These photos show the Vitrification Facility before and after the facility was declared demolition-ready.
WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – EM’s West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) declared the Vitrification Facility demolition-ready on March 16, after years of decontamination and deactivation to remove a variety of hazards.

WVDP and contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley scheduled the demolition — DOE’s first teardown of a vitrification facility — for later this year. Workers will begin demolishing the radiologically “cleanest” areas first, such as the perimeter aisles, then move to the facility’s other areas, such as the Vitrification Cell, which housed all of the major radioactive process equipment. This strategy minimizes the potential for cross-contamination of facility areas and reduces the cost of decontaminating equipment and materials transferred from one area to another.

An aerial view of the Vitrification Facility.

Workers will control the potential spread of contamination through water misting, encapsulation fixatives, regular housekeeping activities, enclosures, adherence to established work practices, and fulltime monitoring by radiological control technicians. WVDP placed 16 air monitoring stations outside the site boundary and others around the demolition area to monitor for potential migration of contamination.
Once used to solidify about 600,000 gallons of high-level waste (HLW) liquid and sludge, the 11,000-square-foot, 50-foot-tall concrete structure — one of the site’s major remaining facilities — is reinforced with structural steel and sided with sheet steel. Its walls and roof are between 2 and 4 feet thick. Demolition will generate an estimated 6,500 tons of waste for shipment to an offsite licensed disposal facility.

The team performed characterization and decontamination work to support conventional, uncontained “open-air” demolition techniques. When possible, workers used mechanical or remote equipment to minimize worker exposure to radiological, mechanical and chemical hazards.

A cutaway drawing shows the internal workings of the Vitrification Facility.

Late last year, the team achieved another critical milestone by shipping and disposing three large vitrification components at Waste Control Specialist in Andrews, Texas.
The Vitrification Facility included operating aisles, working areas to support operations, and auxiliary facilities for vitrification support functions. It operated from 1996 to 2002, producing 275 stainless steel canisters of HLW. WVDP repurposed the facility in 2007 for remote waste processing prior to deactivation. Last year, WVDP finished moving the canisters to dry storage onsite to prepare the facility for demolition.
DOE Awards Contract for the West Valley Demonstration Project for the Development of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Procurement

Cincinnati -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the award of a contract to SC&A, Inc. of Vienna, VA for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) for the development of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) Procurement. The contract is a Time-and-Materials type contract. The total value of the contract is $16,943,727 with a five-year period of performance. Four proposals were received in response to the solicitation.

The services to be provided under the contract include, but are not limited to, the development of Phase 2 Decision-making for the WVDP and Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC), Phase 2 Decision-making Schedule for the WVDP, WNYNSC, and State-Licensed Disposal Area, Phase 2 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Activities, Development of Phase 2 Alternatives, Preparation of Conceptual Engineering Design Reports, Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Preparation of a Decommissioning Plan, and Preparation of Applications for Permitting or Licensing Modifications for the State-Licensed Disposal Area.

The mission of the DOE Environmental Management program is the safe cleanup of the environmental legacy resulting from five decades of nuclear weapons development and government-sponsored nuclear energy research.
West Valley Demonstration donated to BCH

Pictured from left: CHBWV Deputy General Manager Scott Anderson, CHBWV Safety Manager Tommy Fontaine, CHBWV President and General Manager Jeff Bradford, BCH Foundation member Grover Riefler, BCH Board President Gary Eppolito, NYSERDA WVSMP Director Paul Bembia, BCH CEO Nils Gunnersen, former BCH Director of Patient Care Services Darlene Schrantz, DOE-WVDP Director Bryan Bower, CHBWV ESH&Q Manager Christine Lee and DOE-WVDP Safety and Site Programs Team Leader Christopher Eckert.

Representative from the West Valley Demonstration Project presented a donation to the Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, on March 29. WVDP provided the donation to help offset the cost of their site-specific needs.
NYSERDA to host solar workshop in West Valley

April 27, 2017

ASHFORD—The Ashford Town Board heard updates on the Ashford solar project and information about an upcoming solar workshop during its meeting April 19.

After the board showed interest at its last meeting, New York State Energy Research and Development Agency West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia reported that NYSERDA has set up an “Introduction to Shared Solar Workshop” on Thursday, May 18 from 6-8 p.m. at the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company Memorial Hall, 9091 Route 240 in West Valley.

The workshop is free and will give an overview of shared solar, New York’s newest mechanism for expanding solar access to communities. Representatives from the NY-Sun PV Trainers Network will be in attendance to cover “the New York solar market and incentives, shared solar models, rules and regulations and the role and concerns of different stakeholders in developing and managing shared solar projects including zoning and property tax concerns.”

“We would really like to get as many people here from the community and the neighboring communities and towns because they can become involved with it,” Ashford Supervisor Charlie Davis said.

Bembia also gave the board an update about the Ashford community solar project. NYSERDA recently had a meeting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about what information the NRC would need to determine whether there are any concerns with the project being on state property. The NRC would need a project description, information showing the property is unimpacted, whether a license amendment is needed and information from the New York State Department of Energy about impacts on the project. Bembia said that they hope to get this information to the NRC by early this summer.

In other board news:

– The board will hold a public hearing on May 10 at 8 p.m. to discuss the proposed town constable law.
– The Ashford Youth Commission is hosting a survey to get the opinion and gauge interest in summer programming, which includes swimming two days per week at the Machias pool – with transportation provided – and evening activities for older kids. A link for the survey can be found on the town’s website.
– Board member Jean Bond reported that Cattaraugus County has received a grant to help residents with the cost of replacing water lines from the street to their house, if they met the income guidelines, and the town is looking for people who might need assistance with their waterlines. Bond said once they get enough interested people, the county will set a date and they will come and help residents fill out the applications for the program.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.
Cattaraugus Creek, an International Draw, needs TLC to Head off Looming Problems

The two Great Lakes and the Niagara River’s waterfalls get most of the attention.

Now another natural gem needs looking after.

Cattaraugus Creek may not be as world famous as some other bodies of water around here, but anglers, hikers, kayakers and bird watchers head there for recreation in breathtaking scenery.

- The 550-square-mile watershed:
- Offers a creek corridor through Zoar Valley.
  - Provides the only source of drinking water to 20,000 people.
  - Includes a world-class fishery for steel head trout.

But Cattaraugus Creek also has potential problems.
Development and land use threaten stream banks. Flooding and erosion are recurring problems. Forests are thinning. The creek mouth gets clogged with silt. Water depths run low. And, invasive plants and aquatic species like sea lamprey have gained a foothold.

“It’s an important port that should be maintained all the time,” said Ed Schintzius, a boater and angler near the mouth of the creek at Sunset Bay. “I don’t think people understand how important it is.”

The 550-square-mile watershed that runs through five counties doesn’t need a cleanup. It just needs some protection, state officials and environmentalists say.

“It’s relatively healthy,” said Shannon Dougherty, the DEC’s Western Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator. “It’s one of the healthiest watersheds in the area, and everyone wants to keep it that way.”

State environmental officials – and partners from a variety of environmental, civic, municipal organizations and from the Seneca Nation territory – are coming up with ideas on how to protect Cattaraugus Creek as part of the state's Great Lakes Action Agenda.

A few dozen met last week in Depew to brainstorm solutions to some of the watershed’s biggest problems. One characterized the greatest threat as the potential loss of forests as invasive pests gnaw at century-old ash, hemlock and beech stock.
“When you lose a 100-year-old tree, you’re not going to have another 100-year-old tree there for another 100 years,” he said.

Another pointed out that modifying the natural course of the creek decades ago caused more harm than help.

“We’ve not done nature any benefit,” said the man, who identified himself as a member of the Seneca Nation.

Others said development too close to the creek bank, or rip-rapping areas instead of allowing for natural flood-plains only exacerbate problems.

More contemporary problems also loom over the creek's corridor.

National Fuel's proposed Northern Access Pipeline is one. The pipeline cuts through the watershed. The DEC rejected plans for the pipeline earlier this month on grounds it didn't comply with water quality standards. The company is appealing.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to lower the Scoby Dam in Springville. Although plans call for fish ramps to be installed that would bar passage of sea lamprey, some fear the invasive parasite could conquer areas of the upper Cattaraugus Creek and its miles of tributaries.

And the West Valley Demonstration Project, a nuclear waste site that sits in the creek's watershed upstream of Springville, isn't going away.
The work group largely steered clear of those issues, instead choosing to stake out a general path for launching an ecosystem-based management pilot project for the entirety of Cattaraugus Creek's watershed.

“Ultimately, we need to look at that whole system because what happens in those upper areas, those forested areas and farms, has a complete impact on the quality of water and the fish that are swimming offshore in the lake,” Riobart Breen, a policy analyst with the Department of State’s Ocean and Great Lakes Program, told the group.

The general healthiness of eastern Lake Erie as compared to other parts of the lake further west, where toxic algal blooms and hypoxia are major issues, help attract a lot of fish. Cattaraugus Creek is a significant spawning area for several species.

"The Cattaraugus Creek system is New York's most significant tributary to Lake Erie," said Don Einhouse, the DEC's Lake Erie Fisheries Research Unit leader.

Expanding suitable protective wetland habitats in the creek channel through proper management can only help.

"That’s a prime candidate stream for sturgeon restoration," Einhouse said. “Although there’s no evidence they’re there now. There’s scant evidence they were there historically."

- Steve Glor, of Holland, landed a brown trout, as he fished with Francis Woodin of Rushford at the Cattaraugus Creek DEC public access site off Route 16 in Sardinia last spring.
- (John Hickey/Buffalo News)
Cattaraugus Creek's fishery is important ecologically – and economically.

Schintzius and Jim Tunney, a charter boat captain, headed up a study of their own a few years back gauging the importance of the fishery on tourism. It was at a time when the channel at the mouth of the creek was reduced to depths too shallow to navigate because of low water levels and years without dredging that left the channel clogged with sand and silt.

Schintzius and Tunney pegged the May-to-September season as having upward of a $6 million benefit to the local economy.

“‘It’s unbelievable economic development,’” Schintzius said. “People actually come from all over the world.”

Economic development is a top consideration in ecosystem-based management and the Nature Conservancy’s “Conservation by Design 2.0” blueprint that the work group is using in its Cattaraugus Creek watershed project, officials said.

Fundamentally, it holds that economic development and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive.

“We will reap more working with nature than against it,” said Jim Howe, regional director at the Nature Conservancy.

That might mean not developing so close to the creek or in flood plains to alleviate flooding; maintaining forest riparian buffers to alleviate erosion, stabilize stream banks and provide for natural stormwater filtration; or promoting natural hydrology.

"The overall health of any water system is greater than the sum of its parts," said Jill Jedlicka, executive director of Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. "Using ecosystem-based management is a common-sense strategy based on the reality that water does not follow political or municipal boundaries."

Jedlicka added: "Cattaraugus Creek is a critically important tributary to Lake Erie and contributes to the world-renowned Lake Erie fishery, cultural resources and local economy and is an ideal location to implement such a strategy."
Rep. Tom Reed ‘very optimistic’ Congress can avoid shutdown

By RICK MILLER, Olean Times Herald Apr 26, 2017 Updated Apr 26, 2017

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed says a 40-member bipartisan group he co-chairs in Congress are committed to voting for a “clean” budget resolution designed to avoid a government shutdown.

“I’m very optimistic that we will avoid a shutdown,” Reed, R-Corning, said Tuesday.

The approximately 20 Democratic members of Problem Solvers Caucus are willing to stand with Republicans on the budget resolution, providing it is stripped of its ideological debates, Reed told reporters during his weekly telephone press conference.

By ideological debates, Reed said he meant building the border wall, defunding subsidies for Obamacare and sanctuary cities. These are better suited for discussion after the budget resolution is approved, he added.

Reed co-chairs the Problem Solvers Caucus with Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-N.J. The group has vowed to “put people over party,” Reed said.

The Corning Republican said he has been reminded in recent days by some of his Democratic colleagues that the shoe is now on the other foot

as Republicans try to keep the government from shutting down. During President Barack Obama’s administration, Republicans, including Reed,

voted for a shutdown. Now, with a Republican in the White House, he’s actively working to avoid a shutdown.

Reed said the votes of the Problem Solvers Caucus will help offset members of the ultraconservative Freedom Caucus, which stalled the march to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act.

“It could offset the Freedom Caucus,” Reed agreed. “We’ve got close to 20 Democrats committed to crossing the aisle and doing what’s right for the country.”

Reed admitted that many of them were “sticking their necks out” with their party by siding with Trump and House Republicans.

With President Donald Trump signaling plans to release a framework for tax reform today, Reed, as a member of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, said he had been talking with the White House about it.

“I’ll defer to them” in releasing the framework, he added.

Initial reports indicated Trump planned to concentrate on corporate taxes, reducing them from 35 percent to 15 percent.
In response to a question of whether historic preservation tax credits would be part of the tax reform, Reed said he and others are advocating it continue to be part of the tax code.

In terms of the budget resolution, Reed said the popular Community Development Block Grant program, the Great Lakes Initiative and the West Valley Demonstration Project are programs he will continue to fight for.

“That message has been delivered,” he said both to House Republican leadership and the White House.

Asked how Trump was doing in his first 100 days in office which is Saturday, Reed said the president brings a “disruptive force” to the Washington mix. Unlike Obama, Trump has reached out to congressmen, he said.

“Overall, there have been some bumps in the road, but the president has brought that disruptive force to Washington I support,” Reed said.

Contact reporter Rick Miller at rmiller@oleantimesherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, @RMillerOTH)
U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., announced Tuesday the congressional budget deal includes additional funding for continued cleanup at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

An additional $7.2 million in Federal Year 2017 will bring funding to $66.4 million, the senators said in a prepared statement.

“This $7.2 million increase in federal investment will keep the clean up on track in West Valley,” Schumer said. “Each year that the West Valley Demonstration Project goes underfunded, the amount of time and money it will take to decontaminate and remove the radioactive waste increases. While the project is still shortchanged, this multi-million dollar increase is a positive step in the right direction.”

“Increased funding will ensure that the cleanup at West Valley does not fall behind schedule,” said Gillibrand. “It is critical for the health and safety of Western New Yorkers that the site is cleaned up and radioactive material is removed without delay.”

The plant was operated from 1966 to 1972 by Nuclear Fuel Services. It was shut down in 1972 after regulations at the time required plant modifications.

Cleanup of the former Ashford plant began with the passage of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act in 1980.

Since then, contractors have safely solidified 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive liquid waste into 275 glass logs, performed other site cleanup projects and demolished more than a dozen buildings that were no longer used. Hundreds of thousands of tons of debris, including low-level legacy waste, have been removed to special disposal sites.

The cost so far is more than $2 billion for the federal government and hundreds of millions of state dollars. The extent of the cleanup is still being studied and debated.
The senators agreed that the cleanup has been underfunded and that much more needs to be done to clean up the former nuclear reprocessing site.

Schumer and Gillibrand said the increased funding brings the West Valley Demonstration Project cleanup closer to the $75 million annual appropriation the Department of Energy estimated would be needed.

Cleanup funds have varied over the past several years. They totaled $59.2 million in Federal Year 2016.
Reed Secures Increase in Funding for West Valley
May 4, 2017

Press Release

*Increase Would Amount to Nearly $5 Million for Current Fiscal Year*

Congressman Tom Reed announced an increase of nearly $5 million in funding for West Valley from Fiscal Year 2016 to Fiscal Year 2017. Funding for FY17 will increase to $66,413,000. The bill will be up for a vote later this week.

“We care about protecting the people that live in and around West Valley. The funding increase for FY17 will provide additional resources to make the region safer for residents,” Reed stated.

Reed also plans to introduce legislation to reauthorize funding to support clean-up efforts at the West Valley Demonstration Project, to ensure funding will continue for the program. Additionally, the bill would reclassify the waste from commercial to defense-related waste.

“We must continue working to make the area safer. The reclassification to defense waste would deliver more federal resources that the community needs to clean up this toxic site,” Reed added.

A previous funding proposal, which Reed supported, provided $61.6 million for the site. Reed has worked tirelessly since elected to secure funds from the Department of Energy. These funds have recently helped West Valley remove the last high-level vitrified waste from the main process building.

The bill Reed plans to introduce aims to recognize the need for continued funding at West Valley. Reclassification to defense-related waste will remove a future financial burden New York taxpayers could be hit with for the disposal of the waste. This action follows a letter Reed sent to the Department of Energy in Fall 2016 requesting the reclassification. The letter was supported by several members of the New York Congressional delegation.
After months of uncertainty (and the threat of possible government shutdown) the 115th Congress passed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget. Appropriators are now gearing up both for the anticipated release of the President’s FY’18 budget request on May 23, and for what promises to be an exciting and active legislative session—with many new and old issues back on the table.

**FY 2017 Budget**

Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) in December 2016 to provide appropriations at FY’16 levels through April 28, 2017. To avoid a government shutdown on April 28, Congress passed a stopgap budget, funding the government for an additional week. Finally, on May 3, the House passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (vote: 309-118); the Senate followed suit the next day (vote: 79-18). On May 5, President Trump signed the nearly $1.1 trillion omnibus appropriations bill into law.

The budget gives a wide range of DOE programs modest funding increases through September 2017. For example, The Office of Nuclear Energy (NE) will receive a $36 million dollar boost (just over $1 billion in total), with the Gateway for Innovation and Acceleration in Nuclear (GAIN) program receiving $4.5 million and the Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Technical Licensing Support program receiving $95 million.

The Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund received $768 million for FY’17, a 14% increase from FY’16 enacted levels. Oak Ridge will receive $194.7 million, Paducah $205.5 million, and Portsmouth $315.2.

The Office of Science funding increased by $42 million, with language in the bill directing the Office of Science to work with NE in future budget requests to demonstrate a commitment to operations and maintenance of nuclear facilities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The Advanced Research projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E) received a $15 million increase.

Funding for non-defense environmental cleanup efforts at the West Valley Demonstration Project increased to $66.4 million; the Gaseous Diffusion Plants received $101.3 million—a slight decrease from FY’16.

Defense environmental cleanup funding increased by $115 million from FY’16 enacted levels. For cleanup efforts, Hanford (combined offices) is set to receive $2.3 billion, the Idaho National Laboratory will get $382 million, The National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) sites (including Los Alamos National Lab, Sandia National Lab, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and Nevada Offsites) will receive $265.4 million, Oak Ridge Reservation gets $263.2 million, Savannah River Site (SRS) $1.2 billion, and WIPP $292.7 million. The budget also makes a provision of $26.8 million in economic assistance to New Mexico as part of a larger $74 million settlement between DOE and the New Mexico Environmental Department reached after the 2014 accident at WIPP. The $26.8 million will be remitted to the New Mexico Department of Transportation for repairs and improvements to roads and shipping routes at and around WIPP.

The National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) funding increased by over $411 million over FY’16 levels (a total of $12.9 billion) to support stockpile upgrades and maintenance, infrastructure and capabilities improvements, and various other weapons, nuclear nonproliferation, and naval reactors activities. The Mixed Oxide (MOX) facility at SRS received $335 million, a decrease of $5 million from last year.

The Office of Legacy Management (LM) received $154 million, a decrease of $12 million from FY’16 levels. Likewise, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received a $6.7 million cut in

(Continued on page 6)
### FY 2017 Budget Highlights

(amounts in thousands)

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Note: These figures are compiled from different sources: the Office of Management and Budget, the congressional appropriations committee reports, and press releases. There are some discrepancies in how each calculates government spending.
funding, though $5 million was designated for the agency’s work on licensing advanced nuclear reactors.

As a disappointment to many proponents of the project, the omnibus made no mention of funding for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository. This, along with the funding of ARPA-E, come in sharp contrast with the President’s “skinny budget” released in mid-March, which called $120 million to restart licensing activities for Yucca Mountain and the complete elimination of the ARPA-E program.

**Nuclear Production Tax Credits**

Another item missing from the omnibus: language to extend the nuclear production tax credits (PTCs) beyond 2020. Currently, this credit applies only to reactors that come on line before the end of 2020. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) initially attempted to add the provisions to the omnibus appropriations, but was unsuccessful.

The extension is needed to permit future SMR projects (like UAMPS, TVA and others), and current AP1000 reactors still under construction in Georgia and South Carolina, to benefit from the tax credit. However, prospects for the production credit in FY’18 may not be any better than in FY’17. Some sources have identified that with tax reform a high priority for the Administration, it may be difficult to pass any tax credit extension this year.

Nevertheless, Representatives Tom Rice (R-SC) and Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) have introduced H.R. 1551 to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production from advanced nuclear power facilities. This would allow nuclear power facilities that become operational after 2020 to qualify for the nuclear PTC. The legislation would amend the tax code to also allow nonprofit partners in nuclear power facilities to effectively use the nuclear PTC to pass rate savings to customers. The companion bill in the Senate, S. 666, was introduced by Senator Tim Scott (R-SC).

**FY 2018 Appropriations**

Congressional appropriators have less than 140 days to hold hearings, draft language and reach a FY’18 budget deal before the end of FY’17 deadline (September 30). Rumors are already circulating throughout Washington, DC of a possible CR for the fall, and on May 2, President Trump tweeted to threaten a government shutdown in September if Senate Democrats don’t cooperate.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB), is expected to release the White House’s complete budget blueprint on May 23, but many believe this or other key milestones of the appropriations calendar could be pushed off further due to Congressional focus on other legislative issues, such as tax reform and the Affordable Care Act.

The FY’18 budget will to provide a more detailed review of discretionary programs in FY’18 than his “skinny budget” released earlier this year. It is expected to prioritize tax reform, increase spending for national security and defense programs, and address domestic infrastructure projects. Budget-watchers anticipate funding increases for NNSA, EM, and licensing activities for Yucca Mountain.

**Restarting Yucca Mountain**

While there was no funding for the Yucca Mountain project in the FY’17 omnibus, legislation on the matter is expected to gain traction in the 115th Congress. On April 26, the Environment Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing to discuss the draft Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017.

The draft legislation, sponsored by Representative John Shimkus (R-IL), Chair of the Environment Subcommittee, would amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 to pave a path forward for licensing Yucca Mountain for the storage and permanent disposition of the nation’s spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level waste (HWL).

As an overview, the bill:

- Allows DOE to undertake infrastructure activities considered necessary to support future access to, or construction and operation of, the repository in parallel with any NRC licensing review;

- Calls for the designation of Federal authority over lands at and around Yucca Mountain and the shifting of water and air quality permitting privileges from the state of Nevada to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

- Requires DOE to halt any effort to create a defense waste repository until the NRC issues a final licensing decision on Yucca Mountain;

(Continued on page 8)
DOE Extends Liquid Waste Contract at Savannah River Site

DOE has announced the decision to extend Savannah River Remediation’s contract for the liquid waste mission at the Savannah River Site for six months, till December 31, 2017. The original contract, set to expire June 30, was established for April 2009 to March 2015 with the option to extend two years. The estimated value of the contract is $4-$6 billion. DOE has not released information regarding the bidding selection process for the new contract.

DOE Awards Contract for the West Valley Demonstration Project for the Development of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Procurement

On April 6, DOE announced the award of a contract to SC&A, Inc. for the development of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). The contract’s total value is $16,943,727 with a five-year period of performance.

DOE Releases Draft Request for Proposal for Portsmouth Paducah Project Office (PPPO) Technical Support Services Procurement

EM’s Consolidated Business Center released a Draft Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Environmental Management Portsmouth Paducah Project Office (PPPO) Technical Support Services procurement. The department is seeking industry comment on the Draft RFP. The contract aims to provide DOE with technical and administrative support for oversight of cleanup activities at the Gaseous Diffusion Plants in both Piketon, OH and Paducah, KY. In addition, the contract aims to provide support for operation of the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride Conversion Project, “and to provide various technical engineering functions, information technology infrastructure support, Safeguards and Security oversight, and general administrative support for all PPPO sites. This contract will be issued as a consolidated effort for the continuation of three current, separate technical support services contracts for PPPO.”

NNSA Awards Nevada National Security Site Management & Operating Contract to Mission Support and Test Services, LLC

On May 12, NNSA announced the award of the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) Management & Operating (M&O) contract to Mission Support and Test Services, LLC (MSTS). The award is valued at $5 billion over 10 years. MSTS is a subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., and Stoller Newport News Nuclear, Inc. The current M&O contract at NNSS will be extended beyond its expiration date of May 31, 2017 to allow for a four-month transition period between the incoming and outgoing contractors.

Originally, the M&O contract for NNSS was awarded to Nevada Site Science Support and Technologies Corporation (NVST) in August 2016, but NNSA rescinded the award after learning that NVSST did not disclose in its proposal its recent acquisition by Leidos Innovations Corporation from Lockheed Martin.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract Type</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandia National Laboratories</td>
<td>April 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paducah</td>
<td>July 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIPP M&amp;O</td>
<td>September 2017 (option of 5-year extension)</td>
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<td>SRS Liquid Waste</td>
<td>December 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hanford Central Plateau</td>
<td>September 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Los Alamos National Laboratory</td>
<td>September 2018 (more award terms possible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory</td>
<td>September 2018 (more award terms possible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salt Waste Processing Facility</td>
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<td>West Valley Demonstration Project</td>
<td>April 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y-12/Pantex</td>
<td>June 2019 (option of 5-year extension)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hanford Mission Support</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
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May 18, 2017

ASHFORD—The Ashford Town Board gave an update on the West Valley Water District and discussed billing during the May 10 meeting.

Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis said training is underway to have multiple people certified in the town to read the water meters quarterly within the water district and are continuing to work on all the upcoming work to get the water district fully operational in all facets.

“We are slowly working on all of these things that we never knew about,” Davis said. “But we are working through all of the things that we got to do as a municipal water system.”

With the billing, Davis and board member Jean Bond brought up an idea to help simplify their first time billing process. Davis said the repayment on the loan comes out to around $30,000 per year and there are 199-meter pits within the town. With the current plan, certain land owners are paying different prices toward the debt service depending on the kind of property, whether it has a meter and whether the land is developable or undevelopable. Dividing the $30,000 by the number of meter pits would come to around $37, which Davis and Bond are suggesting everyone with a meter pit pays toward the debt service.

“My contention is that it didn’t cost any more money so for simply the debt reduction, nothing to do with maintenance or repairs or water usage, I believe it should be one unit is one meter,” Bond said.

While Davis said they were not going to decide to this at the meeting and this was just brought up for discussion, board members John Pfeffer and Richard Bernstein expressed their doubts for the idea and want to see more information before they make any kind of decision to move forward.

“I think it goes to the same way taxing is developed ... the way you pay taxes on your property is based on the value of our property so the way we should be paying back to debt for this, I think it should be tied to this,” Pfeffer said.

Davis reported residents on Rock Spring Road are upset about a Verizon mini cell tower and poles being installed along the road. With the tower and poles being in the town’s right-of-way, Pfeffer questioned whether they had the right to install this in their right-of-way without the town granting an easement, and will call the Public Service Commission to answer their concerns.

In other board news:

– The board held a public hearing about establishing a local law to establish the position of town constable and enumerate the duties of the position and later approved to adopt the local law.

– The board gave an update on the town becoming a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Clean Energy Community. The town just needs to finish up the training with Code Enforcement Officer Larry Feldman and if Ashford were to receive the $50,000 grant, Davis said it would go toward putting solar panels on the roof of the highway barn to help cut energy costs.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.
Lecture to discuss heavy rainfall's impact on West Valley N-waste

A Hamburg geologist who is a member of the West Valley Citizen Task Force will give a lecture next week about how the climate could impact decision-making for cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Raymond C. Vaughan, who has served on various local environmental and conservation boards and organizations, will be the guest speaker at the Western New York chapter of the American Meteorological Society's monthly meeting Tuesday evening at SUNY Buffalo State.

The meeting, open to the public, will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Classroom Building Room A 209 at Buffalo State.

Society officials said Vaughan will explain whether climatic changes and anomalously heavy rainfall can be predicted well enough to be relied on in making decisions regarding cleanup of the site at West Valley. State and federal agencies have a 2020 deadline to decide whether radioactive wastes stored at West Valley should be dug up and removed.
West Valley Cleanup Contractor Earns 75 Percent of Possible Award Fee

Workers stand inside EM's West Valley Demonstration Project's Vitrification Facility after the facility was declared demolition-ready.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV), the cleanup contractor for EM's West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), earned $338,205, or 75 percent of a possible $450,694 award fee for the September 2016 to March 2017 performance period, according to a recently released scorecard.

CHBWV has a highly incentivized contract, with 80 percent of the fee tied to cost and schedule performance. The subjective award fee accounts for 20 percent of the available fee. In addition to receiving $338,205, the contractor earned over $5.9 million of provisional schedule fee for achieving the high-level waste canister relocation 13 months ahead of schedule.

For the subjective fee, CHBWV met the majority of performance goals and objectives for the period, according to the scorecard. WVDP rated the contractor “very good” for safety, health, and quality management; business administration; and project management. CHBWV exceeded many significant criteria and met the contract’s overall cost, schedule, and technical performance requirements. CHBWV received a “good” rating for environmental and regulatory compliance, outpacing significant criteria and meeting overall cost, schedule, and technical performance requirements.

Each year, EM releases information relating to contractor fee payments — earned by completing the work called for in the contracts — to further transparency in its cleanup program.

According to the WVDP scorecard:

CHBWV obtained a “very good” safety, health and quality management rating for accumulating more than 2.4 million safe work hours, receiving a DOE Voluntary Protection Program Star of Excellence award, and other factors.
The company received a “very good” business administration rating, primarily because of its continued commitment to cybersecurity and display of strong community support by organizing a food drive. The contractor also focused on improving small business goals, and implemented a new records management system. But improvements are needed in the accuracy of reporting.

The “very good” project management rating was primarily due to CHBWV’s improved project planning and coordination that went into achieving two significant milestones (read about them here and here). But the scorecard noted there was still room for improvement.

“While DOE commends CHBWV on the significance of these accomplishments and the effective project planning and coordination approaches that supported them, additional efforts are needed to ensure support organization program needs and requirements are better integrated in Facility Disposition Planning,” according to the scorecard.

Several factors led to CHBWV’s “good” environmental and regulatory compliance rating. The company generally submitted “good” quality, well organized routine reports on time, and continued to foster positive relations with regulators.

Once the site of the first and only commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the U.S., WVDPO is now an environmental cleanup and waste management project located about 35 miles south of Buffalo. The cleanup is conducted by EM in cooperation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

View CHBWV’s scorecard here.

-Contributor: David Sheeley
Target Date Set for Vitrification Facility Demolition

June 22, 2017

ASHFORD—The Town of Ashford board heard updates on the West Valley Demonstration Project and the Community Shared Solar project at its June 14 meeting.

New York State Energy Research and Development Agency West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia reported that from the federal budget for 2017, the West Valley Demonstration Project received $69.6 million in funding, an increase of about $8 million from 2016. The increase in funding will allow the WVDP to accelerate the start of the demolition of the vitrification facility, with a target start date of Aug. 1. The funding will also allow for some important infrastructure work on the project, including a new electric tie in to the site.

President Donald Trump’s 2018 appropriation for the site is $63 million, Bembia said, a $6 million decrease from 2017. Congress worked to increase the funds for 2017, and Bembia suggested the board talk with their representatives in Congress to thank them for the initial bump and tell them that funding should hopefully be between $70 and $75 million for the continued cleanup.

Bembia also reported NYSERDA’s recent work on the town’s proposal for the development of a community shared solar project. After evaluating electric bills and other information provided by Supervisor Charles Davis, NY-Sun said they find electric rates are low in the area and are continuing to research other factors that could impact the project in terms of attracting developers to fund and run the project and to provide savings to subscribers. Bembia also reported that NYSERDA has a group of experts researching interconnection costs – the cost of modifications to tie the new solar facility into the electric grid and handle the increased electric workload – and will have more information by the next meeting.

In other board news:

– The board appointed Angela Ghani as the new summer recreation director to replace Lisa Proctor after her resignation.

– Highway Superintendent Tim Engels reported on recent and upcoming road work. There will be work to fix collapsed culvert pipes on Watson, Cole and Folts roads coming up and work on Bond Road is nearing completion. Engels said they hopefully will be working to repave Hillview Drive, School Street and the municipal parking lots soon with their Pave NY funds.

– The board awarded a bid for fencing at the West Valley Fire Department pump station to Active Fence for $5,200.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, July 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.