TOWN OF ASHFORD

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Bryan C. Bower, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
West Valley Demonstration Project
10282 Rock Springs Road
West Valley, NY 141171-9799

July 17, 2006

Dear Mr. Bower:

SUBJECT; Town of Ashford Comments on Draft Environmental Assessment for Decontamination Demolition, and Removal of Various Facilities at the West Valley Demonstration Project (DOE/EA-1552 June 26, 2006.

1. The Town of Ashford is in complete agreement with the 12 comments made by NYSERDA, June 30, 2006. We are very concerned with how the DOE will answer the NYSERDA comments and want to be keep up to date on the answers to the Comments. We also request a time frame to allow for agreement or disagreement.

2. We find that your reference to future use of off site local warehouses, if needed, is another possibility for accidents and more of a threat to our health and safety. We Strongly urge that any possible building that could be used for any future Demonstration projects or any UNFORESEEN reasons must be left and maintained. The EA does not include a list of where these actual suitable warehouses are or what may have to be stored.

3. We strongly urge that research be done on the small school house that appears to be outside of the actual area where the anticipated reduction of building foot print is located. This is the only surviving building that the town has from the original take over. We feel that sentimental effects and historical values must be considered before it is demolished. It certainly has nothing to do with the removal of radioactivity. The same goes for the demolishing of many of the buildings, as to the actual reduction of the real problem.

4. As the local community to which the federal government (DOE) has always stated they

have been friendly with, we are very disappointed that we have not been or at least considered to be contacted for a study to the elimination of certain support projects. Including the sewer system, water supply system, and certain buildings.

5. We, as the local community, are very concerned with what appears to be a quick suggestion to remove buildings. Our town is presently suffering a major problem caused by the very rapid and not researched removal of approximately 80 temporary office trailers last year. They were moved onto property within the Town without Permits and are in violation of the local Town Law and Ordinance.

6. The Environmental Assessment is not clear about what we feel important. Issues such as the real impacts to our local health safety and economy: (a) Future monitoring of local volunteers, within a specified perimeter, to have physicals done and recorded (b) Monitoring off site but within the immediate area of creeks, springs, underground water supplies, wildlife, wooded areas and air. These are examples we feel this EA has overlooked. The fact that our people still live in the area and the rights to local protection of health, safety and economy are equal to all who live within the United States, is very important to us.

7. More effort must be put on total removal of any and all contaminants from this site. This EA suggest that by reducing a footprint we are taking care of the real problems.

William T. King
Supervisor