

# The Springville Journal

Thursday, June 17, 2010

Volume 145, No. 24

## West Valley Crystal Water Company customers could see substantial increase in cost

*Notes from the June 9 town of Ashford Board meeting*

After a letter explaining that there could be a substantial increase in the cost of water service from the West Valley Crystal Water Company was read during the June 9 Ashford Town Board meeting, members of the five-man Town of Ashford Water Committee met with owners of the Crystal Water Company in an effort to avoid a possible 571 percent increase in water consumption rates. The increase is due to county mandated tests and plant updates. Currently, residents are paying approximately \$180 twice a year for water service from the water company.

Ashford Town Supervisor Chris Gerwitz stated that the Ashford Water Committee would work with the water company to try to secure grant money to help pay for the mandated tests and updates in an effort to alleviate the increase.

Approximately 800 residents as well as the West Valley Central School are affected by the operations of the West Valley Crystal Water Company, which was recently purchased from Cliff Feldman by Bob Runge and Brett Hannon of Springville. "Good water at a reasonable price is the main concern of the town of Ashford," noted Gerwitz.

On another note, members of the town board toured the bulk storage warehouse on the grounds of the West Valley Nuclear site last week and declared the 33,000 square-foot structure to be "a nice building." While the board favored the return of the warehouse to the taxpayers as part of the 400-acre plot being offered by the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority**, they were alerted to a plutonium burial site behind the building and the need to maintain proper buffer zones in that area. NYSERDA administrators plan to meet with government regulators this week to see if an arrangement can be worked out to release the bulk storage warehouse separately without creating a burden to the taxpayers.

In other town board news:

- With all five town board members present, Supervisor Chris Gerwitz asked that a moment of silence be observed in memory of Al Feuz, who retired from his position as chemist at the West Valley Demonstration Project in 2002 and had been seen regularly at area polls on election days.
- The board accepted the written resignation of Dog Control Agent Dawn Samborski. The board then approved the hiring of Allison Kendall as dog enumerator and control officer. Kendall, now a West Valley resident, has worked in the animal control field in Michigan, as well as in the Adirondack area of New York state.
- Board member Charlie Davis was asked to maintain communications with Tim Warner, hoping to bring cable TV back to town.
- A \$900 expenditure was approved for youth baseball. The Ashford Youth Inc. board and Tim Dashnaw will be using the funds to help maintain a program that is fielding teams at six different levels of competition.
- Gerwitz announced that he is working with the Evans Agency to see if the town can save money on workmen's compensation coverage. The town currently has its coverage through a county policy.

- Additional storage space for the town judges has been located within the community center. According to Gerwitz, the only holdup is some minor renovation work.
- The Fox Valley Road bridge project has cleared another hurdle with the securing of easements from Phil Moyer on the east side and New York state on the west. Workers on the east end will be dealing with power lines, while access along the creek bed is needed on the west side.
- Highway Superintendent Tim Engels has been notified that the truck/snowplow chassis ordered from Kenworth of Buffalo is ready for his inspection. The board again expressed hope of having the new vehicle outfitted and ready to roll by the first snowfall.
- Engels reminded the board that the town's loader was scheduled to be upgraded this year. He also informed them that the brush tractor had gone down and was being repaired.
- It was also reported that the new road grinder seemed to be performing as advertised. "We hope to be buying a lot less blacktop in the future," said Engels. Asphalt road surfaces (affected by water, oil, etc.) can be ground on top, then coated with oil and stone. The highway department is finding this method both effective and less costly.
- Code Enforcement Officer Gary Perkins made the board aware that a new asphalt plant on Henrietta Road has come online and may stock aggregates useful to the town highway department.
- Perkins reported issuing 12 building permits during the month of May. Costs of these improvements are estimated at \$32,800. Building costs associated with the year's 39 permits equals \$465,300.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23 at 7:30 p.m.

# The Buffalo News

Thursday, June 3, 2010

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### OF FOCUSED CORRECTIVE MEASURES STUDY

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), owner and operator of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC) on behalf of New York State, is providing notice of the availability of a draft Focused Corrective Measures Study (CMS) for the State-Licensed Radioactive Waste Disposal Area (SDA) for public comment. The Focused CMS has been prepared in accordance with the Administrative Order On Consent (Docket No. II RCRA-3008(h)-92-0202) issued to NYSEDA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

The purpose of the Focused CMS is to recommend interim measures at the SDA for a period of up to 10 years that will minimize the potential of a release of hazardous constituents from the SDA, thereby protecting human health and the environment from these hazardous constituents. These measures include retaining the existing exposed geomembrane cover and slurry wall to limit the movement of contaminants at the SDA as well as institutional controls, long-term monitoring and site stability controls. These recommendations are consistent with the Phased Decisionmaking alternative recently selected by NYSEDA for the SDA in the Environmental Impact Statement process. Final remedial action decisions for the SDA will be made after further evaluation of

both the radiological and hazardous constituents associated with the SDA through the ongoing EIS, and under the Administrative Order On Consent or other appropriate Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulatory processes.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) status: The Focused CMS will not result in significant changes to the surrounding areas of the SDA. NYSEDA has determined that this Focused CMS is a Type II action under SEQR that requires no further agency review.

The public comment period begins on June 4, 2010 and will extend through July 6, 2010. A public meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at the Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley, to discuss the Focused CMS and answer questions on the study. Copies of the draft Focused CMS are also available for public review at [http://www.nyserda.org/publications/corrective\\_measures\\_study.pdf](http://www.nyserda.org/publications/corrective_measures_study.pdf) or at NYSEDA's West Valley Site Management Program Office, 9030-B Route 219, West Valley. Copies of the draft Focused CMS can also be obtained by contacting Ms. Andrea Mellon, Senior Project Manager, NYSEDA, at (716) 942-9960, extension 4054.

All comment on the draft Focused CMS must be submitted no later than July 6, 2010 to:

Ms. Andrea Mellon  
New York State Energy  
Research and  
Development Authority  
West Valley Site  
Management Program  
9030-B Route 219  
West Valley, New York  
14171

All comments will be considered and evaluated in the preparation and submittal of the final Focused CMS Report. Prior to the submitting the final Focused CMS Report to the EPA and NYSDEC for review and approval, NYSEDA will respond to any comments submitted by the public. A notice of the final Focused CMS Report will be sent to each interested citizen or organization submitting comments or requesting such notice.

# Olean Times Herald

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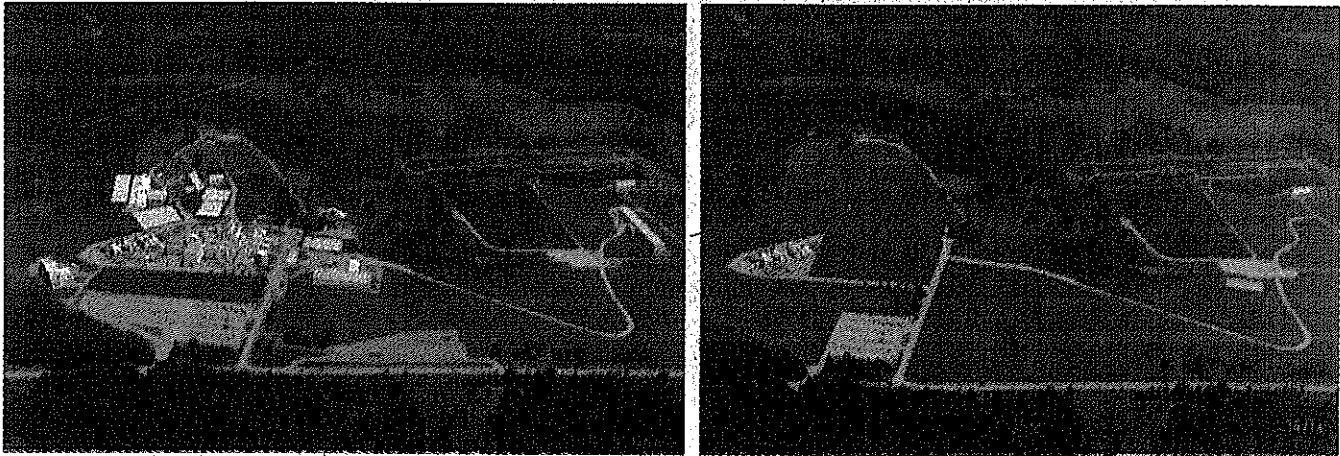
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# West Valley Nuclear Cleanup

The Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes Rejects Cleanup Decision



Computer generated graphics of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) representing the current site (pictured at left) and after Phase 1 decommissioning (at right). Photos courtesy/John Chamberlain, West Valley Environmental Services.

By NICHOLAS PIRCIO  
WPIG 95.7 FM

Differences remain among concerned parties regarding the cleanup of the West Valley nuclear waste site. The Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes is not happy with the Record of Decision published by the U.S.

Department of Energy on April 14. The department, meanwhile, is quick to defend its approach to management of the wastes left over from nuclear materials that were reprocessed by Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. during the 1960's.

Joanne Hameister says the Coalition has a problem with the "phased decision

making, with no promise of an EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) for the second part" of the phased cleanup. She says this "includes an awful inventory of radioactivity." Hameister said the Department of Energy chose not to include 275 canisters in their

SEE WASTE PAGE 9

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# Waste

CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE

"estimate of cleanup successes." She notes that until a repository is found for high-level nuclear wastes, "we have to consider it as being on-site, a de-facto waste site."

Hameister said the Coalition has never felt West Valley to be a safe site because "it is riddled with creeks." She noted evidence of "a lot of slumping and eroding" on some of the creeks following the storm that hit Western New York last August. The Coalition wants a commitment to a full cleanup of the West Valley site stating, "there's no reason why they can't commit to a full cleanup." Hameister would like to see the burial grounds exhumed "which are very dangerous, those are just dug trenches. There's plutonium loose in the burial ground (from drums that are now totally dry), and that's really dangerous stuff."

Hameister says she is not thinking of herself while advocating for West Valley. "I've never thought about me for West Valley. It's all of the generations to follow." One of her concerns is what kind of an object or structure to erect to warn future generations of

the danger at West Valley. It might have to come down to some sort of brotherhood or oral tradition, "but right now people are too busy chasing that stuff downstream as it is." She adds that the problem of dealing with nuclear waste is that "it keeps creating more, volume-wise."

What's the bottom line? Hameister says, "The water - we have to worry about the water if West Valley starts leaking." She notes that radioisotopes have been found in the delta of the Niagara River at Lake Ontario. She worries about the possible release of radioactivity from the site being picked up by the water intakes. "And that would contaminate the whole infrastructure, including sewers and water."

Bryan Bower is the Department of Energy project director for the West Valley Demonstration Project. He said the department evaluated various remedial plans. The "preferred alternative" is a phased de-commissioning approach. Phase one involves removal of the original reprocessing plant and "the source of the contaminated groundwater plume." What it comes down to is they need to remove everything from the site "except for the underground high-level waste tanks and the two disposal areas." Under this plan, a billion dollars worth of

work would be done over the next eight to ten years. Only afterward would final action for the site be determined.

Bower notes that under the phased approach, the "remove everything" option favored by the Coalition is not ruled out. However, he says that studies conducted over 22 years indicate the environmental impacts of exhumation are more substantial than the environmental impacts of leaving the waste here." Both New York State and the Coalition have questioned those resolves, "so we have ten years to conduct additional studies."

Bower notes that steps were taken in the 1990's to control the spread of an existing radioactive groundwater plume. "This year, we are installing an 850-foot underground permeable treatment wall that will capture that north plateau plume." The intent is to strip the strontium out of the water.

As for other contamination getting into the water, the matter is apparently the province of the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA), which operates the state-licensed disposal area. While deferring such questions to NYSERDA, Bower personally feels "the state has done a phenomenal job of managing their disposal area."

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# Springville Journal

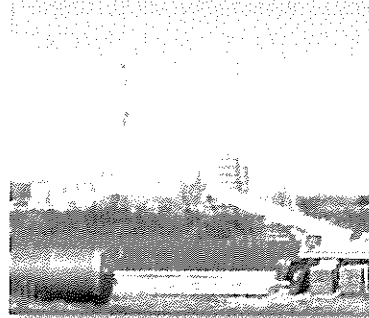
## Thursday, May 27, 2010

### Record of Decision is an insult to people downstream

Editor:

On April 14, the U.S. Department of Energy published its Record of Decision for the nuclear wastes on the 3,300-acre site at West Valley, 30 miles south of Buffalo.

This Record of Decision addresses less than 10 percent of the waste on the West Valley. Recently, the Department claimed that this latest Environmental Impact Statement has satisfied the West Valley Demonstration Project Act of 1980 and no further environmental analysis and procedural public review of decision-making will be necessary for the more than 90 percent of the waste remaining. This is an insult to the millions of people downstream, who are the involuntary risk-bearers of this dangerous decision.



The Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes, the only continuously active stakeholder in the decision process at West Valley since the late 1970s, rejects this current decision document and the accompanying flawed analysis.

In 1987, the Federal District Court in Buffalo ordered the Department of Energy to do a full NEPA Environmental Impact Statement. The EIS was to be a timely final waste disposition decision at the West Valley nuclear waste site for all of the site's wastes and provide public review of the decontamination and decommissioning of the West Valley site. The Draft EIS was issued for public comment in 1996, but was aborted jointly by the U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

The current Record of Decision is the result of a manipulated revised second analysis, namely the joint federal/state 2008 Draft EIS and the 2010 Final EIS. This revised analysis, using scientifically unsound, "re-engineered" modeling assumptions, predicts human health impacts that are up to 100,000 times less than those previously determined by the analysis of the 1996 site-wide DEIS.

Simply stated, during 14 years of additional delay, the federal Department of Energy used inappropriate science to revise the previous 1996 site-wide DEIS and to produce a grossly flawed analysis that supports the federal/State choice of permanent onsite waste management at West Valley (see the CWVNW comments at [http://nuclear.bfn.org.CWVNW 2008 DEIS comments.pdf](http://nuclear.bfn.org/CWVNW_2008_DEIS_comments.pdf)).

The vast majority of the long-lived wastes, including the vitrified high-level nuclear waste, are not to be removed from this physically most unsuitable site. Instead, the nuclear and chemical wastes are to be left on site where they will be subject to both gradual erosion and sudden storm-related catastrophic releases to the creeks that drain the site to Lake Erie, thereby polluting downstream water supplies.

Dozens of local, state and federal politicians and local municipalities and hundreds of individuals formally objected to the manipulated, severely flawed revision and went on the record in support of full waste removal from West Valley.

An independent state-sponsored study showed that full waste removal to be both safer and less costly in the long run. Displaying "penny wise and pound foolish" shortsightedness, the state administration ignored both its own study and the public opposition to the decision to leave the wastes on site at West Valley.

The federal DOE issued its "on site stewardship" decision on April 14, 2010. Subsequently, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority issued a State Environmental Quality Review Act Findings Statement accepting the final federal decision (see <http://westvalleyeis.com/ROD.pdf> and [http://www.nyserda.org/publications/findings\\_statement.pdf](http://www.nyserda.org/publications/findings_statement.pdf) respectively).

The Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes