West Valley Environmental Service Supports Springville and West Valley Chambers of Commerce

Local businesses supported by West Valley Environmental Services

West Valley Environmental Services Company LLC supports local businesses through its participation in the local Chambers of Commerce. WVES supports existing businesses and understands the need to attract new businesses to sustain the local economy. This commitment was recently reinforced through donations to the Springville and West Valley Chambers of Commerce.

At the West Valley Chamber of Commerce’s monthly dinner on January 14, John McKibbin, president and project manager, presented Chamber Treasurer Ray Williams with a $2,000 check. Williams gratefully accepted the check, remarking that requests for support from the community will benefit from the donation. The Chamber responds to a variety of requests, from community members in need to educational programs at the local high school.

Following the Springville Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual dinner awards program on January 16, WVES Vice President Steve Warren presented a $2,000 check to Chamber President Molly Frank and Vice President David Fielding. The Springville Chamber has stepped up its efforts to provide programs and networking opportunities to its members. Included are the Business After Hours events, workshops and seminars and participation in the Buffalo Niagara Partnership.

The WVDP is an environmental cleanup and waste management project located about 35 miles south of Buffalo. The project is conducted by the United States Department of Energy in cooperation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. WVES manages and operates the WVDP under contract to DOE. The WVES team is comprised of URS, Jacobs Engineering, Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC), and Parallax.

Vice President David Fielding and President Molly Frank, Springville Area Chamber of Commerce, accept a check from WVES Vice President Steve Warren at the Chamber’s Annual Awards Dinner.

WVES President and Project Manager John McKibbin presents a check to West Valley Chamber of Commerce Treasurer Ray Williams.
West Valley Demonstration Project
Quarterly Public Meeting

Tuesday, February 2, 6:30pm

Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY 14171

The Department of Energy and the New York State Research and Development Authority will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, February 2, at the Ashford Office Complex in West Valley, New York.

For further information, please contact John Camberlain at John.chamberlain@wves.org or (716)942-4610
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announce the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center.

DOE and NYSERDA announced the availability of the Final Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship EIS in the Federal Register on January 29, 2010.


The environmental impacts resulting from activities to complete the West Valley Demonstration Project and the decommissioning and/or long-term management or stewardship of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center are analyzed in the EIS. Three alternatives to implement these activities are evaluated: Sitewide Removal, Sitewide Close-In-Place, and Phased Decisionmaking. The Final EIS includes and addresses comments submitted during the 9-month public comment period on the Revised Draft EIS. A Record of Decision will be issued no sooner than 30 days following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Availability of the Final EIS.

The Final EIS and reference materials are available for review at:

- Concord Public Library
  18 Chapel Street
  Springville, NY
- WVDP Public Reading Room
  U.S. Department of Energy
  Ashford Office Complex
  9030 Route 219
  West Valley, NY
- U.S. Department of Energy
  FCEA Reading Room
  Room 1E-150, Forrestal Building
  1000 Independence Avenue, SW
  Washington, DC
WASHINGTON … President Obama on Monday unveiled a $3.8 trillion proposed budget for fiscal 2011, balancing additional spending on jobs with upper-income tax increases and cuts in many domestic programs … and still ending up with a record $1.56 trillion deficit.

The spending plan suggests the nation will go more than a trillion dollars into debt for three years running, but Obama told reporters that deeply cutting the deficit would be impossible during tough economic times.

"We won't be able to bring down this deficit overnight, given that the recovery is still taking hold and families across the country still need help," Obama said. "We will continue, for example, to do what it takes to create jobs."

To that end, the spending plan includes a tax credit for businesses that hire new workers. It extends aid to the unemployed while setting aside $25 billion in new aid for struggling state governments, some of which would end up heading to New York.

But with the federal debt piling up and public concern about it on the rise, the budget includes a freeze on overall domestic discretionary spending.

While some programs … most notably college grants … would grow dramatically, funding for many would be frozen.

And some, including two programs of great interest to Buffalo … the federal effort to clean up the Great Lakes and the low-income Home Energy Assistance Program … would suffer big funding reductions.

"We have gone through every department's spending line by line, item by item, looking for inefficiency,
duplication and programs that have outlived their usefulness," Obama said. "That's how we freeze discretionary spending."

But that wasn't good enough for Republicans, who argued that the spending plan does not go nearly far enough to control spending.

"This country is sinking into a fiscal quagmire," said Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee. "These circumstances call for a bold, game-changing budget that will turn things around, put in place a plan to restrain spending, reduce the debt and tackle the big entitlement programs that are growing out of control."

Instead, Gregg said, Obama offered "more of the same … a budget that claims to be fiscally responsible, but just below the surface contains more spending, more borrowing and more taxes."

There's more spending for sure, particularly on efforts to boost employment and put more cash into the hands of consumers.

About $33 billion would be devoted to that new $5,000 tax credit for companies that add jobs. Obama also proposes extending his Making Work Pay middle-class tax breaks of $400 per individual and $800 per couple through next year, instead of letting them expire this year.

Social Security recipients would get $250 payments to account for the fact that low inflation left them with no cost-of-living increase.

To Gov. David A. Paterson, though, a key element of the plan was the aid to states.

"While hard choices will still need to be made to balance New York's budget, this aid would help mitigate some of the most difficult actions I proposed in my Executive Budget, which were put forward only out of sheer necessity in order to close an over $7 billion deficit," Paterson said.

In addition to short-term aid aimed at quickly boosting the economy, the Obama spending plan includes a handful of big increases in programs to boost long-term growth.

The Pell Grant program for college students was among the biggest winners. Its funding would nearly double to $35 billion.

"This will help us reach the goal I've set for America: By 2020, we will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world," Obama said.

The proposal includes a $4 billion National Infrastructure Innovation and Finance Fund aimed at paying for important big-ticket items that states might be unwilling to fund.

In addition, the National Institutes of Health would get an extra $1 billion, assuming that Congress passes health care reform. That could be a faulty assumption, since Democrats no longer have a filibusterproof majority in the Senate.

The Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs departments … exempt from the domestic spending freeze … would get funding increases.

The budget also is rife with losers, notably big business and the wealthy.
It includes $1.4 trillion in new taxes over the next decade. Taxes would go up $120 billion on international corporations, and big banks that were helped by last year's bailout would face $90 billion in new fees.

Also, the Bush administration's tax breaks would expire for families making more than $250,000 a year.

Republicans argued that such moves run counter to any efforts to create new jobs.

"Small businesses and job creators simply cannot afford the massive Obama tax increases included in this budget and be expected to hire more workers," said Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the House Republican whip.

While Republicans upbraided Obama for a lack of fiscal discipline, the budget did include some steep cuts.

Former President George W. Bush's proposal to return astronauts to the moon would be abandoned.

And a signature Obama environmental effort … a massive Great Lakes cleanup … would be scaled back.

Funding for the Great Lakes program would be cut to $300 million from $475 million. While $300 million is still far more than the effort got under Bush, the Environmental Protection Agency conceded that the funding cut "reflects the difficult economic times."

The budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 now goes to Capitol Hill.

Final spending plans always look far different than what the president proposes, and that's especially likely with Obama's proposal to cut funding for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance to $3.65 billion from $5 billion.

Presidents routinely propose cutting that program, and Congress routinely disposes of the idea.

The budget also includes several other line items of special interest to the Buffalo area. In particular:

-- Buffalo could receive about $24.3 million in community development block grant money, the same as this year, since funding for that program would not change.

-- The Army Corps of Engineers would get $16.5 million for its waste cleanup programs in Western New York, up 12 percent, all for one reason: Funding for the Linde Air Products cleanup in the Town of Tonawanda will increase to $10 million, from $3 million this year.

A larger quantity of radioactive waste has been found at the former Manhattan Project site than had been expected, said Linda Houston, project manager for the corps.

-- The corps would receive routine amounts of funding for local waterway operations and maintenance, with $1.165 million for Buffalo Harbor and $1.55 million for the Black Rock Channel and Tonawanda Harbor.

-- Funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project will hold steady at $58 million.

e-mail: jzremski@buffnews.com
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Cattaraugus County’s plan to tax wells is nixed by legislators

Notes from the Ashford Town Board Meeting held February 10

According to Legislator Charles Hebdon, the reason Cattaraugus County wants to GPS coordinate all public and private wells is so that next year it can slap a $25 tax on each one to raise money. “We turned it down today,” said Hebdon. “They tried it about 10 years ago.”

Councilwoman Beverly Hess noted, “The Farm Bureau is also opposing it.”

At the town of Ashford Board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 10, Hebdon updated the board on other legislative discussions relating to work done following the August 2009 storms. “We filed for five different things for funding from FEMA which will probably cost the county around $600,000,” he informed the board. These included full funding for the triangle on White Street and also for drainage repairs on Depot Street. Hebdon said once the work on Depot Street is up to par, the county will ask the town to take responsibility for it. Highway Supervisor Tim Engels said he believed the FEMA staff he worked with were really looking out for the town. “I thought they were wonderful to work with,” he noted.

Hebdon also discussed the new open burning law which became effective last October. “They [the county] are going to come down on people big time,” he said, referring to campfires which must now be less than three feet in height and four feet in length.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive wood boring beetle. In answer to the question, “When there is an ash borer in a tree, don’t they fly around when the tree is cut down?” Hebdon replied, “The whole thing is a joke anyhow; all they want to do is to tax people for firewood. They said all we are trying to do is to slow it down but Connecticut and Michigan couldn’t do it – the only place they have discovered it is in Randolph.”

In an effort to slow the continued spread of the EAB, governments have instituted various quarantines of infested areas to regulate the continued transportation of ash products which includes a quarantine encompassing Cattaraugus and Chautauqua counties. The state’s quarantine includes restrictions on the movement of ash trees and any part of ash trees.

In another matter:

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Program Manager John Kelly gave an update on projects at the West Valley Demonstration Project as follows:

- NYSERDA will soon complete the second phase of the leachate removal project at the state-licensed disposal area. The work is targeted for next month and involves shipping the empty tank, other equipment and miscellaneous solid waste. Approximately 8,000 gallons of leachate was shipped in January.
- A project is underway to remove wood debris and reconstruct a protective berm that was washed out on the bank of Buttermilk Creek near the confluence of Cattaraugus Creek. NYSERDA is continuing to work with the New York State Emergency Management office and FEMA on funding some of the repair projects relating to the storm event last August.
- NYSERDA has published its Notice of Completion for the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Decommissioning at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center. The notice came out on February 3 in the New York State Environmental Notice Bulletin; and the Department of Energy published its Notice of Availability on January 29 in the Federal Register. The DOE expects to issue its Record of Decision in March and shortly thereafter, NYSERDA will publish its Findings of Statement in accordance with State Environmental Quality Review regulations.
- NYSERDA has sent a letter of intent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating it plans to release the bulk storage warehouse and approximately 400 additional acres for unrestricted release. NRC has also been asked for additional information on the fee program expected for regulatory review of this application.
- Engels said he would like to start putting together specifications for a new 10-wheeler truck. He described two proposals received: an International for $123,000 and a Kenworth for $93,000. It was noted that although the Kenworth has a less powerful engine, it would likely be more than adequate, especially since the price difference was quite large.
- Supervisor Chris Gerwitz said that the Planning Board will be working on a trailer mobile home ordinance which it is hoped will be passed before spring this year.
- The board granted permission for the Reverend William Kay to take a ride in a snowplow truck for a day.

The next meeting of the Town of Ashford will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10 at the Community Center, 9377 Route 240, West Valley.
Business First of Buffalo, February 5-11, 2010

West Valley, Buffalo Sewer Authority, UB, NFTA at top of jobs, awards lists

The federal government's second comprehensive report on stimulus spending, released Jan. 30 and based on self-reporting by recipients, accounts for cumulative stimulus dollars distributed between Feb. 17 and Dec. 31, 2009. It also lists the number of jobs funded by stimulus money between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2009. So far, more than one-third of the total $787 billion stimulus package has been spent, while 599,108 jobs have been paid for with stimulus funds, the report shows.)*

**WHO'S GETTING WHAT: Top jobs created or retained**

According to the list of top 10 local jobs created or saved via a single stimulus award, college students are getting more work in the form of additional federal work-study jobs, which connect financially needy students with on-campus jobs. Note that some job totals are measured as full-time equivalents, not necessarily as individuals hired for full-time work.

1. **West Valley Environmental Services LLC:** 66 prime contractors jobs; 55 subcontractor jobs created to help accelerate decontamination, demolition and general duties involved in closing the former nuclear reprocessing plant.
   Jobs created/retained....111

2. **University at Buffalo:** More federal work-study jobs for students, based on financial need.
   Jobs created/retained....94

3. **Daemen College:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
   Jobs created/retained....46

4. **Canisius College:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
   Jobs created/retained....37

5. **Niagara Frontier Transport Authority:** Private-sector workers and NFTA existing staff upgraded NFTA's power support system by manufacturing and installing batteries along the Metro Rail line.
   Jobs created/retained....33.8

6. **Buffalo State College:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
   Jobs created/retained....28

7. **Erie Community College:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
   Jobs created/retained....25

8. **St. Bonaventure University:** More federal work-study jobs for students.
   Jobs created/retained....24

9. **Western New York AmeriCorps Fund:** Created and retained 21 AmeriCorps Recovery VISTA positions and one project staff position for work involving youth-adult mentoring, job readiness and service learning programs.
   Jobs created/retained....22

10. **Veteran Enterprises Co. Inc.:** Hired 14 workers, plus an additional five workers via subcontractor, for milling and paving work at a parking lot at the VA Western New York Healthcare System at Buffalo.
    Jobs created/retained....19

**WHO'S GETTING WHAT: Largest individual stimulus awards**


1. **West Valley Environmental Services LLC (Contract):** Accelerate the closure of the former commercial nuclear reprocessing center.
   Award:..................$73.8 million

2. **Buffalo Sewer Authority (Grant):** New drain control facility in Buffalo.
   Award:..................$17.7 million

3. **Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (Grant):** Purchase 56 buses.
   Award:..................$14.5 million

4. **Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (Grant):** Site upgrades/renovations, including energy efficiencies, at various housing developments.
   Award:..................$14.5 million

5. **Buffalo City School District (Grant):** Staff salaries; program development.
   Award:..................$14.5 million

6. **Neighborhood Housing Services of South Buffalo Inc. (Grant):** Weatherization upgrades for multiple housing units four stories or taller.
   Award:..................$8.34 million

7. **Supportive Services Corp. (Grant):** Weatherization upgrades for housing units throughout Erie County, except the city of Buffalo.
   Award:..................$8.1 million

8. **NYS Department of Transportation (Grant):** Reconstruct 1.6 miles of Maple Road in Amherst.
   Award:..................$7 million

9. **Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency (Grant):** Homeless prevention and rapid rehousing, a three-year federal program to help families prevent becoming homeless.
   Award:..................$6.5 million

10. **Buffalo City School District (Grant):** Staff salaries; program development.
    Award:..................$6 million

West Valley Demonstration Project Update including final impact statement

Originally launched to demonstrate the safe solidification of high-level radioactive liquid, the West Valley Demonstration Project is demonstrating how to conduct cleanup of highly contaminated radioactive facilities with one of the best safety records in the Department of Energy cleanup program. The project partners, DOE and the New York State Energy and Research Authority, have released the final environmental impact statement for the decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship at the WVDP and Western New York Nuclear Service Center.

In the impact statement, DOE and NYSERDA have identified phased decision-making as the preferred alternative for the site. During phase one, removal of the mass plant process building, the vitrification facility, the remote handled waste facility, the source term of the north piazza groundwater plume, and the water treatment lagoons would take place. No decommissioning actions would be taken at this time on the underground high-level waste tanks and the nuclear regulatory commission-licensed disposal area. If the phased decision-making alternative is selected for implementation, DOE and NYSERDA would make the phase two decision in 10 years or less, as the agreement continues to gather important information and data. Phase one is expected to take right to 10 years.

NYS and the federal government recently completed an agreement regarding financial responsibilities for the cleanup of the site. The proposed settlement identifies a specific cost share for each government for each facility and area of contamination at the site and identifies a process for determining who pays for contamination that may be identified in the future. "This resolution is a significant milestone in our ongoing work to decommission the West Valley Site and ensure the area's long-term environmental health and safety," New York State Governor David Paterson said. "With this agreement, our state and federal governments may proceed with a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities." The state expects to file a motion in federal court this month, asking that the court approve the agreement.

Of particular interest are the preparations for the eventual decontamination of the main plant process building, which will allow for the removal of radioactive contamination from under the building. The contamination has resulted in a plume of contaminated groundwater on the northern part of the site. West Valley Environmental Services has been tasked with cleaning the federal commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing facility "demolished ready" by June 2011. Crews have been actively working in the remaining 20 of the 54 cells in the main plant.

- Decontaminated extraction cell. Due to the weight of the tanks and the limited access, nearly all of the 1-LL tanks were removed through the roof of the main plant.
- Decontaminated recovery cell. This cell contained six large tanks and more than 5,500 feet of contaminated piping when work began in the cell. The tanks were cut up with a plasma torch and removed from the cell in pieces. The cell was then decontaminated and the cell walls were painted to control loosening.
- Removed two large tanks intact from the hot acid cell through a newly-created opening in the exterior wall of the main plant. This principle of removal, packaging, of site shipment and disposal of the tanks in less than two weeks.

West Valley Demonstration Project Update including final impact statement

NYS Assessments 2009
- 10 students received perfect Math scores
- 2 students received perfect English scores

Full Music Program
- Instrumental instruction
- Band
- Orchestra
- Spring Musical & Christmas/Spring Concerts
- Hand Bell Choir & Chime Choir

Advanced Math & Science Classes
- WNY Science Congress results. Last three years:
  - 20th, 19th, 18th
- WNY Science Congress results. Last three years:
  - 20th, 19th, 18th

Other Attributes
- Advanced technology including interactive white boards
- Intramural sports in baseball, basketball, soccer, volleyball and track
- After school Chess Club, Ski Club, Bowling and Intramurals
- Spanish for students in grades 5-8
- Caning NYS Certified/Teachers
- Busing provided by your school district
- Children of alumni are welcome
- Tuition assistance available

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CLEANING UP — West Valley Demonstration Project employees working on a state-licensed disposal area. Photo submitted by Sonja Albus.

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"Spirit Strength Success"
When the West Valley Demonstration Project is cleaned up do you think the area will be completely safe?

*Asked of people on the streets*

Marge Gaske: “There’s always an unknown factor. It may prove to be safe but we won’t know until the future.”
Barry Vizena: “Sure why not? I would trust it. If you live there there’s no need to worry about your lights working at least.”

Ken Heiler: “That question answers itself. If it’s gone then it’s safe. But how in the world do we know if it’s all gone?”
Diane Lux: “Yes I do. Because my son works in nuclear physics and he knows all about West Valley. He says it will be safe.”

Tom Blasdel: “Yes it’s safe now. People have been living near there all their lives. I used to myself.”