

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Solid and Hazardous Materials
Bureau of Hazardous Waste & Radiation Management
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8/2/06

Mr. Brian Bower, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
West Valley Demonstration Project
10282 Rock Springs Road
West Valley, NY 14171-9799

Dear Mr. Bower,

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (the Department) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Decontamination, Demolition, and Removal of Various Facilities at the West Valley Demonstration Project, (DOE/EA-1552) dated June 26, 2006 (the EA). We would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to review and comment on this document.

The Department supports the concept of decontamination and removal of facilities that will no longer be needed to carry out known or possible future activities at the site. However, we disagree with the scope of the facilities that are described in the EA as “unneded and unused.” Certain types of facilities listed in the EA can not be realistically considered for removal at this time, given that a final approach to site decommissioning has yet to be chosen through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. Of particular concern to the Department are the proposed removal of all waste management and storage facilities, and the removal of all warehouse, fabrication, sanitary, emergency response, and specialized training facilities. Several of these facilities would be best left in place under any scenario for ongoing work. Depending upon the closure alternative chosen for the site, some or all of the facilities are likely to be needed to support that work.

Enclosed are our detailed comment. We look forward to receiving the response to comments document for this EA. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Tim Rice from our Radiation Section at (518) 402-8579.

Sincerely,

/S/

Edwin E. Dassatti
Bureau Director

cc w/enc: P. Piciulo, NYSERDA
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