



TOWN OF ASHFORD

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West Valley, NY 14171

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HIGHWAY

SUPERINTENDENT

Tim A. Engels

ASSESSOR

William Nellis

January 24, 2012

Thomas P. D'Agostino
Under Secretary for Nuclear Services Administration
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On December 5th, 2011 both Chris Gerwitz, Supervisor and Charles Davis, Councilman, met with Cynthia Anderson, Program Executive Officer for Asset Revitalization to inquire as to the steps required for the West Valley Demonstration Project to be added to the program. Mrs. Anderson advised the Town of Ashford make a formal request to your office with copies going to both Congressman Reed and Congressman Higgins. West Valley is in the Phase 1 of decommissioning and needs assistance for the future development of the site at the end of the present contract that runs through 2017.

Adding West Valley to the list of projects for the Asset Revitalization Program is the first step in returning the economic development of the Town of Ashford, which has had to endure more than 50 years of stagnant growth by having the West Valley Demonstration Project within our town limits.

The Town of Ashford would like to thank you in advance for any assistance that your office can provide to ensure that West Valley Demonstration Project can be added. Attached please find a copy of the original request.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Board of the Town of Ashford

CED/prd

Enclosures

cc: Congressman Higgins
Congressman Reed
Congressman Upton
Ms. Cynthia Andersen



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Dear Congressmen Higgins,

The West Valley community asks for your assistance in assuring that the West Valley Demonstration Project has the opportunity to participate in a new Department of Energy program to find productive reuses for Department of Energy sites. This program was initially called "Energy Parks" and is now known within DOE as the "Asset Revitalization Initiative." It is a present-day, Congressionally-authorized program intended to evaluate future use opportunities for DOE sites as the massive environmental cleanup program across the DOE complex begins to wind-down.

Section 3124 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2011 authorizes DOE to permit the establishment of energy parks on former defense nuclear facilities. According to the NDAA, the objectives of this program are to:

- Provide locations to carry out a broad range of projects relating to the development and deployment of energy technologies and related advanced manufacturing technologies.
- Provide locations for the implementation of pilot programs and demonstration projects for new and developing energy technologies and related advanced manufacturing technologies.
- Set a national example for the development and deployment of energy technologies and related advanced manufacturing technologies in a manner that will promote energy security, energy sector employment, and energy independence.
- Create a business environment that encourages collaboration and interaction between the public and private sectors.

We are asking for your assistance because the Department of Energy does not consider the West Valley site to be a defense facility, and we are concerned that West Valley will be prevented from competing in this critically important program. The West Valley site owes its existence to federal government cold war-era policies and technologies. Sixty percent of the spent fuel that contaminated the site came from reactors at DOE's Hanford facility. This site was created with weapons-complex material during the height of the cold war.

Through three decades, this community has worked with DOE and NYSEDA in a unique partnership to address environmental and engineering challenges at the West Valley site. As the decommissioning work at West Valley proceeds, the community and the agencies are now working to identify the role the site will have in the future of Western New York and the Nation. We believe that the Asset Revitalization Initiative provides an opportunity for the community to showcase what it has to offer, and to transform the site from a nuclear cleanup project to an economic asset for the entire Western New York Region. We aren't looking for more money or for any special consideration, just an opportunity to participate and compete in the program. We ask for your help in getting that chance to compete.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Davis
Ashford Town Councilman
716-244-3597