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[City & Region](#)

WEST VALLEY: Demonstration Project to Hold Public Meeting

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The West Valley Demonstration Project will hold its quarterly public meeting from 6:30 to 8:40 p.m. Wednesday in the Ashford Office Complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley.

A recent report by the U.S. Department of Energy and the state Energy Research and Development Authority on erosion at the West Valley site will be discussed at the meeting.

[Recordonline.com, Times Herald-Record, August 11, 2012](#)

[My View: Nuclear power aid to disarmament, fighting warming](#)

By Robert C. Block

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It's not hard to sense that something extraordinary is happening with nuclear power in the United States. A belief that nuclear power is nonessential may be making way for a new measure of its worth — the idea that it is playing a quiet yet effective role in disarmament and reducing global warming emissions.

The evidence can be found in the production of nuclear-generated electricity — half of it is made from fuel derived from Russian nuclear warheads. Under an agreement with Russia that's come to be known as "megatons to megawatts," 500 metric tons of highly enriched uranium from Russia's stockpile of nuclear-weapons materials is being down-blended into low-enriched uranium for use in U.S. nuclear power plants to produce electricity. According to the U.S. Enrichment Corp., 90 percent of the highly enriched uranium has already been eliminated.

Now, the Tennessee Valley Authority, which owns the third-largest fleet of nuclear plants in the United States, is preparing to use fuel made from weapons-grade plutonium at its Sequoyah nuclear plant near Chattanooga, Tenn., and its Browns Ferry plant in northern Alabama.

A facility to convert excess plutonium from the U.S. weapons stockpile into a mixed-oxide fuel known as MOX is being built at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in South Carolina. Some 2,600 workers are now at the site of the Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, which will be the size of eight football fields and is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

The decision to produce MOX for power reactors grew out of a separate agreement between the United States and Russia to eliminate 34 metric tons of weapons plutonium in each country, material for 17,000 nuclear warheads.

Meanwhile, the Russians are reducing their plutonium stocks under international safeguards. Though it covers only a fraction of the estimated 200 tons of plutonium worldwide, the agreement envisions the elimination of more surplus plutonium in the years ahead.

The conversion of excess plutonium and highly enriched uranium into reactor fuel is one signal that civilian power reactors can help meet energy needs, while reducing the possibility that nuclear materials might be stolen and fall into the wrong hands.

Another benefit from nuclear power is its crucial role in reducing carbon dioxide emissions. U.S. nuclear plants account for more than 70 percent of the carbon-free energy produced in the United States, something which is often lost in the hoopla over renewable energy sources, which are not nearly as effective in reducing greenhouse-gas emissions because of the intermittency of solar and wind power.

Something else: Demonstrating the safe and effective use of MOX fuel could lead to the resumption of spent-fuel reprocessing, a proven technology for recycling nuclear materials that has considerable economic and practical value. Once conducted at a facility in West Valley near Buffalo, reprocessing was banned by President Jimmy Carter in the mid-1970s, on grounds that it could result in nuclear proliferation.

But in the routine production of nuclear power, plutonium is manufactured. Spent fuel left over from electricity production and stored at nuclear plants contains valuable plutonium that can be reprocessed into MOX for use in generating additional power. That's precisely what France, Great Britain and other countries have continued to do, despite Carter's action.

Such reprocessing is safe and efficient, while extending global supplies of uranium and reducing the volume and toxicity of nuclear waste that needs to be placed in a deep-geologic repository by 50 percent or more.

If U.S. nuclear plants can use MOX made from weapons plutonium, it's irrational not to reprocess spent fuel. More than 70,000 metric tons of spent fuel is currently stored at nuclear plants across the country — and that represents a potential supply of clean, carbon-free energy that's too valuable to waste.

Nuclear power is not the only answer. But it's an effective way to reduce greenhouse emissions and stockpiles of nuclear-weapons materials — recognizing the considerable benefits that it will bring in support of progressive goals.

These views are my own and not to be taken as an official view of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

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Springville Journal, September 2, 2012

NYSERDA opens public deer hunting at WNY nuclear center

Sunday September 2, 2012 | By: Press Release



ASHFORD — The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will offer its annual public deer hunting program at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center in Ashford, beginning Oct. 1. Approximately 2,000 acres will be open for the entire archery season and for 6 1/2 days during the regular hunting season.

Scouting will be available Sept. 15, 19 and 29 from 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Check in and out for scouting will be held at NYSERDA's hunting station, located at the junction of Rock Springs Road and Thornwood Drive.

NYSERDA's program is open to anyone with a valid 2012 – 13 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation big game or sportsman license. Up to 70 hunters, 10 hunters per area, may hunt each day. Pre-approval to hunt in archery season is mandatory, with each registered bow hunter's being issued a 2012 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 and out for archery will be at the West Valley Demonstration Project's main gatehouse. Licensed junior bowhunters, aged 12 and 13 may hunt deer but must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, while hunting.

Application packets will be available on Sept. 4 in the drop box at NYSERDA's Ashford office and at the main gate of the WVDP. To request an application, call the deer hunting information line at 942-9960, ext. 4990. Completed registration forms may be mailed to the NYSERDA Deer Hunting Program, 9030-B Route 219, West Valley, NY 14171, attention Alita Dueringer, or deposited in NYSERDA's drop box.

Hunters may pre-register and select one hunting assignment of their choice, during the regular season. Walk-ins will be allowed, subject to availability. Check in and out for the regular season will be held at NYSERDA's hunting station. Hunters must use New York state legal firearms for this region, as designated by NYSDEC, with the exclusion of rifles, pistols and crossbows. Licensed junior gun hunters ages 14 – 15 can hunt deer when accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Hunters wanting to place a portable tree stand during the hunting season must request a NYSERDA identification tag, in order to do so. All stands must be removed by the end of NYSERDA's hunting season. Any stands remaining on NYSERDA property after Dec. 1 will be considered abandoned and may be subject to forfeiture.

For more information about additional deer management permits for use at the WNYNSC, contact the NYSDEC. The site is located in Wildlife Management Unit 9M.

The NYSERDA archery deer hunting dates run from Oct. 1 – Nov. 16. Pre-approval is mandatory.

The regular season runs all day Nov. 17 – 23, except Nov. 22, which is a half day.