

Reed to advance measure to support cleanup of nuclear sites

By **Aaron Martin** | July 8, 2014

Rep. Tom Reed

Rep. Tom Reed (R-N.Y.) said on Monday that he would work to secure federal funding so that nuclear waste cleanup may proceed on schedule to protect the public's safety.

The Energy and Water Appropriations Act, which will be considered by the House of Representatives this week, will provide funding for programs that are administered by the Department of Energy (DoE) and related agencies.

Reed said he would offer an amendment to the legislation that would restore last year's funding levels to clean up a nuclear facility in New York's West Valley.

"Fighting for fair funding so West Valley cleanup can continue at full force is a public safety issue we all care about," Reed said. "West Valley deserves a fair, reasonable level of support so that we can protect the communities we call home. Rather than let more tax dollars disappear into D.C. bureaucracy, we want to be a voice to prioritize projects we hear from the district are vital to public safety, care for the environment and save taxpayer dollars in the long run."

Under the current Energy and Water Appropriations Act, funding levels for cleanup of the nuclear site would be \$4 million below last year's level.

Reed has worked on a bipartisan basis in the past to ensure that nuclear cleanup efforts are fully funded.

"When you have something as common sense as cleaning up nuclear waste, it doesn't matter which side of the aisle you're on or who gets the credit, it matters that the job gets done," Reed said.



CONGRESSMAN
TOM REED
23RD DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Press Release

REED, HIGGINS AMENDMENT TO CLEAN UP NUCLEAR WASTE AT WEST VALLEY PASSES HOUSE

NY reps. make successful push to keep West Valley site cleanup on schedule

Jul 9, 2014 Issues: Economy and Jobs, Health

The bipartisan amendment introduced by Reps. Tom Reed (R-NY) and Brian Higgins (D-NY) aimed at making sure resources are accessible for communities to continue nuclear waste cleanup on schedule passed the House Wednesday evening. The Reed-Higgins amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act would help increase federal support for cleanup at sites like West Valley in Cattaraugus County.

“We’re making the push in Washington again to care for our communities at home and protect them from public safety and environmental hazards that will end up costing taxpayers more money the longer the cleanup process is dragged out,” **Reed said**. “West Valley deserves a fair level of support that gives taxpayers a tangible return on their investment instead of letting more tax dollars disappear into DC bureaucracy.”

“Delays in the West Valley site cleanup only raise economic and environmental costs over the long term,” **said Congressman Higgins**. “I am pleased to once again stand with my colleague, Congressman Reed, to introduce this bipartisan amendment that protects our environment and prevents dangerous waste from devastating the Great Lakes.”

The House is set to consider the full Energy and Water Appropriations Act Thursday this week. The bill provides annual funding for programs under the Department of Energy and related agencies, including funding for nuclear cleanup at the West Valley site. Without the Reed-Higgins amendment, West Valley is slated to receive \$4 million less than last year’s level. Their amendment would work to boost support back up to last year’s level so that site cleanup can continue on schedule.

Reps. Reed and Higgins successfully fought behind the scenes in years past for fair funding for nuclear cleanup at West Valley, introducing bipartisan amendments together and pushing Congress to improve nuclear waste cleanup efforts. “When you have something as common sense as cleaning up nuclear waste, it doesn’t matter which side of the aisle you’re on or who gets the credit, it matters that the job gets done,” Reed said.

The West Valley site was established in the 1960s in response to a federal call for efforts to commercialize the reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel from power reactors. While the site was in operation, approximately 640 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel was reprocessed. Reprocessing operations were halted between 1972 and 1976 to support facility modifications, but operations never resumed. The U.S. Department of Energy became responsible for the site through the West Valley Demonstration Project Act of 1980, legislation requiring the Department to solidify the high-level waste and dispose of it. #####

THE BUFFALO NEWS

House boosts West Valley funding to 2014 level

on July 10, 2014 - 7:57 PM

WASHINGTON – The House on Thursday approved an amendment boosting fiscal 2015 funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project back to its 2014 level.

The amendment, introduced by Reps. Tom Reed and Brian Higgins, adds \$4 million in funding to the Cattaraugus County nuclear waste site, which, the lawmakers said, needs the money to keep its cleanup on schedule. The amendment raises funding for the project to \$63 million.

“We’re making the push in Washington again to care for our communities at home and protect them from public safety and environmental hazards that will end up costing taxpayers more money the longer the cleanup process is dragged out,” said Reed, R-Corning.

Higgins, D-Buffalo, agreed.

“Delays in the West Valley site cleanup only raise economic and environmental costs over the long term,” he said.

The Reed-Higgins amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act passed by voice vote. The two lawmakers have joined together for several years in a row to boost West Valley funding beyond what President Barack Obama suggested.

Reed, Higgins amendment on West Valley cleanup passes house

Press Release | Posted: Thursday, July 10, 2014 2:10 pm

The bipartisan amendment introduced by Reps. Tom Reed, R-Corning, and Brian Higgins, D-Buffalo, aimed at making sure resources are accessible for communities to continue nuclear waste cleanup on schedule passed the House Wednesday evening. The Reed-Higgins amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act would help increase federal support for cleanup at sites like West Valley in Cattaraugus County.

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West Valley Hose celebrates 100th birthday

Tuesday July 22, 2014 | By:Max Borsuk | News



WEST VALLEY—Back in November of 1914, the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company got its start with only a two-wheeled hose cart with a few hundred feet of canvas hose, a nozzle and buckets. Now 100 years later, the WVVHCo is still in operation.

WVVHCo will be celebrating its 100th birthday Saturday, Aug. 9 with an event at the Fireman's Memorial Banquet Hall & Training Center, located at 9085 Route 240 in West Valley.

The WVVHCo has made a great impact on Ashford and West Valley and the community appreciates all that they do. Nevela McNeil, whose husband and two brothers were all members of the WVVHCo, knows firsthand how important the fire company is to the community.

“The men who formed the hose company and the generations of many of the same families over the course of the hundred years is important in a small town to have that kind of volunteerism,” said McNeil. “They are well known in Cattaraugus County because of the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) and are an integral part in providing fire coverage all these years.”

The event will kick off at 7 p.m. with live music from The Porcelain Busdrivers. Starting around 9:30 p.m., there will be a fireworks display with live music to continue afterward until 11 p.m.

“It's a fun little birthday party, we want everyone to celebrate with us,” said WVVHCo Treasurer Mychelle McNeil-Wedvik.

There will also be historical displays to showcase the history of the fire company over the past 100 years that will show everything from old artifacts to trucks. There will also be a display showing how much different it is to become a firefighter today than it was 100 years ago.

Complimentary finger foods will be provided and beverages will be available for purchase.

Admission to the event, food, music and fireworks are free.

NYSERDA to open deer hunting at WNYNSC

Tuesday September 2, 2014 | By: Submitted to Journal |



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 the town of Ashford beginning Oct. 1. Approximately 2,000 acres will be open for the entire archery season and seven days during regular season. Scouting will be available three days this year: two Saturdays, Sept. 20 and 27, and Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Check-in/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 2014-15 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation big game or sportsman license, and allows up to 70 hunters (10 hunters per area) to hunt each scheduled day. Application packets for 2014 will be available starting Wednesday, Sept. 3, in the drop boxes at NYSERDA's Ashford Office and NYSERDA's Hunting Station as well as at the main gate of the West Valley Demonstration Project. This year, hunters will also be able to download an application from NYSERDA's West Valley section of the website. Interested hunters can also call the Deer Hunting Information Line, 942-9960 ext. 4990, and request that an application be mailed or emailed to them. Completed application forms are to be mailed to the NYSERDA Deer Hunting Program, 9030-B Route 219, West Valley, N.Y. 14171-9799, Attn: Alita Dueringer, or deposited in NYSERDA's drop box.

Applicants must complete an application to hunt in NYSERDA's program. For archery season, preapproval is mandatory, with each registered bow hunter being issued a valid 2014 NYSERDA wallet ID card to hunt any day of the season. Archery hunting assignments are on a first-come, first-served basis. Check-in/out for archery will be at the WVDP main gatehouse. As per NYSDEC regulations, licensed junior bowhunters, ages 12-13, are allowed to hunt deer, but a parent or guardian must accompany them while bowhunting.

For regular season, applicants may either pre-register and select one hunting assignment of their choice, or walk-ins will be allowed, subject to availability. Check-in/out for regular season will be held at NYSERDA's Hunting Station, located at the junction of Rock Springs Road and Thornwood Drive. Hunters are to use New York state legal firearms for this region as designated by NYSDEC, with the exclusion of rifles, pistols and crossbows. As per NYSDEC regulations, licensed junior gun hunters ages 14-15 can hunt deer, but a parent or guardian must accompany them while hunting.

Hunters wanting to place one portable tree stand during the 2014 NYSERDA hunting season must request a NYSERDA identification tag in order to do so (see application for details). All stands must be removed by the end of NYSERDA's hunting season. Any stands remaining on NYSERDA property after Dec. 1, 2014, will be considered abandoned and may be subject to forfeiture.

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

NYSERDA deer hunting dates: archery: open all season (Oct. 1 – Nov.14). Pre-approval is mandatory; regular: Nov. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21.



One million Safe Work hours

Backing up their commitment to a safe workplace, CH2M Hill Babcock & Wilcox West Valley LLC has reached one million safe work hours. The cleanup contractor to the Department of Energy at the West Valley Demonstration Project reached the one million mark after 20 months of work without a lost time accident.

The site was also recognized as a DOE-Voluntary Protection Program STAR site, an honor that is reserved for the safest Department of Energy sites. Employees and subcontractors of the CH2M Hill B&W team, the DOE and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority all worked to achieve the STAR status.

“Our team is committed to delivering results that matter to our customers and taxpayers, workplace safety, active community involvement and responsible environmental stewardship,” said Dan Coyne, president and general manager of the CH2MHill B&W team.

The contractor company is responsible for the Phase I Decommissioning activities, operating under a 7.7 year contract that began in August 2011. The CH2M Hill B&W team has been performing cleanup and facility demolition activities and low-level waste shipments. They are preparing for the relocation of 275 high level waste canisters to a new dry cask storage facility.

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

Reed frustrated over lack of progress on Route 219

Rick Miller/Olean Times Herald

Posted: Friday, August 29, 2014 11:40 am



U.S. Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning, discusses a wide range of topics Thursday at the Olean Times Herald during a meeting with the paper's editorial board. His top priority, he says, is making progress on the Route expressway extension.



Tom Reed helps out a customer at Worth W. Smith Hardware Thursday in Olean.

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed

OLEAN — U.S. Rep. Tom Reed said Thursday he remains frustrated with the lack of progress on extending the Route 219 expressway through Cattaraugus County.

The 28-mile project that would link up Route 219 with Interstate 86 near Salamanca remains his No. 1 infrastructure priority, Rep. Reed, R-Corning, said during a meeting with the Olean Times Herald editorial board.

The congressman said funding remains among the major obstacles to completion of the expressway, which two years ago crossed into Cattaraugus County just south of Springville.

New York state has refused to fund \$7 million in new environmental studies that will be needed before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Federal Highway Administration can give their approval.

An agreement with the Seneca Nation of Indians to cross a portion of the Allegany Territory east of Salamanca will also be needed, Rep. Reed noted. He has acted as an intermediary between the Seneca Nation and the state officials in the past over Interstate 86. "They are partners (with the state) in the region," Rep. Reed said. "We need each other."

Even after the Route 219 corridor is identified, it would be competing for funding with hundreds of other federal infrastructure projects, at a time when the Highway Trust Fund is close to running out of money. Rep. Reed said he is

OLEAN TIMES HERALD

opposed to raising the gas tax to further fund the Highway Trust Fund, but would support other revenues including repatriated U.S. corporate taxes from overseas, and a fee on natural gas exports.

Continued federal funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project cleanup is another local project he is committed to, Rep. Reed said.

The recent push by Burger King to buy Tim Horton's and move the combined headquarters to Canada to escape higher U.S. taxes is another example of the need to change the U.S. tax code, Rep. Reed said. The last major change was in 1986. The current tax code is "creating a perverse incentive (for companies) to go overseas," he said. "We should get together and fix the tax code." He is a member of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Reed said he favored the approach Way and Means Committee Chairman David Camp proposed earlier this year on changes in the tax code that would have netted the average Southern Tier resident \$600 a year.

Could the Burger King acquisition of Tim Horton's be a catalyst for a change in the tax code? "It could," he replied. He said it's not a question of U.S. companies' "patriotism," as President Obama asserted last week, but "a question of survivability."

Rep. Reed noted that it was expanded production of oil and gas in the U.S. that was responsible for tempering the cost of crude oil during the current Mideast crisis. The new oil and gas produced here will help fuel a manufacturing renaissance, he said. The Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act (RAMI), cosponsored by Rep. Reed and Rep. Joseph Kennedy, D-Mass., is moving through the legislative process with a nod from President Obama, he noted.

On other matters addressed in the editorial board meeting, Rep. Reed said:

- Small businesses are key to the economic recovery of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes areas of the 23rd Congressional District.
- Social Security and Medicare will run out of money unless the programs are reformed. "The sooner we deal with the problem, the better," he said.

Social Security Disability will run out of funds in January 2016, at which time funds will be borrowed from the main Social Security fund, he said, noting he would not vote to change benefits for current recipients, or for those about to retire. The Social Security fund has enough money to run through 2032, he said.

- The Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, "is a failed solution to spiraling health care costs" and has led to canceled insurance policies and lost jobs. Rep. Reed said he favors reforms that would keep the ban on blocking insurance coverage of those with pre-existing conditions and parents retaining children on their policies to age 26, but said they come at a cost.

(Contact reporter Rick Miller at rmiller@oleantimesherald.com and follow him on Twitter, @RMillerOTH)

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

SPRINGVILLEJOURNAL.COM



September 6, 2014 Edition

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WVCS futures committee looking to help improve entire community

Saturday September 13, 2014 | By:Max Borsuk | News



WEST VALLEY—When West Valley Central School established their futures committee, their initial goal was to try and figure out ways to expand the school’s future in the community. But now, not only is the futures committee focused on the school’s future, they are focused on developing ways to expand the entire West Valley

community.

“There was a request by our teachers and some members of our community to come up with a long term plan for the district,” said WVCS superintendent Eric Lawton. “So we set up a committee to talk about what are our options for the future, everything from shutting everything down as a district all the way up to merging to tuitioning out high school or to open up our borders.

“We came to the realization that there wasn’t a whole lot we could do right now in our current situation that was going to change our district,” said Lawton. “We realized that one of the issues we had was that we have homes available in our district that if families moved into them, our enrollment numbers would stabilize and we could continue to operate as a school. So we started to look at the whole community and what things we could do to promote our community.”

The futures committee was started in February and consisted of a variety of people in West Valley, including WVCS faculty, parents and other members of the community. Now that the committee has expanded to try and help the entire community, the futures committee expanded with it and now included members of the Ashford board, the chamber of commerce, local business owners and anyone else who wants to help make a difference in the community. They meet around once a month and discuss different topics to help West Valley in any ways possible.

“Each meeting we have we are getting more and more people involved and some with some really neat ideas,” said Lawton.

Recently, the futures committee has started making subcommittees to focus on certain aspects of the community. These subcommittees include one to help promote the school and how to increase enrollment, one that looks at ways to beautify the community, one to help promote business in the community and one that works on decreasing the tax levy.



One of the more unique ideas that was presented to the futures committee was by the Western New York Railway Historical Society. They suggested that the railroad tracks owned by the West Valley Nuclear Plant are rarely used and can possibly be utilized as a way to connect tourism between West Valley and Ellicottville. The WNYRHS has a train available and have run various programs that could also be held in West Valley, including an autumn leaf watching trip, a Polar Express theme and a Thomas the Tank Engine theme.

“A lot of people come down to Ellicottville and when they are not skiing, they are looking for something else to do or something different to do,” said Lawton. “If we could somehow make a connection with this, it could definitely help us grow our community and make it better and more productive.”

Going forward, the futures committee is setting their focus on a few major goals, but know that this is just the beginning of what they need to do in order to make West Valley the best it can be.

“What I would hope to see is our vacant homes not be vacant anymore and even have some more homes built, our water problem get solved, would like to see the enrollment in our school to go up and hopefully would like to see a reduction in taxes if there is a way to do that,” said Lawton.

The next futures committee meeting will be held Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 6 p.m. at West Valley School.

THE BUFFALO NEWS

Town hall meeting set for nuclear weapons workers

on September 16, 2014 - 12:01 PM

The state Department of Labor will host two “town hall meetings” on Sept. 23 in Amherst to notify current and former nuclear weapons workers from 39 facilities about the benefits available to them under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act. The meeting is open to the public and registration is not required.

The same presentation about medical benefits will be given at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Buffalo-Amherst, 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Staff will be available on-site from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to help with claims information.

More information is available by calling 1-800-941-3943.



Aerial survey to detect West Valley radiation

By Nancy Sanders, News 4 Operations Manager

Published: September 19, 2014, 12:14 pm Updated: September 19, 2014, 6:30 pm



WEST VALLEY, N.Y. (WIVB) – Beginning Monday, a helicopter will be swooping over parts of Cattaraugus County.

The U.S. Department of Energy will conduct an aerial survey to measure radiation levels at and near the West Valley Demonstration Project in the Town of Ashford.

A silver and blue Bell-412 helicopter equipped with radiation detection instruments will make numerous flights over the area. The flights will be ongoing, during daylight hours, between Monday, September 22 and Wednesday, October 8.

The survey will include approximately 30 miles of Cattaraugus Creek and the information will be used in the ongoing decommissioning efforts on site.

The survey team routinely conducts similar surveys and results are expected to be made available to the public next year.



Aerial survey to be conducted over creek

Saturday August 23, 2014 | By:Phil Palen | News

Don't be alarmed next month when you see and hear helicopters flying low through Gowanda above Cattaraugus Creek.

Starting Sept. 14, the U. S. Department of Energy (USDE) will conduct an aerial survey of the West Valley Nuclear Service Center and Cattaraugus Creek to measure radiation, Town of Persia Councilman John T. Walgus reported at the Aug. 14 town board meeting.

Walgus said the town received a letter from USDE stating that the survey will be made over several days during daylight hours by National Security Technologies flying a silver and blue Bell-412 helicopter fitted with radiation detection equipment. They will fly at approximately 150 feet above the creek at 80 miles per hour, making multiple flights from West Valley downstream to the center line of Lake Erie.

The councilman then reported on continuing work at Gateway Park, the former glue factory site on Palmer Street.

The Gowanda Area Redevelopment Corporation (GARC) board met on Aug. 2 to discuss tree and stump removal by Davey Tree Expert Company. Recent rumors around town of contamination on the site are unfounded, Walgus said. Workers are wearing hazmat suits for protection against poison ivy, poison oak and sumac only.

Starting in mid-August, the Cattaraugus County Department of Public Works will furnish one or more bulldozers to continue spreading the remaining soil that was trucked in from Gernatt's gravel washing lagoons off High Street. Gernatt's will be bringing in an additional 5,000 cubic yards of soil to be used as cover material for the park. After the original amount of material from the gravel washing operation was brought in, it was later determined that they underestimated it by 5,000 yards. This soil will be delivered as soon as it is tested and approved. Persia will furnish a dump truck as part of a shared-services agreement.

Court Officer Paul Bowers told the board that New York State has no record of the establishment of a constable position for the Town of Persia, and he asked the town board to contact Albany for assistance in instituting one.

Bowers, who works four nights a month providing courtroom security, is not covered under Civil Service regulations. "I have no status," Bowers said, adding that he in essence is working as a private citizen on his pistol permit. Besides his courtroom duties, Bowers acts as a process server, delivering subpoenas for court appearances. He noted that Lyndon and Farmersville recently passed resolutions to create a constable position. Councilwoman Gloria Tomaszewski said she would contact Albany for clarification to write up a job description of the constable's duties.

The board took no action on installing reflective signs with street addresses as part of a 911 emergency response system. The signs, like those recently erected in the Town of Otto, would be made by the county at a one-time cost of \$20 per property. There are 473 residential parcels in the town outside the Village of Gowanda. During discussion, Tomaszewski said most residents already have their house numbers posted and this would be just an added expense. Bowers, who formerly served as Gowanda's code enforcement officer, said state code requires the house number to be visible from the road.

Councilwoman Linda Boats attended a meeting of the town zoning and planning boards on July 21. They discussed a town ban on horizontal gas well fracking and suggested that representatives on both sides of the issue be invited to a meeting so the board can make an informed decision on the controversial drilling method. Boats said the only permit required to drill a gas well is issued by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. She said that special-use permits from the town to cover mining activities could be used as a model for a fracking ordinance.

In other business, the board:

- Approved payment from the following accounts: Highway Fund, \$4,668.62 and General Fund, \$4,211.03.
- Heard Town Clerk Denise Trumpore report 97 transactions in July. She collected \$1,713 in fees. The town's share was \$505.81.
- Announced a Home Buyers Seminar to be held Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Bank office at 76 West Main Street, Gowanda. An official from the USDA Rural Home Loan division will be present.

The next regular Persia Town Board meeting is Thursday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the Persia Town Hall, Gowanda.

DOE to conduct aerial surveys of West Valley site radiation

- [Story](#)

- [Comments](#)

Posted: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:00 am

Press Release | **0 comments**

WEST VALLEY — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in cooperation with the New York State Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA), will be conducting an aerial survey, starting Monday, to measure radiation at and near the West Valley Demonstration Project in the town of Ashford in Cattaraugus County.

The purpose of the survey is to measure the general radiation levels at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center, also known as the West Valley site.

The survey will also include approximately 30 miles of Cattaraugus Creek between the Nuclear Service Center and Lake Erie. The information will be used to update and supplement previous aerial radiation surveys, and will be useful in the ongoing decommissioning efforts at the Center. Between Sept. 22 and Oct. 8, a silver and blue Bell-412 helicopter equipped with sensitive radiation detection instruments will make numerous flights over the survey area. A helicopter is used because it allows detailed measurements to be taken quickly and effectively over a large area.

The helicopter flights will occur only during daylight hours, and as weather conditions permit. The survey team, which has an exemplary safety record, routinely conducts this type of survey for various municipalities and facilities throughout the United States.

DOE and NYSERDA have notified local government agencies and village and town officials of the planned survey. Survey results are expected to be made available to the public next year. The aerial survey will be conducted by DOE's Remote Sensing Laboratory Aerial Measuring System operated by National Security Technologies, LLC. The Western New York Nuclear Service Center, which is owned by NYSERDA, is the site of the West Valley Demonstration Project, where DOE is decommissioning a former commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing facility.

West Valley Demonstration workers might be eligible for benefits

Monday September 22, 2014 | By:Peter Soscia |



WEST VALLEY—The United States Department of Labor will host a town hall meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 23, in Amherst, to notify current and former nuclear weapons employees who worked at the 39 covered facilities in New York about the benefits available to them under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act.

“We believe there are many current and former nuclear weapons workers living in New York who have yet to file a claim under the EEOICPA and obtain the compensation they are entitled to,” said Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Director Rachel Leiton. Two sessions will be held on Sept. 23, one at 9:30 a.m. and another at 1:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn located on Niagara Falls Boulevard, in Amherst.

The EEOICPA provides lump-sum compensation and medical benefits to current and former nuclear weapons workers. Survivors of qualified workers may also be entitled to benefits, including current and former employees of the U.S. Department of Energy, its contractors and subcontractors. At the meeting, The Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation staff will present information about the medical benefits provided to claimants who have been approved under the EEOICPA, including home health care services and how to better serve EEOICPA claimants.

To date, there have been \$399.2 million in EEOICPA Compensation and medical benefits paid to 4,607 claimants in New York State.

Of the 39 covered facilities in New York, 16 facilities are located in the Western New York area, from Niagara County, the city of Buffalo and in Cattaraugus County at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

The West Valley location opened in 1962, operating as a plant for the reprocessing of used nuclear fuel. The site was shut down in 1972, and reopened in 1980 when U.S. Congress passed The West Valley Demonstration Project Act, using the West Valley Demonstration Project for the process of solidification of high-level radioactive waste at the site as well as the development of permanent disposal containers, and disposal of low-level and other radioactive waste. A large amount of former and current West Valley Demonstration Project employees are eligible for the benefits provided in the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act.

The Holiday Inn Buffalo-Amherst is located at 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd. in Amherst. For more information on the town hall meeting, the EEOICPA, or to file a claim, call the Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation New York resource center at 800-941-3943.