

Artvoice, August 8, 2011

News & Commentary from the Artvoice Editorial staff

Dennis Banks in Buffalo

Filed under: [Activism](#) — Artvoice Staff @ 10:23 am



Today, at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society (25 Nottingham Court), there will be celebration of the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Day, with appearances by Native American activist Dennis Banks and film producer Masaou Yamamoto.

Banks co-founded the American Indian Movement in 1968 and took part in the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee at Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Also speaking at the ceremony is Diane D'Arrigo of the Nuclear Information Resource Information Service in Washington, DC. D'Arrigo will give a presentation on **the West Valley nuclear waste facility**. The event runs 6-10pm.

Tomorrow, 3-5pm, at the Burchfield Penney Art Center, there will be screening of *The Drum Will Never Stop: Dennis Banks and His Movement*. Produced by Yamamoto and Takeo Koshikawa, the film follows Banks's activism since 1978. Banks and the producers will speak at the screening.

West Valley contractor plans to cut 90 jobs

Updated: August 16, 2011, 6:30 AM

The contractor to the U. S. Department of Energy for the next phase of work at West Valley Demonstration Project plans to cut 90 jobs this month.

CH2M Hill and Babcock&Wilcox West Valley, known as CHBWV, has made employment offers to 173 of the 263 employees of the outgoing contractor, West Valley Environmental Services, equal to 66 percent of the current work force. They have until later this week to accept the offers, according to West Valley Environmental.

West Valley Environmental's contract at the Cattaraugus County operation ends Aug. 28, and the employees not retained by the new contractor will be laid off on that date. Severance will be determined based on years of service, and the

laid-off workers will receive help in searching for new jobs.

Lynette Bennett, a spokeswoman for CHBWV, said the mood at the site was "somber" as the layoff notices were announced.

"None of our decisions were based on poor performance or anything like that," she said. "They were very hard decisions to make." Each of the affected employees was notified by phone calls as well as by letters, she said.

"Everyone has been very professional, even in times like this," Bennett said.

Bennett said the number of job cuts were determined by the budget allotted by the Energy Department, as well as the scope of the work. In turn, those factors determined the mix of employee skills required to carry out the work, she said.

CHBWV in June was awarded a \$333.4 million contract with the Energy Department to carry out the first phase of the West Valley Demonstration Project's decommissioning. It is expected to run for seven years.

In March, as West Valley Environmental's contract was winding down and federal stimulus dollars tied to specific projects were ending, the contractor announced it would eliminate 65 jobs. Fifteen employees took voluntary separation packages, reducing somewhat the number of layoffs required to reach the job-reduction target.

But West Valley Environmental had cautioned that additional job cuts could follow, as the next contractor made its own decisions about how many workers it needed for the successive phase.

CHBWV's focus in the new contract will be the removal of the largest, contaminated facility on site, the former spent reactor fuel reprocessing plant built in the early 1960s.

Bennett noted that if any of the 173 workers opted not to accept offers to stay on, the contractor would first look to the 90 workers facing cuts to try to fill the positions. mglynn@buffnews.com

Business First of Western New York, Tuesday, August 16, 2011

West Valley contractor will have fewer workers

As West Valley Environmental Services LLC transitions to CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox West Valley LLC at the [U.S. Department of Energy](#)'s West Valley Demonstration Project, the new contractor has made employment offers to more than half of the workers.

CH2M has offered to retain 173 of the 263 West Valley employees, who have until later this week to accept.

West Valley Environmental Services, contract ends Aug. 28, and employees not retained by CH2M will be laid off as of then. Those who are laid off will receive severance pay based on years of service, as well as re-employment support.

In June, CH2M was awarded the contract to carry out the first phase of West Valley Demonstration Project decommissioning. The contract, set to run for approximately seven years, is expected to require \$60 million in annual funding. CH2M's focus will be removal of the largest contaminated facility on site, the former spent reactor fuel reprocessing plant built in the early 1960's.

Relocating 275 stainless steel canisters of radioactive waste from the former reprocessing plant is key in preparing for removal of the plant. The canisters are currently stored in the largest shielded chamber in the plant, which includes four-foot concrete walls. Each canister is 10 feet tall, two feet in diameter, and weighs approximately two tons.

Located about 35 miles south of Buffalo, the West Valley Demonstration Project is a U.S. Department of Energy environmental cleanup and waste management project conducted in cooperation with the [New York State Energy Research and Development Authority](#)

WIVB.com, Channel 4 Buffalo, August 16, 2011

West Valley cuts 90 workers

New contractor offers work to half of staff

Updated: Tuesday, 16 Aug 2011, 10:33 AM EDT

Published : Tuesday, 16 Aug 2011, 10:33 AM EDT

Nancy Sanders

WEST VALLEY, NY - The number of workers at West Valley Environmental Services continues to shrink with the latest round cutting 90 positions.

The facility is transitioning to a new contractor CH2M Hill and Babcock & Wilcox West Valley. The company made employment offers to more than half of the workers. The employees have until later this week to accept the offer - retaining 173 of the 263 West Valley employees.

West Valley Environmental's contract at the Cattaraugus County operation ends Aug. 28.

CHBWV's largest task at hand is the removal of the former spent reactor fuel reprocessing plant built in the early 1960s.

Springville Journal, Thursday, August 18, 2011

Ashford Town Board committed to a proactive attitude toward WVDP clean-up

By:Lizz Schumer

Date: Thursday August 18, 2011

The Ashford Town Board focused on the West Valley Demonstration Project for much of its meeting on August 10. Board Member John Pfeffer and Town Supervisor Chris Gerwitz especially stressed the importance of visibility in getting results at the site.

Pfeffer recommended that the board join the Energy Community Alliance, a stakeholder group for community development officials and local governments that are adjacent to or impacted by Department of Energy activity areas, which include the West Valley Demonstration Project.

“There’s a good amount of benefits in making our case and getting exposure,” Pfeffer explained. “It’s been recommended to us by NYSERDA, and we’ve learned a lot about ways to get our point across. As we enter phase one, we’re going to want to keep our eye on how things are going over there. Do we want to be in control of the clean-up or do we want the clean-up to be in control of us?”

The board approved the membership, which comes with a \$900 annual fee, to be taken out of budget funds designated for joining associations and committees.

Pfeffer also requested permission to go to Washington, D.C. to talk to congressmen Thomas Reed and Brian Higgins about the future of the West Valley Demonstration Project, following those officials’ recommended legislation to restore funding to the project. The legislation is an amendment to H.R. 2354, the FY 2012 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which transfers \$41 million in funds from administrative accounts to the non-defense environmental cleanup fund, supporting West Valley remediation. The bill has still not been signed by the Senate.

“They made the exact argument we’ve been making, but we’ve got to get in there now, or we’ll lose it in the long run. It’s important to get down to Washington right away, to get in their face,” said Pfeffer.

He explained that he had set up tentative meetings with both officials to discuss the issues. “When Reed was first running, before he was even elected, I told him it was important to maintain level funding. They got that bill passed through a house that was not nuts about it, so it’s important to move now. It’s just too important not to.”

Board Member Charlie Davis agreed and stressed the importance of speaking to NY Senator Charles Schumer, as well. “You’ve gotta get ahold of Schumer. The squeaky wheel gets the grease,” he said. Davis added that it is important for the board to become part of the DOE’s asset revitalization project, a prospect which has also been discussed at meetings in past months.

“We need to be the driving force on this thing,” he stressed. “It sounds crazy, but if we’re part of the DOE initiative, that’s where the money’s coming from, long-term.”

Board Member Bill Heim said he had some reservations, mostly centered on the current economic climate. “I think it’s a lot more difficult today. Three or four years ago, you might not have had such a problem, but the economics in this country has changed so drastically, it’s really going to be 10 times harder to get any money out of anybody,” he said.

“That’s my fear, that if we don’t get down there, they’ll forget about us,” said Pfeffer.

Gerwitz added, “Now’s the time to do it. If we don’t, we might miss the boat on it. This is \$40 million we’re talking about. We’ve got a lot of work ahead of us, so let’s get going on it.”

The board approved Pfeffer’s proposal.

Gerwitz also brought to the board for consideration the possibility of becoming involved with the Blue Ribbon Commission set up to redistribute high level waste after Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository in Nevada was shut down in 2009. President Barack Obama set up the commission to find temporary storage sites for the waste previously held there.

“I saw the preliminary report in May, and they’re looking for sites for interim storage of high-level waste. I said ‘Hey, if we have to move canisters out into a concrete pad and are going to store waste there for probably my lifetime, there are 277 canisters out there, and we’ve got three acres’ worth of waste. There’s \$15 billion available, and to clean up the site completely they said would be \$9 billion. What if we said we’ll store that waste and get paid to do it?’ I’m just throwing it out there; why not look into it?” proposed Gerwitz. “I think it’s my responsibility to look into the way the government is moving today.”

Pfeffer weighed in on the issue. “They’re going to have regional storage areas set up around the country to take this stuff,” he added. “I have to say, I don’t care how much money they’re going to spit at us, I will fight this to my dying day.”

Gerwitz responded, “This is the way the government is going today whether we like it or not. If this is the direction the country is going, and if they’re going to spend \$15 billion, I don’t want to see it just p****d away. I want to see the place cleaned up.”

Pfeffer reminded Gerwitz that the board had already said “unequivocally” that the site was not suitable for storage of high-level waste, the type of material the commission would be looking into placing. “We’re going to look foolish if we turn that around,” he added.

Art Munson, an Ashford resident, spoke up on the issue. "As a town resident, I think I speak for a lot of people when I say that I am appalled that the board would even hint that we're going to be the spot that

gets that s***," Munson told the board. "It's not safe, and it should be out of here. The town board needs to present a united front that we don't want any more of their crap."

Pfeffer reiterated that his main concern was the board's changing its message, and he pointed out the importance of presenting a united front on the issue.

Pfeffer reminded Gerwitz that the phase two plan is projected to take place over a 30-year time span, and that asking for the interim storage of high-level waste to take place in West Valley after the clean-up would not "balance up" as a timeline. Gerwitz clarified that he does not want the board to get involved in the commission at this point, but that he brought up the idea as a point of discussion for the future.

"In this particular case, there's an inherent danger of presenting a willingness to discuss the possibility of bringing more nuclear waste to West Valley," said Munson. "The biggest issue in this whole town is cleaning up that site. We'd become the dumping ground for the whole United States. If I've got to bring 100 people with me to the next meeting to say we don't support it, that's what I'll do. I'm absolutely flabbergasted that anyone in West Valley would want to see one more piece of crap put in that site."

In other board news:

- The board sent a letter to Cattaraugus County stating that Ashford will not take over Peters Road until issues the board has been working on with the Legislature and department of public works are resolved. The county will maintain control of that road.
- The board also sent a letter to National Fuel expressing satisfaction with the progression of the current gas line construction project. Gerwitz spoke with the foreman on the project, who informed him that they intend to get the lines replaced as quickly as possible. Another crew will come in after construction is finished to take care of clean-up and paving.

"They like to get the whole thing paved at one time, rather than piece by piece," Gerwitz explained. "We've had a couple complaints, but overall, I think they've done a great job."

Highway Superintendent Tim Engels added that he spoke to the company, who told him it has approximately 4,000 feet worth of lines left to replace.

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- Gerwitz reported that he had looked into installing solar panels on the roof of the community center through Solar Liberty, and was going to get exact figures to present to the board before deciding on the cost benefits of the project.

“I’m all for saving money,” said Heim. “But I’d like to talk to someone who has the system, see what it’s like after the honeymoon.”

- Pfeffer asked that the board look into the distribution of emergency alert signs, which direct ambulances, fire trucks and other emergency responders to residences and businesses, since approximately 139 signs remain that have not been handed out to those who had previously requested them.

“It’s a provisioning process,” Pfeffer explained. “We need to develop a process by which people who need them can get them. We need to make it the town’s problem because [the signs] do good things for everyone.”

He added that once the remaining signs have been distributed, he does not recommend giving them out to new builds. “We’ve got to draw the line in the sand somewhere,” Pfeffer said.

- George & Swede Sales and Service Inc. was the only bid received for a new excavator, the proposal for which Engels accepted. The town received the bid for \$98,000 with a trade-in on the old excavator and more than \$120,000 without the trade-in. The board authorized the trade-in because Ashford’s old excavator, which needs some structural repairs, would not yield more than \$20,000 if it were to be sold outright.

“We went down to Little Valley and ran one; we really liked it,” Engels reported. “It’s about a ton heavier than our machine, lots of hydraulic power.”

- Cattaraugus County will be paving Thornwood Drive, which the board expects to take three - four weeks.

- The department of public works approved the West Valley Crystal Water Company’s funding rate, and work will begin in spring 2012. The department hopes to be able to get some engineering done this fall, weather depending.

The next town of Ashford Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

► Olean

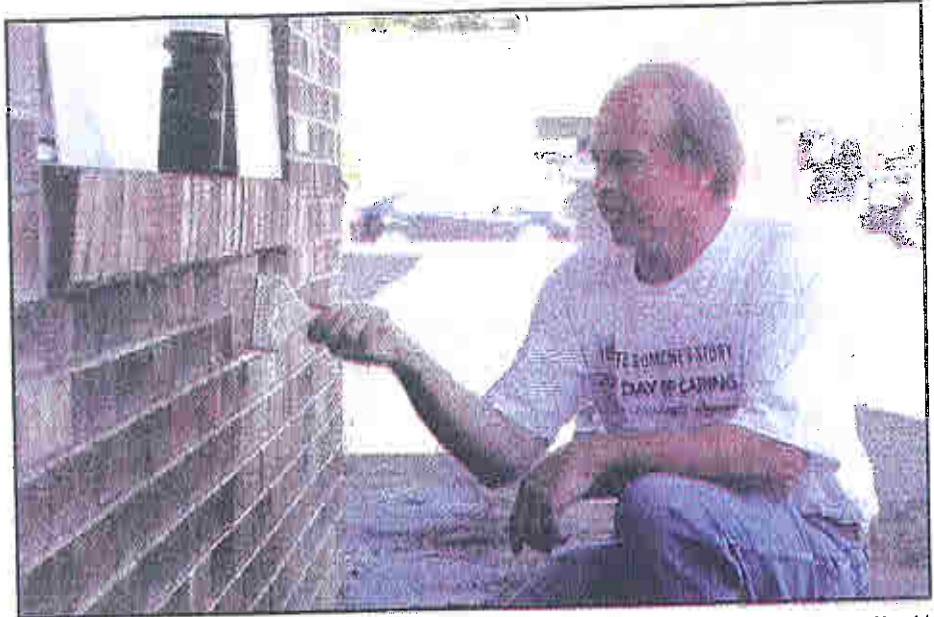
West Valley workers 'clean up' United Way

Demonstration Project employees have volunteered during Day of Caring for more than 15 years

By Christopher Michel
Olean Times Herald

OLEAN — About 20 workers from the West Valley Demonstration Project used their cleanup skills in a different way Thursday.

Starting at 9 a.m., the workers volunteered their time at the United Way of Cattaraugus County's office on West State Street for the second of three days, giving the building some much-needed attention. A second group of approximately 30 demonstration project workers spent their time Thursday helping with



Breanna Farmer/Olean Times Herald

Joe Ras, a worker from the West Valley Demonstration Project, seals bricks on the United Way of Cattaraugus County's office building Thursday. He joined about 20 of his coworkers to help with various projects at the United Way during the Day of Caring.

Please see Clean up, page A-2

► **CLEAN UP**

Continued from page A-1

projects in Springville. The work is part of the United Way's "Day of Caring," in which volunteers throughout the country help organizations in need. Volunteers from the demonstration project have participated in the Day of Caring for more than 15 years.

During their time at the United Way's Olean office, the volunteers power-washed the building, painted its interior, and sealed the building's parking lot and brick facade among other odd jobs.

"We're so happy and grateful for their help," said Candace Plants, manager of the United Way of Cattaraugus County. "We're basically get-

ting a complete makeover. There's no way we could have afforded this kind of work on our own."

Most of the volunteers from the demonstration project helping out Thursday expect to lose their jobs at the nuclear cleanup site in West Valley after next week, as West Valley Environmental Services laid off 60 workers at the beginning of this month.

Despite the uncertainty many of the volunteers have for their professional lives, all were glad to lend a hand to the United Way.

"I come out every year to help," said Brian Weishan, who has worked at the demonstration project for more than six years. "This is just a great way

to help people out."

Speculating the volunteers would be done with all their work by the end of the day, Mr. Weishan was quick to mention he'd help complete the work as long as it takes.

"I'll be here when they need me," he said.

Dusty O'Hara, another West Valley employee affected by the upcoming layoff, agreed.

"I really like helping the community and watching things get cleaned up," she said.

Ms. O'Hara said during her time at the United Way's Olean office, she assisted with painting, gardening and cleaning.

"I'm really enjoying this. It's a lot of fun, and we have nice weather," she said.

For Thomas Ellis, an employee at the demonstration project for more than two years who isn't getting laid off, helping the local branch of the United Way is a way to help his colleagues who may soon benefit from the organization's services.

"I live in Olean and I always volunteer my time, especially now when there are layoffs going on," Mr. Ellis said while painting. "Maybe some of the employees I work with will need help from the United Way. This is a good way to give back."

(Contact reporter Christopher Michel at cmichel@olean-timesherald.com. Follow him on Twitter, [OTHChris](https://twitter.com/OTHChris).)

West Valley



Ryan Dodd, president and general manager of CHMWV, the new contractor at the West Valley Demonstration Project, vowed that safety will remain the top concern as his company takes over the next phase of the cleanup at the former nuclear reprocessing facility in Ashford from West Valley Environmental Services at the end of the month.

Contractor says layoffs based on work scope, money

By Rick Miller
Olean Times Herald

ASHFORD HOLLOW — The new contractor for the Phase 1 cleanup at the West Valley Demonstration Project said laying off of about 90 current employees was based on the scope of the upcoming work and the amount of money set aside by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Joe Pati, a member of the West Valley Citizens Task Force said during Wednesday night's quarterly meeting of the West Valley Demonstration Project he had not been aware that the new contractor planned to hire only 173 of the current 263 employees at the site.

"I wasn't anticipating such a size reduction," he said. Some were pretty key people to the safety operation. "These were a lot of people we trusted to do things the right way."

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The layoffs by the current contractor, West Valley Environmental Services, are effective at the end of this month. Ryan Dodd, president and general manager of CHBWV (composed of CH2M Hill Constructors Inc., Babcock and Wilcox Technical Services Group Inc., Environmental Chemical Corporation and a small business, American Demolition & Nuclear Engineering), said workforce reductions were across the board. The company brought in 14 new management-level employees, including a vice president for safety, he said. Some of the current safety staff was also retained, he added. Mr. Dodd said site safety is not just a result of the size of the safety organization, but “it starts with every employee.”

West Valley Environmental Services has not had a work accident in more than a year. With \$60 million a year in base funding, Mr. Dodd said based on the work to be done at the West Valley site – initially the removal of 275 high-level waste canisters from the main process building so it can be demolished – and the demolition of other facilities and removal of 2 million cubic feet of contaminated soil, they will have all the employees they can afford to do the work. Much of the funding will go toward shipping wastes off site, he said.

“This was the nature of the work and the funding situation,” Mr. Dodd said. He indicated he foresees employment to remain at the same level for several years until toward the end of the seven-year contract.

Bryan Bower, site director for the Department of Energy, said the nature of the work is changing, which will require a smaller workforce. He noted the contractor WVES, which will turn over clean-up work to CHBWV at the end of the month, “was heavy on labor” because of the task of removing contaminated material from the main process building.

That building will be demolished to get at the sources of a radioactive strontium leak that has contaminated soil and is headed toward a creek that runs into Cattaraugus Creek. Company officials said the building, about 50-feet tall, will be demolished by conventional equipment. That demolition will begin in 2015, after the firm has removed hot spots and fully decontaminated the building.

Besides completing the removal of highly radioactive materials in parts of the process building, CHBWV will be responsible for removing the 275 high level waste canisters and placing them in storage casks similar to those used at nuclear power plants. The casks will not be inside a covered facility as had been proposed initially.

Concern was expressed over the decision not to reactivate air monitoring stations in West Valley and Springville. Mr. Bower replied that with the end of the use of stacks (vents) in the main process building and with building scheduled to be demolished, air monitoring will be done within the WVDP site. He agreed to have a presentation on the decision in the near future.

(Contact reporter Rick Miller at rmiller@oleantimesherald.com)

September 1, 2011

NEWS & ARTICLES

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Personnel, funds, clean-up plan covered as WVDP prepares for contract turnover

By: Teresa Nagel



Visitors were abuzz with questions at the quarterly public meeting of the West Valley Demonstration Project on Aug. 24. As the contract with West Valley Environmental Services winds to a close and the new facilitator, CHBWV LLC, undertakes the tasks associated with phase one decommissioning, many locals say they are concerned about the 90 employees who have been let go and will not be replaced.

When asked where most of the cuts are coming from, Ryan Dodd, president and general manager of CHBWV, said that the cuts were “a general reduction in staff across the board. There weren’t any complete departments that were completely done away.”

Bryan Bower from the New York State Department of Energy further emphasized that the layoffs were mostly the result of budget cuts due to a reduction in funding.

“Any contractors would have been subject to the same constraints that CHBWV is,” explained Bower.

Others expressed concern that the cuts will jeopardize the safety of those on-site.

“Some of the people who left were really key people to safety operations. There are a lot of people that we trusted to make sure that the right things were done. To downsize by more than a third, what isn’t going to be done that they used to do? Or was it that top heavy?” asked one man, saying that he represented the viewpoint of several in the room.

Personnel, funds, clean-up plan covered as WVDP prepares for contract turnover (Page 2 of 2)

Bower's response was, "You need to consider the funding that we have. If you're going to buy something . . . you need to have money to buy something. In addition, the type of the work is different. If our funding stays stable at \$60 million, we will be able to maintain the same workforce until 2017. If not, if it goes down, we will have to do this again."

As far as the work itself is concerned, the focus will shift from the decontamination of the main processing plant to the actual demolition of the plant throughout the next six years. The topic of demolition brought up other questions centered around safety concerns, since a large majority of the building itself is contaminated and, in many cases, still houses toxic waste materials yet to be removed.

Dan Coin, deputy general manager of CHBWV, responded to that concern: "High-level waste will be in storage before we start the bulk of the main plant," he said.

"We will cut out and remove any hot spots we find in the building, and then begin demolishing the building. We will use conventional methods to bring the building down."

Other topics of discussion covered at the meeting:

- WVES has been focusing primarily on transitional activities since the contract officially expired as of June 30. Workers are expected to wrap up by midnight on Aug. 28, although a team of approximately six employees will continue on until the end of the year.
- The rail line to the plant was recently repaired. Although that line will probably not be utilized this year, CHBWV does expect to use it to some extent in the future. Discussions ensued as to whether it was most cost-efficient and safe to utilize truck shipping, rail shipping or a combination of the two for waste removal, but talks were inconclusive. It was agreed that safety was largely dependent on the size of the load being shipped.
- Three knickpoints along Erdman Brook have been identified and an engineering model utilizing a pool-riffel-pool effect to dispel the energy that is causing the erosion has already been completed. Construction is set to begin Sept. 1, with an estimated completion date of Nov. 1.

The next quarterly meeting will be held in November. Anyone with a topic they would like to see discussed at the meeting may contact Lynette Bennett at lynette.bennett@wves.org.

Springville Journal, Thursday,
September 1, 2011



Editor:

On behalf of the board of directors of SYI, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to the management and employees of West Valley Environmental Services for their support of the 2011 United Way Day of Caring on Aug. 18, 2011. The generous donation of employee time, equipment and supplies goes a long way in improving our grounds and providing a safe and welcoming area to conduct our summer youth activities.

A group of approximately 40 volunteers spent the day at the pool grounds on South Buffalo Street painting, landscaping, replacing fence posts and performing general maintenance duties.

SYI has been fortunate to have had West Valley as a partner in the Day of Caring for many years. This single event has greatly aided us in improving our facilities and grounds through the years. It has had the added benefit of saving us thousands, if not tens of thousands of dollars that we have been able to use to improve our program offerings.

We would like to thank Mark Guasteferro, who has done an outstanding job coordinating this effort for the past several years and has been an integral part of the success that we have enjoyed. Last, but certainly not least, we would also like to thank those employees who volunteered to work for the day. We cannot express enough how their efforts, especially through these trying times, have contributed to the success of our program. Through the years, they have made our facility on South Buffalo Street a gem in this community.

Springville Youth Inc. is fortunate to be able to operate in a community that has businesses and individuals that are willing to give their time and monetary support to help with our mission of providing recreation services to our residents. Our unique collaboration between the town, village, S-GI and our business community allows us to provide what we feel is a quality recreation program at a very affordable price.

Again, we would like to thank all who were involved with this year's effort.

Nils Wikman
SYI president



TRACY MUSTIN TO SERVE AS THE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Acting Assistant Secretary Dave Huizenga announced on August 19 that Tracy Mustin, Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, has been assigned to serve as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, effective August 28.

In his announcement, Huizenga said of Mustin:

Tracy has almost twenty years of leadership, management, and technical experience in a wide variety of programs across the Department. Joining the Department in 1991 and spending a year as part of the New Production Reactors Program, Tracy spent the next ten years in the Office of Environmental Management, managing programs to stabilize buildings at the Rocky Flats Plant, ship foreign research reactor spent nuclear fuel to the United States, and transport nuclear and other radioactive materials from DOE sites to storage and disposal facilities. Tracy was instrumental in the first shipment of TRIGA research reactor spent fuel from the west coast to Idaho and in planning shipments of spent fuel from **West Valley**.

Since 2003, Tracy has served in a variety of leadership roles in the National Nuclear Security Administration, most notably as the Director of the Second Line of Defense Program, working in over 50 countries to detect illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials. Under this program, NNSA has played a critical role in global efforts to combat nuclear terrorism. In recognition of her efforts, she was awarded the Partnership for Public Service's Service to America Medal for Homeland Security in 2007. Tracy also served as the Department's representative to the National Security Staff in the preparation for the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit, a key element of President Obama's nuclear.



Springville Journal, Thursday, September 08, 2011

NYSERDA opens public deer hunting program at WNY nuclear service center

By: Submitted to Journal

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will sponsor its annual public deer hunting program at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center in Ashford beginning Saturday, Oct. 15.

Approximately 2,000 acres will be open for the entire archery season and 6 1/2 days during regular deer hunting season.

Scouting will be available three days this year: two Saturdays, Oct. 1 and 8 and the following Wednesday, Oct. 12, from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Check-in and out for Scouting will be at NYSERDA's hunting station, located in the south parking lot of the West Valley Demonstration Project.

NYSERDA's program is open to anyone with a valid 2011-12 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation big game or sportsman license and allows up to 70 hunters (10 hunters per area) each scheduled day.

Pre-approval to hunt in archery season is mandatory, with each registered bow hunter being issued a valid 2011 NYSERDA wallet ID card to hunt any day of the season.

Archery hunting assignments are on a first-come, first-served basis and check-in/out for archery will be at the WVDP main gate house. Junior bow hunters (ages 12-13) will require a parent or guardian to accompany them while hunting.

During the regular season, hunters may pre-register and select one hunting assignment; walk-ins will be allowed, subject to availability.

Check-in/out for regular season will be at NYSERDA's hunting station, located in the WVDP's south parking lot. Beginning Nov. 10, hunting assignments for the regular season will be posted outside NYSERDA's Ashford office, 9030-B Route 219, which is approximately 5 miles south of Schwartz Road.

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(Continued)

Hunters are to use New York state legal firearms for this region (9M) as designated by NYSDEC, with the exclusion of rifles, pistols and crossbows.

In an effort to reduce the number of unclaimed tree stands on the property, NYSERDA is augmenting its policy on tree stands this year. Effective Oct. 1, all portable tree stands must be tagged with the hunter's identification (name, NYSDEC license number, address and phone number).

Each tree stand must be removed by the end of NYSERDA's regular season (Nov. 25). For those who are unable to remove their stands by that date, NYSERDA has allocated additional dates (Nov. 26 - 30) for tree stand removal only. Hunters can contact the deer hunting information line (942-9960 ext. 4990) to request permission to enter the property on one of the dates for the sole purpose of removing their stand. Any stands remaining on NYSERDA property after Dec. 1 will be considered abandoned and may be subject to forfeiture.

The 2011 application packets will be available on Tuesday, Sept. 13 in the drop box at NYSERDA's offices and at the main gate of the WVDP. Interested hunters can call the information line and request that an application be mailed/e-mailed to them.

Completed registration forms should be mailed to the NYSERDA Deer Hunting Program, 9030-B Route 219, West Valley, New York 14171-9799, attention Alita Dueringer, or deposited in NYSERDA's drop box.

To inquire about additional deer management permits for use at the WNYNSC, contact the NYSDEC. Note that the site is located in Wildlife Management Unit 9M.

NYSERDA deer hunting dates:

Archery: Open all season (Oct. 15 - Nov. 18) - pre-approval is mandatory.

Regular: Nov. 19 - 24 (half day - open until noon on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24) and 25.

Springville Journal, Thursday, September 15, 2011

New contractor beginning scheduled work at WVCS *(Should be WVDP)*

By: Submitted to Journal

Date: 09-14-2011

The new contractor at the U.S. Department of West Valley Demonstration Project, CH2M HILL B&W West Valley, LLC, began its seven-year contract as the 60-day transition period wrapped up on Aug. 28.

CHBWV now begins carrying out the first phase of decommissioning at the site.

The focus of the new contract includes the demolition of the main plant process building and vitrification facility, relocation and storage of vitrified high-level waste, demolition and removal of a number of unneeded facilities, management of the site's underground tank farm, environmental remediation and operation and maintenance of site facilities and infrastructure.