See the independent new cleanup study at www.besafenet.com

Please speak at the West Valley public hearings: March 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Albany, State and Lodge Sts., Albany; March 31, 6 to 9 p.m., Seneca Nation, William Seneca Bldg, 12837 Route 438, Irving; April 1, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley; April 2, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Erie Community College, City Campus Auditorium, 121 Ellicott St., Buffalo.

The deadline for public comments is June 8. (Send to Catherine.M.Bohan@wv.doe.gov) The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Decommissioning Plan are at www.wv.doe.gov.

Here are the proposed cleanup options:

- Sitewide waste removal - digging up or excavating waste with off-site disposal.
- Sitewide close in-place - leaving buried waste on site.
- Phased decision-making - (preferred DOE/State alternative). Very limited cleanup, and delay cleanup decision on most radioactive portions of site for up to 30 years.

Thank you. Together we can protect the Great Lakes region from the largest nuclear waste site in the state.

Barbara Warren, Citizens'
Environmental Coalition,
warrenba@msn.com

Diane D'Arrigo,
Nuclear Information and Resource Service,
dianed@nirs.org

Anne Rabe,
Center for Health, Environment and Justice,
annerabe@msn.com

03/28/09 06:41 AM

WEST VALLEY

Task force renews call for site cleanup

By Kathy Kellogg CATTARAUGUS CORRESPONDENT

ASHFORD — On the eve of next week's public hearings, an 18-member West Valley Citizen Task Force has restated its 1998 call for continued public involvement and full cleanup of all wastes left over from reprocessing 705 tons of spent nuclear fuel between 1966 and 1972 at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center.

The Task Force issued the statement Friday as its 18 members continued work on written comments for a June 8 deadline in the revised draft environmental impact statement for decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center.

Since its closing, the center saw completion in 2002 of the West Valley Demonstration Project's solidification of 660,000 gallons of high-level radioactive wastes into 275 glass rod canisters, along with removal of spent fuel rods, repackaging of stored wastes containing varying levels of radionuclides, and the removal or preparation for removal of a number of facilities.

The revised impact statement is an update of a 1997 draft that failed to lead to a final decision by federal agencies for a cleanup of the site.

Options for the site include waste removal, "close-in-place" actions, no action or the preferred alternative — beginning with a series of interim cleanup actions and studies over the next 30 years, resulting in the second decision phase at the end of that time.

"The protection of human health and safety and of the environment is paramount," says the Task Force statement.

The Task Force believes the site's "geologic, hydrologic and climate conditions" make it unsuitable for long-term, permanent storage or disposal of long-lived radionuclides, such as the site-wide close-in-place alternative.

The Task Force urges swift completion of the Phase 1 activities to speed the future cleanup decisions, but calls for the government's commitment to keep the public involved during future regulatory review and licensing decisions well into the second phase of site work and scientific assessments, if the preferred alternative is chosen.

The advisory group consists of representatives of the affected community and was formed in 1997 by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to expand public participation and assist in developing a closure option for the center.

The statement will be read Tuesday by Task Force member Tony Memmo of the Seneca Nation of Indians Environmental Protection Department during the first hearing in the area, which begins with a 6 p. m. materials review and a 7 p. m. presentation in the William Seneca Building on Route 438 in Irving.

Members Warren Schmidt and Judy Einach will read the statement at subsequent hearings: 6:30 p. m. Wednesday in the Ashford Office Complex, Route 219 in Ashford, and at 6:30 p. m. Thursday in the Erie Community College/City Campus Auditorium on Ellicott Street in Buffalo.

The Seneca Nation of Indians endorsed and plans to advocate for the complete waste excavation of the West Valley nuclear site, located near Cattaraugus Creek 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 state grant obtained by state 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 at Fredonia and Radioactive Waste Management Associates.

The study investigated the costs of digging up radioactive waste and weighed it against leaving the waste 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 Barry E. Snyder Sr., nation president. "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.

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 is the United States' only venture into commercial reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel, which was operated by Nuclear Fuel Services and resulted in a complete failure in 1972, with the company leaving and passing on cleanup responsibility to the U.S. government.

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. This demonstrates a potential for the leaking site to contaminate water flowing through the nation's territory and affecting the lives of the Seneca people.

The U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority proposed leaving buried waste on site, which would include high-level radioactive waste tanks. Federal and state agencies would also delay final cleanup decisions for up to 30 years. The federal 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 the plan, including March 31 at the William Seneca Building on the Seneca Nation's Cattaraugus Territory, 12837 Route 438.

The current options include removing some contaminated structures and radioactive sources of groundwater, an eight-year process. Others include the nation's choice, removing all radioactive waste over 64 years; burying nuclear debris and waste where it is, an option opposed by area residents, the state and Canadian governments; and doing nothing. "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 at least as protective as current New York State radiation standards and unrestricted use toxic standards, and are fully protective of vulnerable populations, including children, fish, wildlife and water," said Richard Nephew, Common Council chairman. "That the United States does not have a certified nuclear waste repository that can take and store these wastes is an issue that the Obama administration will have to settle soon."

Matters of Opinion

March 31, 2009

Enviro editorial: Clean up West Valley's radioactive wastes

Dig 'em up, move 'em out, dig 'em up, move 'em out, dig 'em up ...

Oops. Sorry, but the Rawhide theme just keeps running around the mental track on this one. Digging up the leftover radioactive wastes at West Valley and shipping them to a secure storage destination a lot less vulnerable to seismic faults and land slumps than the area south of Springville has been the editorial page's preference for years. Unfortunately, that's an expensive proposition in the short term, however much it would save in the long run, and jurisdiction disputes between the state and federal governments haven't helped.

There are public hearings this week on a draft environmental impact statement that would see some work done but a lot of the stuff left here under "active supervision," which means until they actually figure out what to do with it. In the meantime, contaminated groundwater plumes inch closer to the creeks that eventually feed into Lake Erie.

Wednesday's editorial page opines that that's not good enough, and gives you some information so you can opine too. Meantime, here's a summary of where we stand:

Dig 'em up, move 'em out, dig 'em up, move 'em out, dig 'em up move 'em out, Rawhide!

Posted at 01:24 PM in [Editorials](#)

Contamination reduction creates jobs

\$74 million to fund site clean up

Updated: Tuesday, 31 Mar 2009, 1:36 PM EDT

Published : Tuesday, 31 Mar 2009, 1:34 PM EDT

- U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer today announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded \$74 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to the West Valley Demonstration for waste disposal and site clean up. The \$74 million funding is part of a total of \$6 billion announced by the Energy Secretary Steven Chu today to accelerate environmental cleanup work and create thousands of jobs across 12 states. Funding for West Valley will construct a storage system for high-level waste canisters, demolish the former treatment facility and accelerate radioactive waste treatment and disposal activities to shrink the area of site contamination.

"It is critical that we effectively contain and dispose of the nuclear waste at West Valley," said Schumer. "These funds will construct a new storage system that will help contain the contaminated waste to ensure the safety of residents in the area. The clean up will also create jobs and provide an economic boost to the Western New York economy."

West Valley is the site of the first and, to date, only commercial reprocessing plant in the United States. After beginning operations in 1966 with a theoretical capacity to reprocess 300 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel per year, the facility processed a total of 640 tons of waste in six years before shutting down in 1972.

The West Valley Demonstration Project Act, signed into law on October 1, 1980, required that the Department of Energy be responsible for solidifying the high-level waste, disposing of waste created by the solidification, and decommissioning the facilities used in the process.

Today, to help fund waste clean up at the West Valley site, Senator Schumer announced that the West Valley Demonstration Project will receive \$74 million for the DOE to design and construct a storage system for high-level waste canisters and move high-level waste canisters from the former waste treatment facility to the new system, allowing the former treatment facility to be decontaminated and demolished earlier than planned. Funding will also be used to demolish former process buildings and install a system to prevent migration of groundwater contamination and accelerate radioactive waste treatment and disposal activities to shrink the area of site contamination.

The funding is part of a total of \$6 billion in new funding under ARRA to accelerate environmental cleanup work and create thousands of jobs across 12 states. These projects and the new funding are managed by the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management, which is responsible for the risk reduction and cleanup of the environmental legacy from the nation's nuclear weapons program, one of the largest, most diverse and technically complex environmental programs in the world.

The Energy Secretary and The West Valley Demonstration Project are responsible for the following tasks in association with waste treatment and disposal at West Valley:

Copyright Press release

Business First of Buffalo, Tuesday, March 31, 2009

DOE puts up \$74M for West Valley work

The [Department of Energy](#) will allocate \$74 million from the federal stimulus package for cleanup at the West Valley Demonstration project.

The award, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, was announced Tuesday by U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer. The West Valley money is part of a total of \$6 billion disclosed by the Energy Secretary Steven Chu to accelerate environmental cleanup work and create thousands of jobs across 12 states.

Funding for West Valley will be used to construct a storage system for high-level waste canisters, demolish the former treatment facility and accelerate radioactive waste treatment and disposal activities to shrink the area of site contamination.

The West Valley Demonstration Project Act, signed into law on Oct. 1, 1980, required that the DOE be responsible for solidifying the high-level waste, disposing of waste created by the solidification, and decommissioning the facilities — in existence since the 1960s — used in the process.

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 31, 2009

SCHUMER ANNOUNCES \$74 MILLION IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT FUNDING COMING TO WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP - WILL REDUCE SITE CONTAMINATION, CREATE JOBS

Economic Recovery Act Will Provide a Total of \$6 Billion Under Dept of Energy to Accelerate Disposal of Waste and Cleanup of Soil and Groundwater

Funding For West Valley Will Go Toward Construction of New Waste Storage System, Reduction of Site Contamination and Demolition of Former Facility

Schumer: Proper Containment and Disposal of Nuclear Waste at West Valley is Essential

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer today announced that the Department of Energy (DOE) has awarded \$74 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to the West Valley Demonstration for waste disposal and site clean up. The \$74 million funding is part of a total of \$6 billion announced by the Energy Secretary Steven Chu today to accelerate environmental cleanup work and create thousands of jobs across 12 states. Funding for West Valley will construct a storage system for high-level waste canisters, demolish the former treatment facility and accelerate radioactive waste treatment and disposal activities to shrink the area of site contamination.

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The Energy Secretary and The West Valley Demonstration Project are responsible for the following tasks in association with waste treatment and disposal at West Valley:

Solidifying, in a form suitable for transportation and disposal, the high level radioactive waste at the Center by vitrification or by such other technology which the Secretary determines to be the most effective for solidification

Developing containers suitable for the permanent disposal of the high level radioactive waste solidified at the Center

Transporting, in accordance with applicable provisions of law, the waste solidified at the Center to an appropriate Federal repository for permanent disposal in accordance with applicable licensing requirements, dispose of low level radioactive waste and transuranic waste produced by the solidification of the high level radioactive waste under the project

Decontaminating and decommissioning the tanks and other facilities of the center in which the high level radioactive waste solidified under the Project was stored

Buffalo News, Wednesday, April 1, 2009

What you can do to get in the debate . . .

Updated: 04/01/09 6:35 AM

Learn:

The draft West Valley environmental impact statment, e-mail links and other information are available at www.westvalleyeis.com.

A public hearing was held Tuesday on the Seneca Nation of Indians' Cattaraugus Reservation.

Another public hearing will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p. m. today in the Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley.

A third public hearing will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p. m. Thursday in the Erie Community College City Campus auditorium, 121 Ellicott St.

Voice your opinion:

Public comment is being accepted until June 8 on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning and/or Long Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center.

Comments may be mailed to Catherine Bohan, EIS Document Manager, West Valley Demonstration Project, U. S. Department of Energy, P. O. Box 2868, Germantown, Md., 20874, or sent by toll-free fax to 866-306-9094.

Write:

Join the issues discussion by posting a comment on this topic in our Matters of Opinion blog at www.buffalonews.com, or write a 200-word letter to the editor for possible publication on our op-ed page (lettertoeditor@buffnews.com or Everybody's Column, The Buffalo News, P. O. Box 100, Buffalo, NY, 14240).

Buffalo News, Wednesday, April 1, 2009

EDITORIALS: Remove nuclear wastes

Complete cleanup of West Valley site is the only real solution for WNY

Updated: 04/01/09 6:35 AM

One thousand years from now, there may not be a state of New York, a United States of America or anyone who could even read all the paperwork dealing with the Western New York Nuclear Services Center in West Valley.

What probably will be here is Lake Erie, a number of rivers that feed into it, people who depend on water from that lake and those rivers and, unless federal officials decide to do the right thing now, a large collection of highly toxic nuclear waste buried in—or leaking from—a 1,030-year-old dump site south of Buffalo.

Federal and state officials say they are leaning toward keeping the bulk of the nuclear waste buried where it is, promising to keep a careful eye on it, of course. But that's an option that ignores the mind-bogglingly long time that some of the West Valley waste will remain toxic.

A better idea—and, in the really long term, arguably a cheaper one—would be to dig up all the nuclear waste now, find a proper place to keep it for the really long term and remove a giant toxic land mine that could cause catastrophic damage to future generations and the entire Great Lakes ecosystem.

Of course, in the geologic time frames used to view such things, cleaning up the waste “now” could mean a deliberate remediation process that could take 70 years and cost almost \$10 billion. But, according to some independent analysis brought to bear on the subject, keeping the waste in place could cost \$27 billion over the long haul. And the cost, in money and in lives, would be much greater if there are repeated catastrophic leaks of toxic material that would poison the water supplies relied on by millions of people in the Great Lakes watershed.

The West Valley site has been a hot waste hot potato for state and federal officials for a long time. From 1966 to 1972, the site was the home of a nuclear reprocessing operation that ingested some 640 tons of irradiated materials from other atomic operations. The operation stopped when upgrades in federal standards proved too expensive for plant operators to meet, which left the federal government holding the bag for the waste that was later solidified by stirring it into melted glass.

A 1996 draft report on cleaning up the site didn't come to a conclusion on the best way to do it, and the problem was left to fester for another decade. Now the U. S. Department of Energy and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority are holding hearings and taking public comment on the matter.

According to the notice in the Federal Register, the preferred approach of the federal and state agencies is to remove some of the existing facilities and waste while leaving more of the leavings “under active management” while they continue to figure out what to do with all the poisons they've been left with.

But, environmental activists reasonably argue, the threat the waste poses to the surrounding areas, particularly its water supplies, already has begun and won't go away until the waste does. They point to the geologically unstable surroundings of the site, as frighteningly demonstrated by the recent landslides that have complicated the reconstruction of Route 219 in the area.

The more than 600 metric tons of solidified nuclear waste, plus toxic leaks that have already been detected in surrounding water supplies, is no gift for us to leave future generations. It will be expensive, and it will take time, but the best approach to the West Valley waste site is to remove it, completely, once and for all.

Updated: 04/01/09 07:02 AM

\$74 million will speed cleanup by three years, add 200 jobs

West Valley project gets stimulus boost

By Jerry Zremski
NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

WASHINGTON — The West Valley Demonstration Project will get \$74 million in federal stimulus funding — enough to speed up the facility's proposed cleanup by about three years and allow it to add as many as 200 new jobs, federal officials announced Tuesday.

The stimulus money means a huge onetime shot of funding for the Cattaraugus County nuclear storage facility, which is in addition to the \$80 million in federal money received this year and \$57 million last year to fund its routine operations.

The stimulus money, which is expected to be released shortly, will be used to design and build a storage system for 275 high-level nuclear waste canisters and move them out of the facility's old reprocessing building, which is scheduled for decontamination and demolition, federal officials said.

In addition, the money will be used to clean up left-over liquid waste at the plant, to demolish other buildings where waste was processed and to stop the flow of a plume of contaminated ground water on the site.

"These funds will construct a new storage system that will help contain the contaminated waste to ensure the safety of residents in the area," said Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N. Y.

The funding comes just as a series of public hearings is beginning on possible cleanup alternatives for the former commercial nuclear waste processing site.

While the long-term cleanup alternative preferred by the Department of Energy would take 30 years to complete, Bryan Bower, West Valley's director, said the stimulus funding could speed up the \$1 billion first phase of the cleanup by about three years while creating between 150 and 200 jobs.

"We are proud to be part of the president's plan to reinvest in America," Bower said. "With this additional funding, we can accelerate the important work at West Valley, while at the same time providing the Western New

York economy with much-needed jobs.”

In addition, Bower said speeding up the work could substantially trim the project’s ultimate cost.

While the Department of Energy’s preferred alternative for the cleanup is controversial among some community activists because it calls for a phased shutdown that would take three decades, citizen advocates and politicians alike lauded the stimulus funding.

Activists sent a letter to local lawmakers asking for \$100 million in stimulus money, but Judith Einach, director of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, said she was happy that the project would be getting \$74 million.

“It means more work will get done,” she said. “And it means there’s the potential for more of the necessary resources to be allocated for work that’s not been done.”

Einach said removal of all the nuclear waste from West Valley could take a century but added that activists will continue pressing nevertheless for more funding to make the cleanup happen as fast as possible.

And that’s just what will happen because of the stimulus bill, said Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand, D-N. Y.

“This funding will accelerate cleanup of these areas that will benefit not only West Valley, but it will help create jobs and protect the environment,” she said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Eric Massa, a Corning Democrat whose district includes West Valley, portrayed the funding as the prototypical stimulus project.

“Creating jobs and having something to show for it at the end of the day — this is exactly why I voted for job creation” under the stimulus bill, Massa said.

The money was part of \$6 billion in energy projects announced Tuesday by Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

jzremski@buffnews.com .

Find this article at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/story/625659.html>

WASHINGTON - Rep. Eric Massa thanked Energy Secretary Dr. Stephen Chu Tuesday for allocating \$74 million in economic stimulus money to help clean up the West Valley Demonstration Project in Cattaraugus County.

These funds will help clean up the nuclear project and create hundreds of jobs in the process. The West Valley Demonstration Project involves cleanup activities at the former spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant that operated from 1966 to 1972.

The federal/state cleanup has cost \$2 billion since 1981, and a full site cleanup could cost \$10 billion more and take as many as 64 years.

"Cleaning up West Valley is a long-overdue project," said Rep. Massa. "The \$74 million in recovery funding for this project will not only make this community better, it will create hundreds of jobs at a time when our area is seeing unacceptably high unemployment rates. Creating jobs and having something to show for it at the end of the day - this is exactly why I voted for job creation, and tax cuts in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act."

This \$74 million will be used to:

- Design and construct a storage system for high-level waste canisters and move high-level waste canisters from the former waste-treatment facility to the new system, allowing the former treatment facility to be decontaminated and demolished earlier than planned.
- Begin demolition of former process buildings and install a system to prevent migration of groundwater contamination.
- Accelerate radioactive waste treatment and disposal activities to shrink the area of site contamination.

Brian Bower, director of the West Valley Demonstration Project for the Department of Energy, said the \$74 million will be in addition to the \$66 million the project will receive in the 2009 federal budget.

"It will speed the cleanup," Mr. Bower said. "It will help address the radioactive plume trailing from the Main Process Building more quickly and start the project of drying the underground tanks that once held hundreds of thousands of gallons of highly radioactive liquids.

In addition, Mr. Bower said, it will let officials get a head start on design and construction of a new shielded facility on site to house 275 canisters of radioactive glass containing wastes once held in the huge 600,000-gallon underground tanks.

Once the canisters are removed from the Main Process Building, the process of decontamination can begin before it is demolished so the source of the radioactive plume heading toward Buttermilk Creeek can be excavated. Further efforts will be made to intercept and treat the plume.

Energy Research and Development Authority. “That river is our lifeblood,” he said, his voice cracking.

The Seneca Council, Mr. Gates said, favored the sitewide removal alternative, a \$10 billion, 64-year plan that would removal all facilities and wastes, decontaminate the soil and water and make the site available for unrestricted use. “It presents the least risk to the population,” he added.

Under the recently released full-cost accounting study, he said it would be far less expensive to address the cleanup as soon as possible because of the site’s groundwater contamination and the likelihood of erosion carrying contamination into Cattaraugus Creek, which flows through the Cattaraugus Territory.

“It is our responsibility to take care of the Earth,” Mr. Gates told officials. “It was irresponsible for them (state and federal officials) to put them (nuclear wastes) there.” He told the officials that now it was their responsibility to clean up the entire site.

Tony Memmo, a Seneca Nation representative to the West Valley Citizens Task Force, said the task force “does not believe (site) conditions are suitable for the long-term storage of radioactive wastes.”

While the task force continues to work on its written comments, Mr. Memmo said members feel the preferred alternative meets its goals set out more than 10 years ago to begin the cleanup without further delay. He indicated members also feel that the first phase of the “phased decision making” concept the Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority are proposing in the draft environmental impact statement should include its phase 2 plans.

If at the end of the decision-making process the Department of Energy’s preferred alternative is chosen, he said the public’s views that favor a full cleanup should be taken into consideration by federal and state officials.

Representatives from several national, state and local environmental groups also testified in support of the complete cleanup of the West Valley site, citing the burial waste as a threat to Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie, a source of drinking water.

Anne Rabe of the Center For Peace and Justice, said the Department of Energy was proposing to spend more than \$1 billion to remove 1 percent of the radioactivity at the site, while leaving the waste tanks, which are nearing the end of their 50-year life, and burial grounds for up to 30 years before making a decision on what to do with them.

Kathy McGoldrick of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, said the group continues to favor the full cleanup option at the West Valley site. It has concerns over the Department of Energy’s preferred alternative that defers a decision on critical issues for up to 30 years. “We would like to believe that this hesitation is truly to buy the wisdom of time. However, some of us find that hard to believe.”

She criticized the department’s plan, which “provides no methods whereby the public can be involved in the process which will provide a phase 2 alternative despite the fact that 99 percent of the waste at the site will still need to be dealt with at that time.

“This is not acceptable,” she said.

Maria Maybee, who grew up on the Cattaraugus Territory as the state was digging trenches at the West Valley site to bury low-level radioactive waste, and still lives near Cattaraugus Creek, reflected

on what kind of wastes were washing down the creek from the former nuclear reprocessing plant.

“My parents, I don’t think, would have let me do that (play in the creek) if they knew what was in there,” she told officials. She wondered whether the learning disabilities her nieces and nephews suffer are because her sisters ate contaminated fish from the creek.”

Ms. Maybee presented state and federal officials with a smoked fish caught in the creek only a few days ago. She said it was good and she had eaten some earlier.

Lawrence Behan of Amherst, representing the Sierra Club and the Adirondack Mountain Club with 3,000 Western New York members, echoed other calls for the complete clean-up of the West Valley site. “The whole darn thing is eventually going to go down Cattaraugus Creek into Lake Erie,” he said. “We need to get that nuclear waste out of there before it dissolves into Lake Erie.”

Joanne Hammeister, chairman of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, the watchdog group following the West Valley cleanup for more than 30 years, pressed again for a full clean-up commitment.

She said that “29 years and \$2 billion later, you’ve done some good things, but most were Band-Aids.”

She urged the officials to consider the seriousness of their comments. “Our concerns are real.”

The hearings continue tonight at the department’s offices at the Ashford Office Complex on Route 219 in Ashford Hollow, and Thursday at the Erie Community College Campus in Buffalo.

Written comments on the draft environmental impact statement are being accepted by the Department of Energy until June 8. The department projects a decision would be made on the cleanup in December.

More information is available at the Web site: westvalleyeis.com.

Feds allocate \$75 million in stimulus money to West Valley cleanup

WASHINGTON - Rep. Eric Massa thanked Energy Secretary Dr. Stephen Chu Tuesday for allocating \$74 million in economic stimulus money to help clean up the West Valley Demonstration Project in Cattaraugus County.

These funds will help clean up the nuclear project and create hundreds of jobs in the process. The West Valley Demonstration Project involves cleanup activities at the former spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant that operated from 1966 to 1972.

The federal/state cleanup has cost \$2 billion since 1981, and a full site cleanup could cost \$10 billion more and take as many as 64 years.

“Cleaning up West Valley is a long-overdue project,” said Rep. Massa. “The \$74 million in recovery funding for this project will not only make this community better, it will create hundreds of jobs at a time when our area is seeing unacceptably high unemployment rates. Creating jobs and having something to show for it at the end of the day - this is exactly why I voted for job creation, and tax cuts in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.”

Citizens coalition members attack plan

By Rick Miller
Olean Times Herald

ASHFORD HOLLOW - Speakers continued their call for a full cleanup at the West Valley Demonstration Project at a public hearing Wednesday on the draft environmental impact statement for the decommissioning and closure of the former nuclear reprocessing facility site.

There were fewer speakers than there were at Tuesday night's hearing at the William Seneca Building on the Seneca Nation of Indians' Cattaraugus Territory that is downstream from the cleanup site in the town of Ashford. The Seneca Nation Tribal Council last month formally asked the U.S. Department of Energy to select the full site-cleanup alternative.

A full site cleanup would cost an estimated \$10 billion and take more than 60 years. It would include exhumation and removal of state and federal radioactive burial grounds, underground tanks containing highly radioactive residue and addressing underground plumes of cesium and strontium leaching from the site.

Nuclear Fuel Services operated the plant from 1966 to 1972, reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods. The company abandoned the site, and in 1980, Congress passed the West Valley Demonstration Project to clean up the site. More than \$2 billion has been spent on the cleanup so far.

The preferred alternative favored by the Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) calls for removal of the Main Process Building, Vitrification Building and Remote Handling Facility. Removing the Main Process Building will allow the source of the radioactive plume to be excavated and removed. Underground tanks would be dried, but remain in place, as would the state-licensed and Nuclear Regulatory Commission burial grounds - for as many as 30 years while federal and state officials continue monitoring and maintaining the facilities.

Members of the West Valley Citizens Task Force and officials from NYSERDA defended their positions of support for the Phased Decision Making Alternative despite apparent general public support of the full cleanup option in the draft environmental impact statement.

Joanne Hameister, president of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, which has been a local watchdog over the project for more than 30 years, reiterated the group's long-standing position for a full cleanup of the site. "The coalition," she said, "believes that the legally required process, including this (draft environmental impact statement), has been manipulated and does not reflect the full scope of issues that an appropriate review should entail."

She added, "I continue to worry about the seriousness with which all these comments are considered in this decision process afforded under the National Environmental Policy Act and State Environmental Quality Review Act."

Another coalition member, Seth Wochensky, called the preferred alternative "a joke. The (Department of Energy) has made a decision to avoid making a decision."

He said studies that show problems at the site combined "with a good dose of morality all point toward a very clear path. Dig it up."

Barry Miller of the Cattaraugus County Concerned Citizens group also spoke for the sitewide cleanup and removal of all wastes. “Leaving buried wastes is not acceptable,” he said. “There is no explanation concerning public participation in Phase 2,” he added. “Excavation is less cost and the least risk to a large population.”

Warren Schmidt, a member of the Citizens Task Force, voiced support for the preferred alternative chosen by the department and NSERDA. The Citizens Task Force also “appreciates that (the Department of Energy) and NYSERDA are planning to accomplish cleanup work at the site that the Citizens Task Force deems essential, including the removal of the source area of the North Plateau Groundwater Plume and a significant number of contaminated buildings,” he said.

Mr. Schmidt emphasized that human health is the group’s top priority and that “decisions and studies should be performed during Phase 1 that assess and support the eventual goal of a full cleanup of the site and reassess the technologies and volume of waste disposal associated with exhumation, which may alter estimates of safety risks and costs.”

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Another member of the Citizens Task Force, Joe Patti of West Valley, said afterward, “We support a phased cleanup, but ultimately, we want a full cleanup. The end goal of the Citizens Task Force is total cleanup.”

The hearings conclude tonight at Erie Community College’s Buffalo Campus. Written comments on the draft environmental impact statement will be accepted by the Department of Energy until June 8. A decision is expected before the end of the year.

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Springville Journal

Posted: 2009-04-02

By: [Natalie Condor-Smith](#) Member Since: 2009-01-29

Public asked to comment on future of West Valley Demonstration Project

Public hearings to be held, the remaining one is at 6:30-9:30 p.m. on Thursday at Erie Community College Campus Auditorium at 121 Ellicott Street in Buffalo

Imagine a deep pit with what looks like crates and boxes piled up in it. This is exactly what happened 40 years ago when nuclear waste was bundled into nothing more than cardboard boxes, wooden crates and metal drums and buried in the ground in West Valley. Now imagine what could happen when rainwater and soil erosion compromise this burial site and the contents of the crates start leaking into the soil and into our creeks, streams, rivers and lakes. The water that we drink, wash our bodies in, and cook with now becomes a toxic cocktail.

Fast forward a few decades, millions of dollars, hundreds of documents and studies later to an informational meeting held Tuesday, March 24 at the Concord Town Hall in Springville to discuss and hear presentations on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project.



Attendees of the meeting included representatives from the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes (CWVNW), West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF), New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA), F.A.C.T.S. (For A Clean Tonawanda Site) Inc., and members of the public.

In addition to the DEIS, the meeting included the results of one study which finds that exhumation of the complete site is the most cost-effective option and less risky to the local population.

"This meeting is about getting information to the public," said Joanne Hameister of CWVNW, referring to the DEIS which was released last November. Four proposed alternatives were cited for dealing with the decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship of the WVDP. These were removal of the entire site; site-wide close-in-place; phased decision-making; and no action.

"The phased decision-making option is where the DOE wants to go and they've been talking about this for 30 years," said Hameister.

"In my opinion, the DOE wants the phased decision-making so it can use an option called 'grouting' and leave the waste in place in the tanks and in the ground."

After that comment period, which will end on June 8, information will be collected and will be put together by the end of the year. Then a Record of Decision will be put out by the Department of Energy.

"The public needs to pay close attention and try to read at least the summary of the DEIS and send comments, even simple ones to show the government that you are out there paying attention," said Kathy McGoldrick of the CWVNW.

Of the four public hearings, there is one left to be held on Thursday, April 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Erie Community College Campus Auditorium at 121 Ellicott Street in Buffalo. Another DOE Quarterly Public Meeting is planned for early May, approximately 30 days before the end of the comment period.

Describing herself as a lay person regarding these issues, McGoldrick said that some things "sort of pop out at you."

For example, she said that less than 2 percent of the waste will be dealt with in Phase 1 of the Phased Decision-making alternative preferred by the DOE. Neither the Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensed disposal area nor the State licensed disposal area will be dealt with in Phase 1.

"It seems that nobody wants to deal with those and in my opinion, that is part of the issue here. The 'sexy' stuff, i.e. the vitrification of the very high level waste has been done and it sometimes seems that there is far less interest in completely cleaning up the rest of the site, including the burial grounds," she said, adding, "that is why it is so important for the public to remain involved. If inadequate measures fail in the long run, the waste has the potential to pollute lakes Erie and Ontario.

The public needs to insist that all waste be dealt with at West Valley in a timely manner," concluded McGoldrick.

Referring to the study entitled, *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste*, by Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., a research and consulting company specializing in energy, economic and environmental topics, Judy Einach, also of CWVNW and a CTF member, described one topic in Chapter 5 of the study relating to stewardship, as a way of emphasizing her personal opinion that complete site-wide removal is the most cost-effective and logical way of dealing with the WVDP. Stewardship will be required for monitoring buried waste and addressing any toxic leakage which can pollute groundwater. However, as the report says, there is a potential that government oversight, long-term institutional memories or written records may cease to be effective in preventing exposure to contamination over the next thousands of years. Reading from the report, she said,

"If the waste at West Valley is not fully cleaned up, nuclear wastes and polluted groundwater and soil will need to be monitored and contained for tens-of-thousands of years to prevent harm to nearby communities, fish, wildlife, and the environment."

In conclusion Einach said, "Site-wide removal does away with all the problems of stewardship."

Lee Lambert, a CTF member summarized the WVCTF Final Report, July 29, 1998, saying, "It was a pleasant surprise to see that most of the language in the report holds true today. We were concerned about the health and safety of the people, preservation of the environment and natural resources, site unsuitability under today's standards because of erosion, danger of contamination of the water supply, the desire that the costs and risks be borne by our generation, and the need for monitored, retrievable storage."

"As I looked back at the report to prepare to talk about it, I had forgotten that the strontium plume and the spreading of contamination was addressed then, over a decade ago, and is still a problem," said Lambert.

Jim Rauch, secretary and technical advisor for F.A.C.T.S. Inc., gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation which, among other things, showed the devastating processes of erosion at the West Valley site which he said in time will contaminate the water table, creeks, streams, and Lake Erie. He criticized the state and federal government for failing to effectively address the source of the North Plateau strontium-90 plume.

"For example, the problems with the North Plateau plume have been known for decades," said Rauch.

"If they had dealt with the leak when it was first discovered, the cleanup cost would have been much, much less than it is today. The state government and NYSERDA have failed the public miserably at West Valley because of a lack of political will and public involvement."

NYSERDA Director Paul Bemba said that it was great that the Coalition was holding this meeting to talk with the community about its perspective on the DEIS.

He noted that NYSERDA is supportive of the preferred alternative in the DEIS because a significant amount of cleanup work is accomplished in the short term, while allowing time for additional studies to be conducted to better understand unresolved technical issues such as long-term erosion impacts on the site, and the impacts of exhuming waste or closing facilities in place. NYSERDA Program Manager Tom Attridge suggested that if the public wanted to become more involved in these additional studies, they may want to submit formal comments to that effect on the DEIS.

WVES supports Trading Post Community Care Center

West Valley Environmental Services Company LLC (WVES) recently made a donation to support the efforts of the Trading Post Community Care Center. Tony Harris presented the check for \$1,000 to Linette Crelly, Elizabeth O'Neill and Todd Crelly to assist the Trading Post in their "Raise the Roof!" campaign.

"They perform a great service to the Springville area by providing help to those in need," says Harris, chief financial officer for WVES. Recently, both WVES and the Trading Post Community Care Center were recognized by the Springville Area Chamber of Commerce for their continued efforts in supporting the local community.

Trading Post staff provided a tour of the Outreach Building at 38 Franklin Street. The Trading Post runs a clothing exchange program and a food pantry in which 600 to 700 people from the Southern Tier region use every month. There is an obvious demand for these services as the building is running at full capacity and is in need of repairs as well as upgrades to electric, plumbing and heating. The staff also presented plans



GENEROUS DONATION — From left: Tony Harris, WVES CFO, presented a check for \$1,000 to founders Linette Crelly and Todd Crelly, and Elizabeth O'Neill, to assist the Trading Post in their "Raise the Roof!" campaign.

for the opening of Trading Post South, located in Cattaraugus. The Cattaraugus Food Pantry has been turned over to Trading Post South in a temporary location as they prepare the Mercantile Building on Washington Street for occupancy.

The WVDP is an environmental cleanup and waste management project located about 35 miles south of Buffalo. The Project is

conducted by the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) in cooperation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. West Valley Environmental Services (WVES) manages and operates the WVDP under contract to DOE. The WVES team is comprised of URS Washington Division, Jacobs Engineering, Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC), and Parallax.

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By Rick Miller
Olean Times Herald

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04/03/09 06:29 AM

CATTARAUGUS COUNTY

Briefing planned on cleanup at Nuclear Service Center

By Kathy Kellogg
CATTARAUGUS CORRESPONDENT

OLEAN — Environmental Health Director Eric Wohlers is organizing a briefing for Cattaraugus County legislators on the current round of decision-making for cleaning up wastes at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center in West Valley.

In a meeting Wednesday in Olean, Wohlers told members of the Cattaraugus County Board of Health he will provide background information to the lawmakers in April.

The briefing will be held at 5 p. m. May 6 during a Committee of the Whole session in the County Center in Little Valley. Representatives of the U. S. Department of Energy and the State Energy Research and Development Authority are expected to talk about issues outlined in a draft environmental impact study that provides four cleanup options.

Public comments on the study, an updated version of a 1996 study that resulted in no decision, have been taken at three hearings this week in Western New York. Written comments will be accepted through June 8.

“We will be asking the county to make a stand,” said Jim Snyder, ROlean, who attends the Board of Health meetings as the Legislature’s representative.

In at least one previous resolution, the county lawmakers urged a full cleanup of the site and opposed methods of long-term storage or stewardship on the site.

Public Health Director Barbara Hastings reported on the Board of Health meeting to members of the Legislature’s Human Services Committee on Wednesday night.

“There are a lot of variables [in the draft study]. You may have a discussion and make a decision,” she said.

In another matter, the Jenny Lee Country Store in Cattaraugus may face suspension of its lottery license after the Board of Health was forced to overturn its March 6 dismissal of the store’s second violation of the sale of cigarettes to a minor.

The board in early March had dismissed the case, the store's second violation, after considering store owner Paul Macakanja's offer to stop selling tobacco products as a means of sidestepping the possible suspension and loss of lottery revenues.

"There is no option to dismiss the fine," said Hastings, referring to a state Department of Health directive dated March 30, which suggested the retailer's accumulation of three or more points for those violations requires that the case be referred to the Department of Taxation and Finance and the Division of Lottery.

The board then modified its order to levy a \$600 fine and a \$50 surcharge, and it asked Hastings to reply to the state Health Department and suggest modification of the penalties when violating retailers are willing to discontinue tobacco sales.

Also during the meeting, the board received a retirement notice from Hastings, a 33-year department employee, effective sometime in July.

Snyder said the search for a replacement will begin with department employees but may require a broader search.

Find this article at:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/otherwny/story/628144.html>

04/03/09 06:29 AM

NUCLEAR WASTE

Full West Valley excavation urged

By Harold McNeil
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Several Western New York residents Wednesday called for a full excavation and cleanup at the West Valley nuclear waste facility, which is not the preferred method of state and federal energy officials.

Most speakers at a public hearing in Erie Community College's City Campus opposed plans by the U. S. Department of Energy to contain most of the waste on-site, while removing a small amount and defer making a decision on removing the rest for 30 years.

"We don't want a cosmetic effort that would take brown buildings and plant grass, hiding what lurks beneath the beautiful, rolling countryside. If you put lipstick on a pig, it's still a pig," said Lee Lambert of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Waste.

Representatives from the Department of Energy and the State Energy Research and Development Authority presented highlights of a draft environmental impact statement aimed at showing why removing the waste in phases would be preferred.

The preferred alternative would allow up to 30 years for collecting and analyzing technical data pertinent to sitewide removal.

But Vincent Agnello of Youngstown, past president of Residents for Responsible Government, a community-based group fighting to clean the environment in Lewiston and Youngstown, insisted that would ignore the government's responsibility to West Valley.

"Your plan of action and the environmental impact statement [are] faulty in that it fails to address honestly, accurately and fully the two major issues regarding West Valley. First, your plan must protect the residents of the area from actual and potential harm," said Agnello.

"Secondly, and as important, your plan must remove any threat of contamination to the fresh drinking water of the Great Lakes. Complete removal is the only viable solution that addresses both issues," he added.

State Sen. Antoine M. Thompson, D-Buffalo, through his deputy chief of staff, William Nowak, also advocated site-wide removal of waste from the facility.

"As chair of the New York Senate Environmental Conservation Committee I would like to state in no uncertain terms that I support the site-wide removal option," Thomason said in a statement.

hmneil@buffnews.com

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Updated: 04/04/09 10:51 AM

Off Main Street: Winging it

The offbeat side of the news

Credit crunch

New York's new junior senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, has some work to do to catch up to senior Sen. Chuck Schumer when it comes to the art of the credit-claiming press release.

Tuesday brought another example of this, as local reporters were treated to dueling press releases from our U. S. senators on new West Valley Demonstration Project funding.

At 3:31 p. m., Gillibrand's press office e-mailed the news that the senator "announces" the economic stimulus package contains \$74 million for the West Valley project.

That would be big news, except Schumer's hardworking press office put out a release three hours earlier stating that Schumer "announced" the funds.

Both e-mails contain similar language in describing how the money will be used and the bill's \$6 billion overall environmental cleanup program.

The main difference between the two e-mails?

Gillibrand's doesn't mention Schumer and his doesn't mention her.

[Written by Stephen T. Watson with contributions from Sandra Tan, Brian Meyer and Bruce Andriatch. offmain@buffnews.com](#)

Note: This is a condensed version of the column which included a total of four stories.

Jamestown Post-Journal, April 6, 2009

West Valley Project Receiving Stimulus Funds

West Valley Project Receiving Stimulus Funds

POSTED: April 6, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The West Valley Demonstration Project will receive \$74 million in stimulus funds.

Overall, \$6 billion in new funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be disbursed to accelerate environmental cleanup work and create thousands of jobs across 12 states. The West Valley Demonstration project will use the federal dollars to design and construct a storage system for high-level waste canisters and move them from the former waste treatment facility to the new system, allowing the former treatment facility to be decontaminated and demolished earlier than planned. They will also demolish the former process buildings, install a system to prevent migration of groundwater contamination, and accelerate radioactive waste treatment and disposal activities to shrink the area of site contamination. These federal dollars will come from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"This is great news for the West Valley Demonstration project," said U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-New York. "Creating jobs in New York is my number one priority. This funding will accelerate cleanup of these areas that will benefit not only West Valley, but it will help create jobs and protect the environment. I will continue to work hard in the Senate to ensure New York gets its fair share of federal dollars."