

TOM REED

23rd DISTRICT OF NEW YORK



[HOME](#) [BIOGRAPHY](#) [CONTACT](#) [23RD DISTRICT](#) [HOW CAN I HELP?](#) [MEDIA](#) [114TH CONGRESS](#)

[Home](#) » [Media](#) » [Press Releases](#)

Reed Champions West Valley Demonstration Project

July 1, 2016

Press Release

Tom Reed continued his efforts to lead the community clean up at the West Valley Demonstration Project by touring the site and meeting with employees and local leaders. “We care about seeing this project through to completion, for the safety of the people that live near the site and the larger Great Lakes region,” said Reed. “It’s only right that we continue listening to the communities impacted by the site and respond to their needs.”

The visit comes as Reed works to raise awareness regarding the necessity of adequate funding for West Valley. A recent congressional funding proposal, which Reed supported, provided \$61.6 million for the site, an increase in funding by almost \$2.4 million over the previous year.

“As we continue to prioritize our spending efforts, this is something that we absolutely must get right,” said Reed. “Failure is not an option, which is why I will continue to advocate for adequate funding.”

Reed was joined on today’s tour by Town of Ashford Supervisor, Charlie Davis; U.S. Department of Energy Director, Bryan Bower; New York State Energy Research and Development’s West Valley Site Management Program Director, Paul Bembia; and CH2MHILL/BWXT West Valley’s President and General Manager, Jeff Bradford.

Following the facilities tour, Reed met with employees at the site to thank them for their hard work and dedication to this critical effort.

Reed tours West Valley Demonstration Project

By Rick Miller, County Reporter | Posted: Friday, July 1, 2016 12:00 pm



Touring WVDP

U.S. Rep. Tom Reed (center) speaks to employees in front of the West Valley Demonstration Project's main process building June 30. Standing around Reed (remaining from left) are Charlie Davis, Ashford town supervisor; Bryan Bower, Department of Energy director at the site; Jeffrey Bradford, CH2M Hill BWXT West Valley president and general manager; and Paul Bembia, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority director at West Valley.

WEST VALLEY — U.S. Rep. Tom Reed toured parts of the West Valley Demonstration Project on Wednesday and congratulated employees of the nuclear cleanup for the work they've done so far.

Reed, speaking to employees in the parking lot outside main process and vitrification buildings at the project site, said he could see the difference since the last time he visited the plant in 2012. Some buildings at the site have since been demolished.

Reed and Rep. Brian Higgins of Buffalo have combined to get annual appropriations of between \$60 million and \$65 million for the West Valley cleanup. The plant was the site of the first commercial spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plant that operated from the mid-1960s to the early 1970s.

The plant left a lot of waste, including more than 600,000 gallons of liquid radioactive waste. That has since been solidified in glass. It is the 275 10-foot high stainless steel canisters that are being moved from the main process building to a concrete pad near the state and federal low-level burial sites a few hundred yards from the main process building.

Once they are packed into a five-canister overpack, the canisters are hauled to the concrete pad, where they will sit until a federal nuclear waste repository is available. One-quarter of the canisters

THE SALAMANCA PRESS

PROUDLY SERVING CENTRAL AND WESTERN CATTARAUGUS COUNTY SINCE 1867

have been removed, and about half of the concrete overpacks have been fabricated in the parking lot. Ironworkers are assembling two of the overpacks a week. They are then enclosed in concrete and cured for 28 days before waste is packed inside.

Officials hope to have the last canisters removed from the main process building by the end of the year. In the meantime, the decommissioning of the main process plant continues.

Bryan Bower, U.S. Department of Energy director at the West Valley site, said demolition of the vitrification facility, where the radioactive liquid was transformed into glass, will begin next year, with the main process building to follow in spring 2018.

The main process building will be taken down by open-air demolition, which has been used for other buildings at the site. The building will be sawed and sheared apart, not imploded, Bower said. It will be packaged and disposed of at sites in Utah and Nevada.

Phase one, Bower said, "is everything but the underground tanks and the two disposal areas." The Department of Energy will award a contract later this year for a supplemental environmental impact statement on phase two.

The question, Reed said, is where to find "a final resting place for these waste streams."

Because the site is near streams that empty into Cattaraugus Creek and Lake Erie, he is concerned over the underground waste tanks, which retain radioactivity, but are mostly dry, as well as the low-level burial sites.

Jeffrey Bradford, CH2M Hill president and general manager, said that by December, the company plans to be a year ahead of schedule. The vitrification is 90 percent clean, and the main process building is halfway done, he said.

Project employees were treated by CH2M Hill to a visit by an ice cream truck while waiting for the speeches.

Paul Bembia, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority director at the site, also thanked the employees.

"(We're) very impressed with the work over the past five years," particularly the removal of the canisters from the main process building, he said. "This will allow demolition well ahead of schedule."

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Ashford updated on water district status

July 15, 2016

By Colleen Mahoney

ASHFORD—The Ashford Town Board was updated on the status of the West Valley water district project, at their July 13 meeting. James Hunt, of Clark Patterson Lee, reported there has been more than 12,000 feet of water line laid in West Valley, with Route 240 and Ashford Hollow Road complete.

Hunt said the project will begin moving north to complete those roads. He noted that they ran into a groundwater issue with one of the fire hydrants, where the water will need to be pumped out in the winter and after each use. Hunt said the hydrant nozzle will be painted a different color, and the fire department will be notified of its location. He added that of the 21 hydrants they have worked with, only one has had a problem with groundwater.

Board member John Pfeffer asked if the hydrant could be moved, to relieve the issue. Hunt said he doubts moving it will alter the condition of the ground in the area. Pfeffer also asked why native soil was being used in the pipe trenches, when the contract requested sand be used. Hunt said they have been using sand as well, but he was under the impression there was more leeway in the contract. He noted that the native soil has been used in addition to the sand.

The board briefly discussed Fox Valley Road, where the upstream side of the hill is beginning to come in. Supervisor Charlie Davis said the town has reached out to engineering companies to see what their options are, but hasn't received official feedback yet.

"My main fear is that it will get to the road," Davis said. "I want you to know we're aware of it, we are doing something."

The board approved paying a \$5,000 fee for the Energies Community Alliance, which they've previously been a member of. Pfeffer voiced his appreciation for the group, adding that it was important for the town to be a part of.

"I think it's worth it ... it has helped us with funding issues," Pfeffer said. "I think it's important for the town to be doing."

Pfeffer added that the fee also gives the town a voting seat on the board, which gives them a chance to affect policy.

Paul Bembia, NYSERDA West Valley program director, updated the board on some changes being made. The deer hunting program, beginning in 2016, will include an archery-only hunting program on the Western New York Nuclear Service Center property. It will be open the entire hunting season, Oct. 1 through Nov. 18. He also said work is continuing to complete the data analysis from the off site soil sampling program, and they are on track to present the information at the Demonstration Project quarterly public meeting, on Aug. 24.

Brian Bower, reported that high level waste relocation at the WVDP site is on track, and should be completed in 2016. Once the canisters are relocated, he said, work will begin on demolition of the large facilities on the site. Bower reported that they had to reduce the contract with the Cattaraugus County

Sheriff's Office, due to "overspending." He said they reduced the number of the sheriff's hours by 50 percent, to rectify the overspending.

"It's important to note that will reduce the amount of sheriff's officers in the township," Pfeffer said.

Bower agreed, adding that they are working with the sheriff's office and the community to continue coverage.

The Ashford Town Board will next meet Aug. 10 at 7:30 p.m., in the Ashford Community Center.

Wednesday August 03, 2016

[The Buffalo News.com \(/\)](http://www.buffalonews.com)

Opinion

Letter: New York no longer needs energy from nuclear plants

Updated: August 2, 2016, 01:01 PM Published: August 3, 2016, 12:01 AM

New York no longer needs energy from nuclear plants

New York State is a leader in the energy revolution and has made significant progress in advancing renewable energy to address the climate crisis. However, the recent proposal by the Public Service Commission on the Clean Energy Standard incorporates nuclear energy with an estimated \$8 billion subsidy to the nuclear industry to keep uneconomical Ginna and FitzPatrick nuclear power plants open.

New York Independent System Operator, the group responsible for meeting state energy needs, has publicly stated we do not need the energy from nuclear plants. Nuclear is also not clean: the extraction process produces over a billion pounds of radioactive mining waste per reactor each year! New York State plants use hundreds of millions of gallons of fresh water daily, causing thermal and radioactive pollution.

Those of us who live within 30 miles of the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site, which still has not seen a full cleanup in 40 years, know we cannot manage the waste. In fact, we do not even know what to do with it over the millions of years' lifespan that will be required.

Other states are closing their nuclear plants and using their resources to move forward into the renewable energy future. Say no to the nuclear bailout recently proposed by the PSC. Just think of how many homes could be weatherized and how much renewable energy could be produced for those billions of dollars.

Larry V. Snider

Sierra Club Treasurer

Cheektowaga

Copyright 1999 - 2016 - The Buffalo News copyright-protected material.

2nd Annual National Cleanup Workshop Focuses on Successes, Future Priorities, and Transition

The 2016 National Cleanup Workshop was a resounding success. The event, hosted by ECA with the support of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG), took place in Alexandria, Virginia from September 14-15.

Over the two-day conference, nearly 900 people attended or watched online, more than double last year's attendance. Workshop attendees heard from industry executives, elected officials, DOE senior leadership and site officials, and other stakeholders on the progress and future direction of the Office of Environmental Management's (EM) cleanup efforts across the DOE complex.

Notable attendees and presenters included Kevin Knobloch, DOE Chief of Staff, David Klaus, Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance, Dr. Monica Regalbuto, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, John Kotek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, Mark Whitney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Representative Mike Simpson (R-ID), Chairman of the House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee, Representative Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN), Chairman of the House Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, and Billy Morrison, EFCOG Chairman.

EM Highlights "Science of Safety" Initiative

Assistant Secretary Monica Regalbuto spoke the first morning about her priorities for the DOE cleanup program. She took the opportunity to emphasize EM's new "Science of Safety" initiative, a program that employs advanced robotics to improve working conditions and increase worker efficiency at cleanup sites across the nation. Regalbuto characterized this initiative as "a way to empower workers in the field with the necessary tools to better accomplish our cleanup mission."

Other DOE leaders echoed these points, including keynote speaker Kevin Knobloch and Mark Whitney. Whitney noted that this EM initiative was matter of "leveraging existing engineering and advanced robotic competencies to increase safety" at cleanup sites.

Unanimous Call for Improved Communication

Throughout the two-day Workshop, speakers iterated the importance of increased and sustained communication between all affected communities and offices. Representatives Mike Simpson and Chuck both encouraged contractors and citizen groups to reach out to their Members of Congress—Simpson noting that communication between representatives and their constituents is what helps drive priorities and generate the political will necessary to impact the appropriations process.

ECA members Councilmember Kristen Henderson of Los Alamos, NM, and Mayor Rebecca Casper of Idaho Falls, ID, also highlighted the importance of communication between DOE sites and their host communities. Henderson spoke of the importance of municipalities remaining informed of the decision-making processes at cleanup sites, noting that the municipalities are responsible for providing employee housing and utilities for

DOE sites. Mayor Casper spoke about the benefits of increased communication between the different DOE offices. Many of the national labs have more than one mission, e.g., cleanup, nuclear energy research, science and technology research, but some of the larger, overarching priorities are the same. Casper said, “I believe in synergy. Everyone benefits when we work toward the same goals.”

Frank Marcinowski, EM’s Associate Principal Deputy Secretary for Regulatory and Policy Affairs, mentioned the importance of building and maintaining open lines of communication between regulatory bodies and state, local, and tribal leaders to enable cleanup efforts to progress.

Developing a Long-Term Approach to Cleanup Projects

Many speakers at the Workshop expressed the need for both the DOE and contractors to appreciate the long-term nature of cleanup work. Typically, DOE-contracts are awarded on a 5-year timescale, but many DOE contractors feel that this is too short. Longer timescales allow for trust to build between DOE offices and companies managing the different sites; increased trust can lead to greater transparency in operation and a stronger safety culture.

Longer timescales also increase employee retention and job security. Mayor Casper and Councilwoman Henderson noted that this is good for individuals, contractors, and ECA communities. When cities know that a set number of jobs will exist at a DOE site for a long period of time, they can make strategic planning decisions to accommodate the influx of workers.

Building the Next-Generation EM Workforce

In his keynote address the first day, David Klaus, Deputy Under Secretary for Management and Performance, discussed the need for workforce development and EM talent acquisition. This theme was carried through the conference, culminating with the final panel of the Workshop. This panel, moderated by Carol Berrigan of NEI, discussed strategies for fortifying the EM talent pipeline and attracting the millennial generation to the field. ECA member Ron Woody of Roane County, TN, highlighted the important role that scholarships and internships have in giving young students experience in the field.

Improving Operations and Project Management

As cleanup efforts continue to move forward across the DOE complex, changes to current procedures could result in greater levels of communication between DOE headquarters and local communities. As ECA member and Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization Executive Director Rick McLeod pointed out, current DOE practice allows for a day where communities can offer feedback to the various conditions of a contract. However, often communities first need briefing on what different portions of the contract mean, and how the contract will affect them. Having a meeting with DOE to go over the conditions of the contract before the community formally provides DOE with its feedback could help foster greater awareness for the implications, consequences, and goals of a cleanup project.

Photos, videos, and presentation files from this year’s Workshop can be found [here](#).



Energy Communities Alliance

Local concerns. National impact.

BULLETIN

September 2016



Over the two-day conference, nearly 600 people attended in-person, and almost 300 online.



Seth Kirshenberg, Executive Director of Energy Communities Alliance; John Kotek, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Nuclear Energy; Mayor Bob Thompson, City of Richland, WA, ECA Past Chair



From left to right: Oak Ridge Office of Environmental Management Site Manager Sue Cange, EM Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations Stacy Charbonnet, West Valley Demonstration Project Director Bryan Bower, and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley President and General Manager Jeff Bradford



Mayor Rebecca Casper, Idaho Falls, ID



From left to right: Jack Craig, DOE Manager of the Savannah River Site; Tom Foster, President and Project Manager, Savannah River Remediation; Rick McLeod, Executive Director, Savannah River Site Community Return Organization

Los Alamos EM Contract Includes New Community Commitment Language

The Office of Environmental Management (EM) has updated its Community Commitment language to ensure its contractors follow through on engagement with local governments. This new language means that if contractors want to receive their full fee, they will have to comply with the community commitment language in their proposals.

Last December, ECA released its **Statement of Principles on DOE-EM Acquisition Reform** urging DOE to do more to ensure contractors engage community partners directly affected by cleanup operations. “There should be a reaffirmation of the Community Commitment clause and contracts should be incentivized to include community engagement requirements to ensure the letter and intent of the clause is honored in such contracting activities as workforce planning, labor agreements, and subcontracting practices to facilitate and expedite communities’ transitions to sustainable, post cleanup economies,” the third principle states.

In the Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup request for proposals (RFP) released this month, DOE includes new language (italicized below) in the draft **Performance Evaluation and Measurement Plan**:

“The Contractor will be assessed on their performance to the Regional Purchasing Program requirements and the Small Business Subcontracting Plan. *The Contractor will be assessed on their performance in interfacing with the community and other stakeholders in the execution of the EM mission work scope, including but not limited to follow through on community commitments.*”

DOE’s signaling that community support and engagement will be assessed in this \$1.7 billion, ten-year contract is a major win for DOE’s local government partners and community stakeholders across the country. In another part of the RFP, DOE recognized “that giving back to the community is a worthwhile business practice.” These are provisions ECA wants to see included in subsequent acquisitions that may be rewarded in coming years, from **West Valley, NY**, to Piketon, OH and Paducah, KY, to Hanford, WA.

“The involvement and the role of the local communities is invaluable to the Department and is critical to our success,” said Ralph Holland, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary for Acquisition and Project Management and Director of the EM Consolidated Business Center, during this month’s National Cleanup Workshop.

“We are very grateful to hear that EM has heard our communities’ call for building a stronger community relationship through community commitment in the 10 years of EM work in our communities, and we look forward to working together with the next contractor to build the best future we can through this incredible opportunity,” Andrea Romero, Executive Director of the Regional Coalition of LANL Communities, said of the new language.

EM officials tout D&D progress

By Frank Lewis - flewis@civitasmedia.com

At the recent National Cleanup Workshop held by the Office of Environmental Management (EM), Assistant Secretary Monica Regalbuto cited a number of EM accomplishments achieved over the past year and included the progress in deactivating and decommissioning at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant at Piketon.

Top EM officials highlighted a variety of accomplishments across the DOE cleanup program and outlined efforts underway to support EM's field sites in continued progress.

"Significant progress is being made because of the men and women hard at work, in the field, every single day at each of our sites," Regalbuto said. "During my tenure as head of the EM program, my focus has been on providing our workers in the field with the leadership and support required for success."

Regalbuto and EM Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Mark Whitney spoke to approximately 600 attendees at the National Cleanup Workshop, held Sept. 14-15 in Alexandria, Va. The workshop, hosted by the Energy Communities Alliance with DOE and the Energy Facility Contractors Group serving as cooperating organizations, brought together senior DOE executives and site officials, industry executives, and other stakeholders to discuss DOE's progress on the cleanup of the environmental legacy of the nation's Manhattan Project and Cold War nuclear weapons program.

Uerman Potter, president of United Steelworkers Union Local 689 in Piketon, Ohio, said he was encouraged by initiatives like EM's "Science of Safety," which emphasizes exposing workers to new technology.

"We think that is a fantastic initiative," Potter said. "From my perspective it takes a fresh look on some old types of training. It actually marries what people already know and actually makes it a little bit new. We want to keep doing that."

Regalbuto also cited progress in deactivating and decommissioning the major facility at Hanford, Oak Ridge, and the **West Valley Demonstration Project**.

In addition, Regalbuto cited completing construction of the Salt Waste Processing Facility at the Savannah River Site and closing the eighth high-level waste tank there as well as continued progress in preparing to resume waste emplacement activities at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant once it is safe to do so; and moving forward with construction of sections of the Hanford Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant to be used for the Direct Feed Low Activity Waste (DFLAW) approach, intended to allow waste treatment to begin as soon as 2022.

Regalbuto also highlighted a variety of workers across the EM program who provided ideas and input to make their work safer or more efficient. As one example, she discussed how EM's facility representatives at DOE's Idaho Site proposed using better portable computing devices — an idea ultimately implemented at Idaho and other EM sites.

"Often all that is required is a willingness to listen to our men and women in the field and empower them to make a difference — regardless of the individual role they play in the EM mission," Regalbuto said. "In a large organization like ours, we are continuously looking for ways to be more efficient and more successful to allow us to get the mission done at the lowest cost to the taxpayer."

Funding for the D&D project at Piketon recently received funding in Congress's Continuing Resolution (CR). That funding will prevent layoffs and keep the project moving through Dec. 9, 2016.

Reach Frank Lewis at 740-353-3101, ext. 1928, or on Twitter [@franklewis](#).



A crew is doing asbestos work at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon.

Ashford Board hears WVDP updates

Max Borsuk
Staff Reporter

The Ashford Town Board was updated on the progress at the West Valley Demonstration Project at their Oct. 12 meeting.

New York State Department of Energy Director of the WVDP site Bryan Bower said that the transferring of the high level waste canisters from the main plant process building to the interim storage pad is progressing well. Bower noted that the 44th cask was recently transferred to the storage pad.

With five high level waste canisters in each cask, there have now been 220 canisters transferred to the storage pad so far. There are 55 canisters, or 11 casks, left in the building that still need to be transferred. Bower said that, weather permitting, they hope to have all this work completed by the end of 2016.

The board held a public hearing for the 2017 budget, with Budget Officer William King in attendance to answer any additional questions. The town's tax levy is set to stay the same as last year at \$435,360 while total budget appropriations for 2017 are proposed to be at \$1,834,122 – an increase from last year's appropriations of \$1,803,474. After the public hearing, the board approved the adoption of the 2017 preliminary budget.

At previous meetings, the board discussed the possibility of a van service for town residents. Board member Jean Bond said that she spoke to the only municipality in Cattaraugus County with a

senior citizens van, the Village of Little Valley. Bond found that the seniors in the community purchased the van and take care of all the scheduling of drivers and users themselves.

Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis said he spoke to someone from the Department of Aging, who said most of the municipalities that have van services are run through a church or community organization. The town is researching all available options and will do all they can, but from their perspective, feel it would be difficult to facilitate.

"I, and I don't think anybody sitting here, is opposed to doing something to help, but it is going to take a lot of research," said Davis. "We are not equipped to be able to put a full-time person to coordinate getting people signed up for the van, to take the van, to coordinate drivers ... government was not set up to be able to do those things. That is what we have churches, communities and other organizations for."

In other news the board:

- Approved a 10 p.m. curfew for Halloween.

- Approved re-advertising for bids on a 2017 new and unused 3/4 ton diesel pickup truck after receiving no bids. The bid opening will be held Nov. 9 at 8 p.m.

- Approved updates for permit fees in the town, effective January 2017.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.