

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Serving Springville, Concord, Ashford, West Valley, Collins, Colden and East Concord

10-26-2017

Letter to the Editor: Ashford Town Board works toward the betterment of the town

Editor:

In the month of November the Town of Ashford, like many towns, face an election cycle for town board.

I have been a councilman for the Town of Ashford for the past two years and am not running for election on this cycle. Before our community heads to the ballot box I'd like to share a few thoughts. Unless you have attended meetings on a regular basis, most people aren't aware of the hard work and dedication it takes as a board member.

The meetings, which are open to the public, only represent the tip of the iceberg. Countless hours are spent on committees working toward solutions for the betterment of the town. Everything the board does affects the budget, which in turn, affects the taxpayers.

Our Ashford Town Board is in the final stages of completing a municipal water district, is presently working toward a future solar project, Community Development grants for energy as well as for the growth of business, meetings on the 219 expressway and land bank programs addressing zombie homes. Insurance audits are done each year to ensure our community is protected at the lowest possible cost.

What makes our town unique is the **West Valley Demonstration Center**. Working with the government entities is no easy task and closely monitoring the cleanup and its effect on our community is an awesome responsibility. Working with the federal government (DOE) and New York State requires its own unique talents. It encompasses environmental issues, employment, community safety, emergency management and economics. While all board members are involved, it has been the main responsibility of John Pfeffer. John's dedication to this particular committee has been outstanding and I cannot stress enough to our community the need for him to continue his work. I would urge all to support John in this next upcoming election for town board.

Councilman Richard Bernstein

Town of Ashford

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Letter to the Editor: Ashford needs dedicated, experienced leaders

Editor:

When I was first elected councilman to the Town of Ashford, I set out to make sure that the future of our town was always one we could be proud of. One of my first initiatives as councilman was to see that our sidewalks were plowed.

It took a lot of convincing to have the town plow the sidewalks, but the result was that children would no longer have to walk in the road to get to school, and residents would be able to enjoy the sidewalks year-round. As the gateway to Cattaraugus County, it is vitally important that we showcase the beauty we have to offer those passing through and visiting the Town of Ashford.

I would like to continue this effort by focusing on all the hamlets in the Town of Ashford. For example, we expect to see another phase of the 219 extension passing through Ashford Hollow.

We need a seat at the table to demand that our needs are met. What do the residents of Ashford Hollow want and need?

My second initiative is focused on the vitally important cleanup and funding of the **West Valley Demonstration Project**. We know that long term or even permanent storage is not a viable end state for the wastes at West Valley. The geology will not support it. We also know that funding levels need to be maintained at the level as prescribed in the most recent Record of Decision.

Regardless of what the “required” funding levels are, we still need to maintain an almost constant lobbying effort with New York State and the Federal Government for that funding. It is just as important that the Town of Ashford and the West Valley School District be compensated for the loss of tax revenue due to the presence of this facility. The compensation we receive now is a pittance compared to what we would be receiving were the site taxed at its current assessment. I will continue to use vacation days from my other job to travel to Washington to fight for what we deserve.

Coupled with the above, we need to start thinking about possible reuses of the uncontaminated land at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**. New York cannot and should not continue to hold land that was taken from our residents. I do not believe there is an adequate reason to not begin to release it for use by the town. Currently, we are making rapid progress in establishing a solar farm on some of the unused land that will directly benefit Ashford residents.

The Town of Ashford needs dedicated, experienced people leading the way forward. I have been and will remain committed to seeing through on what our residents want from their town government. There are many wonderful opportunities in front of us that we need to take advantage of. I’m asking for your vote for councilman for the Town of Ashford. I will not let you down.

John A Pfeffer

West Valley

Ashford Friends Coalition hopes to lead change

ASHFORD – Over the years, people in the Town of Ashford have expressed their opinions and have been fighting to fix problems caused by the **West Valley Nuclear Plant**. Recently, a group has been formed to help lead the charge in getting the town proper reparations for having to deal with the nuclear plant.

At the Sept. 19 Ashford Town Board meeting, Councilman John Pfeffer brought up the idea to the board about starting the Ashford Friends Coalition. The Ashford Friends Coalition would be made up of leaders from local businesses, churches and organizations that would work together on two main goals, getting the right financial reparations paid to the community for having the nuclear plant in the town and working on getting all the waste in West Valley reclassified as defense waste.

“I see our purpose as just taking on those two very large battles and getting as many people pushing behind the cart with the same effort as possible,” Pfeffer said. “We all need to come together at once and start pushing this argument and not just make it once a year and forget about it, but to continually make it.”

Pfeffer saw towns like Miamisburg, Ohio formulate a similar group and have success working toward one goal. He was able to gauge the Ashford community interest for the initiative and hopes to get the same results in the long run.

“It was a discussion I had with [Miamisburg’s] mayor, who said the only way you are going to succeed at this is if you are in Congress’ face constantly,” Pfeffer said. “I have been sending that agenda to people within the community and I think I finally have them on board.”

Since starting the Ashford Friends Coalition, Pfeffer has been talking with residents and organizations including the West Valley Central School and the West Valley Chamber of Commerce, with a positive reception.

Pfeffer is hoping to have the first meeting of the Ashford Friends Coalition in November.

Anyone is welcome to join, as long as they are willing to commit to the cause, which could be a one or two year process.

“As long as people are willing to commit the time and make the long term commitment ... I will take as many people as I can get,” Pfeffer said.

For more information on the Ashford Friends Coalition or anyone interested in joining, email Pfeffer at townofashfordcouncilmanjp@gmail.com.

Heim, Pfeffer reelected to Ashford Town Board

ASHFORD – Ashford residents casted their votes on Nov. 7, allowing John Pfeffer and William Heim to return to their councilman seats as they were reelected to their positions.

Heim received 390 votes, Pfeffer received 342 votes and will each serve a 4-year term for the Town of Ashford.



Pfeffer has previously served on the board for three terms, along with being a member of the **West Valley Citizens Task force** for 20 years, a fireman and EMT for the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company and has served as president of the fire company for the past four years.

“I’m thrilled to have the chance to continue the agenda we have been working on ... and opening up the Town of Ashford as the gateway to Cattaraugus County, getting business rolling and getting new things

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rolling,” Pfeffer said. “I’m just thrilled that the people put that much faith in me to have me do the job.”

Going into his fourth term, Pfeffer said he would like to continue working on the many projects in the town, including getting broadband internet in the town, clean energy initiatives with the possibility of a solar farm on the **Western New York Nuclear Service Center site** and the formation of the Ashford Friends Coalition. Along with these projects, Pfeffer said he would also like to work on a system of senior transportation to and from the town, and figure out more ways to help community based organizations within the town prosper in light of a declining population.



Heim has previously served on the Ashford town Board for four years, while also being a longtime business owner within the town and Ashford resident for 40 years.

With his reelection, Heim would like to continue with the ongoing projects with the town board and focus on two main goals for the town – to bring in more businesses to Ashford and to find a way to lower taxes for residents.

WVDP volunteers donate to local food pantries

- By Deb Everts, Press Reporter, Nov 17, 2017

SALAMANCA — To spread good will for the upcoming holiday season, employees from the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and its subcontractors gathered Friday at Sander's Parkview, volunteering



In the spirit of the season, volunteers from the West Valley Demonstration Project and its subcontractors met at Sander's Parkview Nov. 17 to load and deliver donated food to area pantries right before the holiday.

their time and energy to once again distribute food to nine local food pantries.

According to volunteer coordinator Lettie Chilson, this year's WVDP Food Drive fundraising effort included food donations from employees themselves and was responsible for the distribution of 102,000 pounds of food, including 360 turkeys, to area pantries.

Chilson said 40 turkeys will go to each of the nine food pantry sites at Ellicottville, Franklinville, Delevan, West Valley, Little Valley, Cattaraugus, Dayton, and two pantries in Springville. She said the total amount of food could change if they get any last minute donations.

“We were able to provide each site with over 200 bags of food to benefit local families,” she said. “Some of the sites distribute between 150 to 200 bags, while others do a smaller number, but the larger pantries like Springville and Franklinville have the largest need in Cattaraugus County (and the surrounding area) and we are able to help out a lot.”

The food drive started as a drive just for the local West Valley food pantry; Chilson said WVDP has been doing this drive for over 25 years and every year it has grown. She said all the volunteers for this drive are members of the team, and they have embraced this event as their big team effort charity for the year.

“We've partnered with Sander's Parkview but, in the past, Springville Wal-Mart has provided turkeys,” she said. “Wal-Mart would have provided the turkeys again this year, but Parkview was able to get them for us.”

A store employee at Sander's Parkview said owners Jake and Mark Sanders participate in this food drive for area pantries because they are very family-oriented and they don't want to see families go without.

Chilson said Sander's Parkview and American B & B are major subcontractors at West Valley. They participate by either donations or through their employees who volunteer.

"So, it really is a team at West Valley, along with our customers, the

United States Department of Energy (USDOE) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). All of their employees participate," she said.

Joe Pillittere, communications manager for WVDP, said this is his first year working at the WVDP site, but it's not his first year volunteering for the annual food drive.

"I was here participating in 2000 and 2003 when we did the food drive, but it has expanded to nine pantries since then," he said. "The drive changes yearly. We collect more food and it gets better every year."

According to Chilson, not only does this collected food cover Thanksgiving, it also carries over toward the Christmas holiday. She said the Friday delivery was what they had on-hand as of Tuesday, that she can confirm, and the drive continues for two more days. When the final accounting is done, they'll buy additional turkeys for the Christmas season for all the food pantries.

Chilson said, since its inception, 1.3 million pounds of food have been distributed from this volunteer program through the West Valley Demonstration facility. Through donations, 102,000 equivalent pounds will be distributed this year, but not everything is in yet.

"The food that was loaded on the truck today at Sander's Parkview was just a representative of all the thousands of pounds of food that has been donated and will be distributed prior to Thanksgiving Day," she said on Friday.

Pillittere said the bottom line really is this type of effort from employees, subcontractors and their partners at the USDOE and NYSERDA really helps build the quality of life for not only the employees, but the community itself.

(Contact reporter Deb Everts at salpressdeb@gmail.com.)

WVDP Food Drive exceeds its goal



11-23-2017

Volunteers from the West Valley Demonstration Project prepare to load and deliver 102,000 pounds of food to nine local pantries right before the holiday.

WEST VALLEY – The workforce at the West Valley Demonstration Project completed its Annual Food Drive on Nov. 16, as part of its continued commitment to the community. The annual tradition began in 1989, and has been held every year since. In total, the WVDP Food Drive has collected approximately 1.7 million pounds of food since its inception.

The goal this year was to collect 100,000 pounds of food – enough to provide food and turkeys for nine food pantries. This year's Food Drive collected 102,000 pounds of food, which will provide hundreds of families in need during this holiday season. On Nov. 17, volunteers were split into two teams to deliver hundreds of cases of food and 360 turkeys to the following food pantries: Fellowship Hill Ministries in Springville, Delevan Methodist Church, Catholic Charities Outreach in Franklinville, Saving Grace OutReach in Cattaraugus, Master's Plan in Dayton, United Church of Christ in Ellicottville, Concord Food Pantry, Little Valley Baptist Church and West Valley Food Pantry.

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“The success of this year’s Food Drive speaks volumes to the generosity and kindness of our employees, partners and subcontractors,” said Lettie Chilson, WVDP Facility Manager and Food Drive Lead. “It shows the positive impact that kindness can have on a community.”

More than 59,000 meals were served at the Cattaraugus Community Action Soup Kitchen in October, and they also provided 443 food boxes to 1,245 individuals at its Food Pantry in the same month. Community Action's Nutrition Division distributed 332 Thanksgiving meal

boxes in November to feed 903 county residents. And more than 9,000 Cattaraugus County residents received the HEAP last year, and this number is expected to be similar this season. The WVDP Food Drive helps to improve the quality of life for people and their community.

“I am honored to be a part of an event that makes a difference in our community,” said Bryan Bower, DOE Project Director. “The amount of food collected each year demonstrates the generosity and kindness of our employees.”

The WVDP extended a thank you to the businesses and organizations who contributed to this year’s success. The include International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Lodge 2401 – monetary contribution for food; Test America and Southern Springs Construction and their employees – donated cases of food from employees; American DND, RJR Engineering, InTomes, MHF Logistics, MJW and Sanders Parkview Supermarket – donations of food, in-kind services, rental trucks for delivery and community support; DV Brown, Buffalo Fuel Corporation, SLR and Container Products Corporation – food and monetary donations and the U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority – monetary contribution from employees for food.

“The pressure to meet the needs of our community always increases this time of year when resources are spread so thin around the holidays. We could not meet those needs without the extra efforts of our staff and strong community partnerships to fill the gaps,” said Tony Turano, Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services Director. “The WVDP Food Drive cannot happen without the help and kindness of others in the community.”

DOE SUBMITS REPORT TO CONGRESS ON ALTERNATIVES FOR DISPOSAL OF GTCC AND GTTC-LIKE WASTE

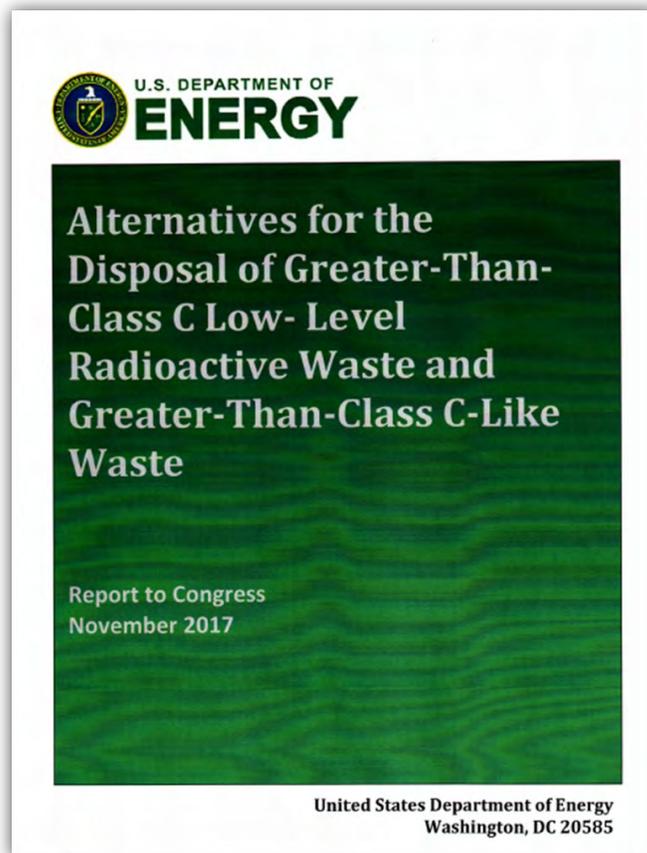
In November, DOE formally submitted its report to Congress, [“Alternatives for the Disposal of Greater-Than-Class C Low-Level Radioactive Waste and Greater-than-Class C-Like Waste.”](#) as required under the [Energy Policy Act of 2005](#). The report confirms land disposal at generic commercial facilities and/or at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico as its preferred alternative for disposal.

DOE is required to submit this report to Congress on disposal alternatives for Greater-Than-Class C (GTCC) and GTCC-like low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) prior to issuing a Record of Decision (ROD). The report includes an evaluation of “the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed development, operation, and long-term management of a disposal facility or facilities for GTTC LLRW and GTCC-like waste in DOE’s inventory.”

In addition, DOE identifies legislation and regulatory actions that would be required to implement the final alternative. For example, if disposal at WIPP is the final decision, the Land Withdrawal Act will need to be amended to remove the prohibition of non-defense waste disposal at the facility. DOE also notes that a project-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation may be required before implementation.

GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like waste includes:

- Activated metals from the decommissioning of nuclear utilities;
- Sealed sources used for diagnostics and treatment of cancer and other illnesses and other industrial uses; and
- Other wastes, which include waste from the production of molybdenum-99 (used in medical diagnostics); waste from radioisotope power systems (used in support of space exploration); and waste from environmental cleanup at DOE



sites (e.g. [West Valley Demonstration Project in New York](#)).

There is currently no identified path to disposal for GTCC LLRW and GTCC-like wastes. Following the submission of the report, DOE must now await action by Congress.

Efforts to define the federal government’s strategy to dispose of GTCC LLRW began in 1985 after Congress passed the [Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act](#). In February 2016, DOE issued its [Final Environmental Impact Statement](#) (EIS) outlining the preferred alternative above, but the EIS did not constitute a decision.



West Valley Cleanup Contractor Receives 66 Percent of Available Award Fee



CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley employees at work at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM's](#) cleanup contractor at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) earned \$300,000 of a possible \$455,971 award fee for the March to August 2017 performance period, according to a [recently released scorecard](#).

EM noted that CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) met the majority of performance goals and objectives for the period. The contractor received a “very good” rating for safety, health, quality, and business management; “good” for project management; and “satisfactory” for environmental and regulatory strategy.

Under EM's CHBWV contract, 80 percent of the award fee is tied to objective cost and schedule incentives that are “at risk” until the contract's end. While CHBWV has had significant success during this rating period, schedule incentive fee for this work is provisional and cost incentives are not earned until the entire performance work statement is completed.

“CHBWV has had a very successful year,” EM Federal Project Director Bryan Bower said. “During this last rating period, CHBWV was able to safely complete deactivation of the Vitrification Facility and conduct readiness activities for demolition. This allowed demolition to begin five months ahead of schedule. They are also ahead of schedule for safely completing the legacy waste milestone. The workforce is also well on its way to safely completing the deactivation of the Main Plant Process Building ahead of schedule. But



because of the way this contract is structured, these successes are only recognized when all the work is completed.”

Each year EM releases information relating to contractor fee payments — earned by completing the work called for in the contracts — to further transparency in its cleanup program.

According to EM’s performance evaluation for CHBWV:

The contractor responded appropriately to safety related incidents and paid strong attention to detail during receipt inspection of waste boxes. The contractor also conducted employee safety interviews and obtained corporate support to review safety related incidents.

CHBWV submitted quality and timely contract deliverables and continued its commitment to cybersecurity. The contractor achieved 211 percent of its annual strategic sourcing goal and did a “good job” supporting all information requests.

The contractor streamlined data management and reporting, and provided EM more accurate and timely variance analysis information to improve project management. EM noted CHBWV’s “poor planning” to prepare for the site’s Vitrification Facility demolition readiness assessment.

The contractor’s routine regulatory reports were well organized and submitted on time. However, CHBWV demonstrated reluctance to proactively partner with EM to develop solutions to issues.

Once the site of the first and only commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in the U.S., WVDP is now an environmental cleanup and waste management project located about 35 miles south of Buffalo. The cleanup is conducted by EM in cooperation with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

View CHBWV’s scorecard [here](#).

-Contributor: David Sheeley

WVDP Food Drive Exceeds Goal, Collects Food for Nine Local Pantries



Volunteers from the West Valley Demonstration Project prepare to load and deliver 102,000 pounds of food to nine local pantries.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – [EM](#) employees at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) recently collected 102,000 pounds of food for hundreds of families in need — enough turkeys and other items for nine local pantries — surpassing their goal by more than 2,000 pounds.

The WVDP Food Drive is an annual tradition that has collected approximately 1.7 million pounds of food since its inception in 1989.

Each food pantry provides a list of needed items so organizers can maximize cash donations through partnerships with local stores. The stores use their buying power to obtain listed items at or below wholesale prices.



West Valley Demonstration Project volunteers collected more than 100,000 pounds to donate to nine local food pantries just in time for the holidays.

“The success of this year’s food drive speaks volumes to the generosity and kindness of our employees, partners, and subcontractors,” said Lettie Chilson, facility manager for WVDP cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, and food drive lead. “It shows the positive impact that kindness can have on a community.”

In November, volunteers formed two teams to deliver hundreds of cases of food and 360 turkeys to the following food pantries: Fellowship Hill Ministries (Springville), Delevan Methodist Church, Catholic Charities Outreach (Franklinville), Saving Grace OutReach (Cattaraugus), Master’s Plan (Dayton), United Church of Christ (Ellicottville), Concord Food Pantry, Little Valley Baptist Church, and West Valley Food Pantry.

“I am honored to be a part of an event that makes a difference in our community,” EM Project Director Bryan Bower said. “The amount of food collected each year demonstrates the generosity and kindness of our employees.”



Volunteers from the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) unload a pallet containing more than 200 bags of food for the Saving Grace OutReach Food Pantry in Cattaraugus, N.Y. Left to right, American DND Vice President Bill Schaab and CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) Facility Disposition Operations Manager Scott Chase (in truck); Saving Grace volunteers Brian Moses and Dan Minner; EM WVDP Project Director Bryan Bower; CHBWV Facility Manager Lettie Chilson; and CHBWV President and General Manager Jeff Bradford and his wife, Gwen.



Volunteers from the West Valley Demonstration Project unload a pallet containing more than 200 bags of food for the West Valley Food Pantry. Left to right, CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) Strategic Operations & Facility Disposition Manager Jason Casper; CHBWV Regulatory Strategy Manager Janice Williams; American DND Waste Operations Specialist Don Vandermeer; American DND Project Coordinator Frank Brown; and CHBWV Waste Operations Manager Peggy Loop.

The WVDP Food Drive thanked the following businesses and organizations:

- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Lodge 2401, which provided a monetary contribution for food;
- Test America and Southern Springs Construction and their employees donated cases of food;
- American DND, RJR Engineering, InTomes, MHF Logistics, MJW, and Sanders Parkview Supermarket donated food, in-kind services, rental trucks for delivery, and community support;
- DV Brown, Buffalo Fuel Corporation, SLR and Container Products Corporation provided food and monetary donations; and
- DOE and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority provided monetary contribution from employees for food.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



WVDP Workers Complete First Phase of Vitrification Facility Demolition

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – EM and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) completed the first phase of demolition to the Vitrification Facility at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP).

“The CHBWV team is making great progress with the safe completion of the first phase of this facility’s demolition,” EM WVDP Project Director Bryan Bower said. “This accomplishment allows our team to continue its work in the completion of Vitrification Facility demolition activities.”

The phase began in September and involved tearing down portions of the facility with the least radiological contamination.

Using a variety of heavy equipment and specialized tools, workers knocked down three sides of the facility, including operating aisles, a control room, rest rooms, truck bays, stairways, and tool and equipment storage rooms.

Before demolition began, workers finished deactivating the facility’s utility systems, which include instrument air, potable water, utility water, demineralized water, waste water, fuel oil, steam, steam condensate, fire protection, electrical power, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

The facility was used to solidify 600,000 gallons of high-level liquid radioactive waste generated from 1996 to 2002 during the reprocessing of spent fuel by Nuclear Fuel Services, the former site operator.

In the next phase, workers will demolish the heavily reinforced concrete process cell, shield doors, and the structure’s south wall. The cell, which was built to protect workers from radiation exposure during vitrification operations, contains higher levels of radiological contamination than the areas demolished in the first phase.

EM awarded CHBWV the prime contract for WVDP Phase 1 Decommissioning Facilities Disposition in 2011. Demolition of the Vitrification Facility and the Main Plant Process Building is one of four major milestones under the contract.

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere



Workers tear down portions of the Vitrification Facility with the least radiological contamination in the first phase of demolition.

Critics Page
WEBEXCLUSIVE
December 13th, 2017

RadWaste: A Shadow Without a Body

by Eve Andree Laramee

Radioactive waste (RadWaste) is never disposed of; it is dispositioned—placed out of sight and out of mind. The problems surrounding this issue are shrouded in secrecy. Sci-Art collaborations can visualize this contamination by sharing information and data, raising public awareness, and activating community participation in remediation efforts. Scientific methods combined with visual strategies can render the secrets transparent, thus reducing the opacity of the nuclear military-industrial complex and the hidden interests and agendas of corporations.

With the current political climate and an administration that is dismantling environmental protection laws, there is a special urgency to resist the obfuscation of facts. How better to create that field of engagement than through science-art collaborations? Is there a place for activism within a sci-art convergence?

Having worked with environmental scientists and hydrologists on past projects concerning RadWaste, I am currently working on a project called *A Shadow Without a Body*, which addresses the West Valley nuclear site (WVNS) near Buffalo, New York, a site of approximately 2.5 million cubic feet of buried high-level RadWaste. The Buffalo News has called this Western New York's most toxic area, which conceals a groundwater plume of radioactive strontium-90 beneath its surface. The partially-remediated site was repurposed in 1980 with a second nuclear processing plant, called the West Valley Demonstration Project, which is currently operating and receiving shipments of high-level and low-level RadWaste. Shifting climate patterns and regular flooding of the area discharge the radiotoxins into surface water, groundwater, deep aquifer, and lake waters. The project seeks to reveal the history and lineage of corporate and government *greenwashing* of the site ("Earth-friendly" misinformation disseminated to gloss over environmental degradation) as well as the current harm it poses to Buffalo's clean water supply, soil, and human health. It also strives to increase visibility of a concealed problem by revealing the greenwashing, remediation problems, and health risks of WVNS.

Responses and outcomes of my work on RadWaste have varied. This particular project on the West Valley site is the direct result of my participation in 2010 as a visiting artist-fieldworker in the Land Arts of the American West program, where I arranged for a group of students to tour the remediated Jackpile-Paguate Uranium Mine on the Laguna Pueblo tribal lands in New Mexico, formerly the largest open pit uranium mine in the world. The native hydrologist/geologist, Curtis Francisco, toured us through the mine area and the village of Paguate, which is actually inside the mine. The group then visited the surreal New Mexico

Mining Museum in Grants, New Mexico. This experience had a profound effect on art history student Jennie Lamensdorf, who wrote her master's thesis on this field work. Jennie went on to become a curator in New York City, and over a year ago decided to co-curate an exhibition at the SUNY Buffalo Art Gallery, entitled *Hot Mess*, with the artist Joan Linder, who also makes work about nuclear waste issues. Sometimes these projects have a long duration in terms of audience response, and an extended audience in Buffalo will become part of the project.

Another interesting outcome followed my *Halfway to Invisible* installation at Emory University, which dealt with genetic damage to indigenous uranium miners due to their labor working with radioactive materials, and on the communities adjacent to the large open strip mine. In addition to the regular art audience, I specifically wanted the Centers for Disease Control (affiliated with Emory) to be an essential part of the audience with the intention of speaking truth to power. I engaged the research assistance of PhD students in health and medicine and asked the gallery to invite the CDC. Not only did members of the CDC see the exhibit, but I'm fairly sure there were two FBI agents there as well, with their white shirts, thin black ties, and briefcases, asking a lot of very specific questions. I answered all their questions and explained that I am an artist, educator, and citizen who is concerned about the effect that RadWaste has on human health, the health of other species and the ecologies they inhabit, and the land and water. I made it clear that I am concerned for future generations and desire to present works that speak openly about serious environmental issues in a nonpartisan way. The men seemed attentive to my answers and left. There was no follow-up, but a few years later another mysterious team appeared at the opening of a collaborative installation with the artist Tom Jennings that focused on the Grants Uranium Belt mining operations. If governmental organizations are taking works of sci-art this seriously, perhaps the genre's potential to effect change is developing.

CONTRIBUTOR

Eve Andree Laramee

Eve Andree Laramee is an artist based in Brooklyn and Santa Fe.

Frank resigns from WVCS board

Max Borsuk
Staff Reporter

With military obligations soon to begin, West Valley Central School Board of Education member Brad Frank resigned from the board during the Dec. 11 meeting.

Frank, an officer in the Army National Guard, was notified of deployment for approximately one year and would be unable to fulfill his duties on the board for the remainder of his term. WVCS Board President Steve Kowalski thanked Frank for all the work over the years on the board and even though they sometimes disagreed on some things, agreed on more things knowing they were doing the best for the district.

"I want to say thank you very, very much for all the help ... over the course of time I think we have come to the decision that even though we don't always agree on everything, we agree on more than what we disagree on," Kowalski said. "I really appreciate everything you have done for us."

Having served on the board since the 2013-14 school year, WVCS Superintendent Eric Lawton said that Frank's contributions to the board will be missed



Brad Frank

Photo provided

and he wishes him all the best in his service to the country.

"[Frank] is very level-headed, has a lot of common sense and that will be surely missed," Lawton said. "He's definitely a scholar, he had a very

good education, he went to West Point, he is a soldier, he works in the community, his wife is a teacher here, his children go here ... It was so nice to have someone like this on the board whose had some outside experiences and to bring that

knowledge.

"We really appreciate the fact that he is serving his country and serving for us," Lawton added. "We have always been a district that has a lot of respect for the military and I guess our loss is their gain."

With the now open seat, there were three options the district can go with: call for a special vote for the open seat, have the board appoint a person to the seat or leave the seat empty. The board decided that because Frank's seat was one of two with expiring terms next year, they would leave the seat open and have the newly voted person start immediately after the May 2018 election.

In other board news:

– The board approved the senior trip to Clearwater, Florida from June 16-21.

– WVCS Principal Dan Amodeo reported response from Girls on the Run and Boys on the Right Track at the district has continued to be strong and asked the board to vote on whether to continue the programs for another season at the next meeting.

– The board approved Laurie Gerstenslager as a substitute bus driver.

The next West Valley Central School Board of Education meeting will be held on Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the library conference room.

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December 21, 2017

Ashford Approves New Insurance Company

ASHFORD—After hearing presentations from multiple agencies in previous meetings, the Ashford Town Board elected to go with the Evans Agency as the town’s new insurance carrier, at the Dec. 13 meeting.

The Town of Ashford was previously covered by Trident Insurance and needed to decide whether to re-enroll or decide on a different carrier by their renewal date on Jan. 15. At the Nov. 8 board meeting, representatives for the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal and the Evans Agency made their pitch to board members.

During their discussion, members of the board voiced their opinions on the different companies. Board members Jean Bond and William Heim were both in favor of the Evans Agency and had a few concerns with NYMIR. Some of their concerns included having to sign up for NYMIR for five years, differences in some of the coverages and the number of special inspections.

After doing additional research on NYMIR, board member Richard Bernstein tried to answer questions and address any concerns from Bond and Heim. Bernstein later added that no matter how the board decided, the quotes from both NYMIR and the Evans Agency were good and either will be beneficial to the town.

“I think both quotes were very good and a good premium,” Bernstein said. “I feel both are good, we can’t get hurt by either one.”

The board later unanimously voted to go with the Evans Agency as the town’s new insurance carrier and Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis said he would contact the Evans Agency to start the process.

New York State Energy Research and Development Agency West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia gave his report to the board. NYSERDA has recently finished the installation of a new impermeable cover over the SDA disposal trenches at the West Valley Demonstration Project. Bembia also reported that work is continuing on the possibility for constructing a solar farm facility at the nuclear site.

In other board news:

– Brad Frank of the Ashford Planning Board informed the board he distributed the comprehensive plan draft 1 to board members and comments were needed to complete draft 2. For the comprehensive plan, two public meetings are scheduled for Jan. 9 and Feb. 15 at the West Valley Fire Hall.

– The board approved specifications provided by Highway Superintendent Tim Engels for a new loader.

The Ashford Town Board will hold its year end meeting for 2017 on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 7:30 p.m. The 2018 organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m., followed by the regular board meeting, at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Serving Springville, Concord, Ashford, West Valley, Collins, Colden and East Concord

December 28, 2017

Phase 1 of Demolition Complete

Max Borsuk Staff Reporter

After months of work, the CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC team has completed phase one of demolition at the vitrification facility at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Phase one of the demolition, which started in September, consisted of removing the outer sheet metal and steep portions of the vitrification facility with the least amount of radiological contamination. With special tools and equipment, the crew at the WVDP tore down three sides of the facility, which consisted of operating aisles, a control room, restrooms, truck bays, stairways and tool and equipment storage rooms. Workers also completed deactivating the building's utility system before demolition.

"It feels great. We are problem solvers here. We looked at it and our first main goal is to perform all our work safely and compliantly," West Valley Demonstration Project Communications Manager Joseph Pillittere said. "The work we have accomplished to date ... really demonstrates our commitment to safety and environmental stewardship." The vitrification facility at the WVDP was used to solidify 600,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste from 1996 to 2002. In the next phase of the demolition project, Pillittere said crews will work on the demolition of the reinforced concrete process cell, shield doors and the structure's south wall. While the cell contains higher levels of radiological contamination than areas previously demolished, Pillittere said the workers have done a great job so far and will continue to do the job efficiently and safely for everyone.

Next phase expected to be completed March 2018



Photo provided

Heavy equipment is used to remove the roof of the Vitrification Facility at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

"We have a really good team that does the work not just diligently but methodically. The idea is that we plan for the work and then we work the plan," Pillittere said. "We are dealing with construction and radiological conditions ... the idea is to work safely, communication, preplanning, pre-job briefings and everything that is going to lead to not only getting the work done, but getting that work done safely and with the environment in mind."

With the vitrification facility, the project is expected to be completed by March 2018. Demolition on the vitrification facility is around 45 percent completed and deactivation on the main plant is around 79 percent complete.

Pillittere said completing the demolition of the vitrification facility and the main plant process building is one of the four major milestones within the contract for WVDP Phase 1 Decommissioning Facilities Disposition awarded in 2011. The other milestones include relocating 275 high-level waste canisters and three non-conforming high-level waste canisters to a long-term interim storage facility, which was completed last year, processing, shipping and disposal of all legacy waste, which is around 86 percent complete and the balance of site facilities, in which 47 facilities need to be removed from the West Valley Demonstration Project with 19 already completed.

For more information on the progress of the West Valley Demonstration Project, visit www.chbvw.com.

Another Voice: West Valley cleanup is proceeding too slowly

By [Another Voice](#) | Published January 6, 2018 | Updated January 7, 2018

By William H. Townsend

In 1959 I was taking my intro engineering geology course at the University of Michigan geology camp in the Tetons when they were selecting a site near Buffalo for a nuclear reprocessing project. Every Sunday my roommate Red Berenson (of hockey fame) and I hiked in the glacier-scoured Tetons.

I could have told you then that geological instability at the West Valley site made it unsuitable for long-term disposal of nuclear materials.

In 1963, when the plant for reprocessing spent nuclear fuel was under construction, I finished my master's degree and started a Cold War job, designing Minuteman missile equipment to withstand a first strike from nuclear bombs. By 1972, when I finished my Ph.D., they were closing down the failed West Valley project.

Half a century later, we are beginning the process of deciding what to do with the mess of nuclear waste in the ground at West Valley. The Department of Energy is responsible for most of this cleanup at West Valley, as it is around the country.

It does this at a turtle's pace, hampered by inadequate budgets. Delays in remediation drastically increase costs, as rusting tanks and barrels leak into the soil.

The General Accounting Office in February 2017 named the U.S. government's environmental liabilities as one of the government's highest-risk areas. Most of this risk falls within the Department of Energy.

Some of the radioactive sites, such as Hanford in Washington state, are massive projects dating back to the World War II Manhattan Project; others are relatively small, such as West Valley.

The West Valley Demonstration Project has already proved its value as a pilot project for the vitrification of high-level nuclear waste, a process now used on a large scale at Hanford. Our water is under threat from radioactive runoff moving toward streams that flow into Cattaraugus Creek, then Lake Erie, the source of our drinking water. The potential is there for large storms to cause a landslide, releasing nuclear waste that could contaminate our water. Perhaps West Valley might serve as a pilot project to research techniques for decontaminating soil and water.

Nuclear waste cleanup is in fact a job-creating infrastructure project, but it should not require special funding. All it requires is shifting a substantial chunk of the money in the proposed federal budget designated for "modernizing" the U.S. weapons arsenal to the best kind of modernization – a prompt, full cleanup of abandoned DOE facilities.

This would protect the health of citizens, workers, the natural environment and Great Lakes water. Not as glamorous as more bombs under the control of that big "nuclear button" on the president's desk, but much more practical for keeping us all safe.

William H. Townsend, Ph.D., of Snyder, is a retired civil engineer and real estate owner/manager.



www.nuclearstreet.com

BWXT Lands \$1.4B Los Alamos Cleanup Contract

01-04-2018

BWX Technologies Inc., said Thursday it had landed a major Los Alamos Legacy Cleanup Contract along with lead partner Stoller Newport News Nuclear (SN3), a subsidiary of Huntington Ingalls Industries Technical Solutions division



The work will take place at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, site of U.S. atomic weapons development dating back to 1942. The value of the contract is approximately \$1.39 billion. The contract has an initial time line expectation of 10 years.

“Following a 90-day transition period, the contract includes a five-year term and three-year and two-year option periods unilaterally exercisable by the Department of Energy,” the company said.

The DOE's Office of Environmental Management's mission at the Los Alamos National Lab is to clean up the site safely to reduce risks to the public and the environment associated with the lab's atomic weapons waste legacy.

BWXT is a partner in joint ventures serving the Environmental Management department at other locations, including the Savannah River Site, the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, the West Valley Demonstration Project, the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and the Waste Isolate Pilot Program.

SN3 is also contracted to serve various DOE locations. Its largest presence is at the Savannah River site, where it is a prime partner in the management and operating contract there.

https://www.aikenstandard.com/news/srns-ceo-highlights-workforce-recruitment-efforts-in-aiken/article_48f4d2f6-f236-11e7-a1a6-fb1bb3f82b66.html

TOP STORY

SRNS CEO highlights workforce recruitment efforts in Aiken

By Colin Demarest cdemarest@aikenstandard.com Jan 5, 2018 Updated Jan 5, 2018



Stuart MacVean, president and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, gave a worker retention lecture to the Aiken Chamber of Commerce Friday morning.
Staff Photo by Colin Demarest

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Stuart MacVean, president and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, spoke to members of the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce Friday morning and addressed a familiar issue: attracting, and retaining, a young workforce.

"We've learned a lot about what it takes to bring people to the area," MacVean said.

According to the CEO, SRNS has hired approximately 2,000 people in four years – a recruiting campaign that was launched, he said, in the face of a "retirement cliff."

Half of SRNS's employees four years ago were retirement ready, MacVean said, a staffing problem that needed to be addressed.

"That's a lot of people you need to hire in order to replace those folks," MacVean said, adding that the average employee was 54 years old. "That's a real skewing of the population."

Now, the average SRNS employee is 48.

J. David Jameson, president and CEO of the Aiken Chamber of Commerce, described the region's aging workforce as a "silver tsunami."



Stuart MacVean, president and CEO of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, led the conversation Jan. 5 during the First Friday Means Business breakfast.

Staff Photo by Colin Demarest

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"We know it's here," Jameson said at the First Friday Means Business breakfast. "We've just got to work hard to make sure Aiken is ready."

In 2014, the City of Aiken had more residents above 65 than under 18, according to a benchmark study commissioned by the Chamber. In 2015, the South Carolina population was aging faster than the rest of the nation. The 2016 benchmark study noted there was a continued aging issue. And a 2017 update stated the city's population was "aging faster than any other geographic areas" that were analyzed.

Jameson, in a December interview, said Aiken has not been attracting families with children and has to "grow the lower end of the population" – the younger side.

"It's an important message," Jameson said.

MacVean – who led waste management efforts at the [West Valley Demonstration Project in Buffalo](#), New York, and handled spent nuclear fuel processing at the Sellafield site in the U.K. – said the age issue is not limited to Aiken. He saw it firsthand overseas.

"The U.K. faces the same issue the Savannah River Site has," he said. "It's really kind of a culmination ... An awful lot of people got hired at the same time. There was a big ramp-up in the late '80s, early '90s time period. So that kind of flatlines in the meantime."

At the Savannah River Site – specifically for management and operations contractor SRNS – engaging new and young employees is key: "This new generation wants to come to work and enjoy what they're doing," MacVean said.

A fun atmosphere is important – "They won't just come to work anymore just because it's the right thing to do," the CEO said – as is a sense of community.

"Build a sense of belonging," he said.

Community at SRNS, a primary contractor that had a \$444 million economic impact on Aiken County in 2016, is achieved through experience- and age-segmented mentorship and outreach programs, MacVean said.

"We don't worry about what company you work for ...," MacVean said of the togetherness efforts. "We don't do this just for our folks."

It seems to be paying off. In fiscal year 2017, SRNS hired 546 people. MacVean predicted the contractor would hire another 400 people each successive fiscal year through 2021.

SRNS has seen a 15 percent decrease in non-retiree employee loss, MacVean added.

Those statistics, Jameson said, are "really exciting."



Stuart MacVean, who heads Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, answers questions following his speech at the First Friday Means Business breakfast. MacVean said 50 percent of SRNS employees four years ago were of retirement age.

Staff Photo by Colin Demarest

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Colin Demarest is a reporter with Aiken Standard and has been with the newspaper since November 2017. He is a New Jersey native and received his B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina. Follow him on Twitter: @demarest_colin

Colin Demarest

Demolition at toxic West Valley is on track, but moving slowly – by design

By [T.J. Pignataro](#) | Published January 9, 2018 | Updated January 9, 2018

WEST VALLEY – The building where the most highly radioactive materials at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) were once handled is being torn down.

The vitrification plant is where 600,000 gallons of liquid nuclear waste were turned into glass cylinders in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The cylinders were then packaged in fives and [welded](#) into steel canisters before being stored under 21-inch thick concrete casks and relocated to another spot on site.

In mid-September, contractors started peeling away the outside of the steel and sheet metal exterior of the building and the roof. That work wrapped up in early November, said West Valley officials.

“The (contractor) is making great progress with the safe completion of the first phase of this facility’s demolition,” said Bryan Bower, project director for the U.S. Department of Energy. “This accomplishment allows our team to continue its work in the completion of site demolition activities.”

West Valley was the nation’s only commercial nuclear reprocessing plant.

The waste was created when the site was operated by Nuclear Fuel Services between 1966 and 1972.



Some of the most radiologically toxic elements at West Valley include cesium, strontium, thorium and plutonium. Thorium-232 is its longest lasting element. It has a half-life of more than 14 billion years.

The demolition of the 10,700 square-foot heavily fortified concrete cell where workers once turned highly radioactive waste into glass is now underway.

The 50-foot-high concrete and rebar-reinforced cell – with walls and windows up to 4 feet thick – is being taken down using shears and an excavator with a pneumatic hammer.

Workers perform some pre-demolition procedures in the vitrification building. (CHBWV)

Officials said the process is slow and deliberate for a reason.

“The team is here to perform all work safely and compliantly,” said Joseph Pillittere, West Valley’s manager of communications.

Because it contains higher radiation levels than the outside shell of the building, an epoxy-like substance called Durasoil is sprayed onto the concrete as it is chiseled away to prevent any of the material from escaping.

The debris is carefully packaged into containers, which are shipped by rail to a certified landfill out west.

About 6,700 tons of low-level debris is expected from the demolition, officials said.

The main plant also will be demolished. Crews are working to deactivate the utilities in the plant, along with completing asbestos abatement, before the building can be torn down. About 80 percent of that work is done, Pillittere said.



The main plant at the West Valley Demonstration Project is also slated for demolition.
(T.J. Pignataro/Buffalo News)

The demolitions are part of the first phase of decommissioning the West Valley site.

Other tasks involved in this phase include:

- [Relocating](#) 278 high-level waste casks to an [outside concrete pad](#), work that was finished a year ahead of schedule in November 2016.
- Shipping low-level waste off of the site, which is more than 85 percent complete.
- Removing other ancillary facilities on the site. Of the 47 slated for demolition, 19 have been completed.

After tearing down West Valley's facilities, crews will remediate soil on the site.

The next phase, which includes making final decisions on the site's future, is scheduled to start in 2020.

Although federal law requires the high-level radioactive waste to be moved to a federal repository like the one once proposed for Nevada's Yucca Mountain, there isn't a place for it yet.

Until one is found, the waste could be stranded indefinitely on the concrete pads off Rock Springs Road.

The 16,000-square-foot, 3-foot thick concrete pad was poured in 2013. It's reported to have a minimum life span of 50 years.

(Note: The article also contained a video on Vit Demo.)

WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Project Overview

Construction of a high-level waste interim storage system was initiated at the West Valley Demonstration Project near Buffalo, New York in 2015. The system will accommodate interim storage capacity for 278 canisters of vitrified waste that has been stored within the facility for more than a decade.

Since continued storage of the canisters in the Main Plant Process Building is no longer practical, this project is being undertaken to allow the waste to be moved to a more suitable on-site location. The HLW storage system was designed by NAC International and constructed using specialized vendor and local labor. Canister relocation is scheduled to begin in 2015.

Strategy

Use of the "shell" commercial dry law storage system design, modified for HLW storage.

- Robust reinforced concrete storage casks for interim process storage.
- HLW canisters will be packaged and prepared for off-site shipment.

Challenges

Existing configuration requires modifications to prepare and relocate canisters.

- Surface contamination on canisters.
- Infrastructure upgrades required to support allocation.
- Multistep project due to funding limitations.

Benefits

- Maximizes use of off-the-shelf technology.
- Multi-packaging configuration reduces future handling and shipping costs.
- Closed storage cask design eliminates potential for site "hot spots".
- Low-dose storage (1 inch thick at 1 meter).
- Passive storage design is virtually maintenance-free.
- Design, fabrication and licensing activities meet high nuclear quality assurance standards.
- System interfaces with NRC Type-B licensed shipping casks.



Canisters Stored Inside Main Plant

Vitrified HLW Canisters

Vitrified waste was produced at the WVDP between 1986-2002.

- 278 production canisters.
- 10 feet 2 diameter.
- 2,865 RWh average.
- 1,100 - 7,460 RWh range.
- 2 evacuated canisters and 1 end-of-process canister.
- 1 container with miscellaneous debris.



Canister Decontamination

Decontamination methods are being tested in the stored canisters to evaluate their efficacy for removing radioactive particulate on the tops of the stored canisters. The outcome of the testing will be used in determining a path forward for canister decontamination.



Microfiber Mop Method



HLW Overpack

The HLW overpack is designed to maximize the containment capacity of the canisters. The five-compartment inner basket holds five canisters stable and facilitates direct loading of the package in a shipping cask.

- 5-compartment inner basket.
- 304/304L stainless steel construction.
- 3/8 inch walls; 3 inch bottom plate; 1 inch thick SS.
- 7.25 ton unloaded weight.
- Designed for direct loading into NAC-BTC shipping cask.

Overpack Welding

The loaded stainless steel overpack will be remotely welded into water integrity verified.



Lid To Be Remotely Welded on Overpack



Vertical Storage Casks (VSCs)

Site-based reinforced concrete storage casks designed for a minimum 50-year life span. Cask liners are fabricated on-site and shipped to the WVDP for concrete fabrication. The first eight casks were fabricated in 2015.

- Modified CNF cask design with no ventilation ports.
- Unloaded weight 85.8 tons.
- Loaded cask weight 87.5 tons.



Liners were fabricated off site and delivered to the WVDP.



Reinforcing steel



Upright liners with rebar form in place.



Concrete placement



The First 8 Concrete Vertical Storage Casks

HLW CANISTER RELOCATION & STORAGE

Cask Movement Planning

Routing and infrastructure configuration, containment control and storage cask weight are major considerations in planning for storage cask movements. All equipment and pathways between current storage location and the HLW Storage Pad are under evaluation.

Infrastructure: Cranes, Cameras and Tooling



The HLW Relocation Project will involve prolonged use of the lifting equipment in the current storage area. Evaluations are underway to identify required maintenance and upgrades to support canister removal and overpack loading.

Floor Loading Evaluations



Sampling and analysis of soils around the Equipment Decontamination Room

The structure's capacity of the floors involved with loaded cask transport is under evaluation. A 2-day inspection and soil samples are part of the investigation that will identify required modifications.

Haul Path

The loaded storage casks will travel a mile from the current storage location to the HLW Storage Pad. The travel pathway is being evaluated to identify underground utilities and drainage features that will require modification for safe transport.



Geotechnical studies have been conducted along the haulway.



HLW Storage Pad Construction

Pad engineered for storage and future removal of loaded storage casks. Area excavated to native soils, backfilled and compacted. Reinforced concrete pad and approach apron, adjacent crane pads and perimeter lighting and security features.

Mini Pad

- 144 feet by 119 feet by 3 foot thick
- 122 tons of reinforcing steel, 1,000 cubic yards of concrete

Approach Apron

- 80 feet by 170 feet by 18-inch thick
- 110 tons of reinforcing steel, 900 cubic yards of concrete



Five separate concrete placements and more than 300 concrete delivery trucks involved in completing the HLW Storage Pad and Approach Apron.

Hobbs/Dukes, Joe Ebert, Dan Meese, Lettie Gilson, David Kurash, Cynthia Dayton, CH2MHILL B&W West Valley, LLC, Mark Bolls, US-DOE-West Valley



CH2MHILL B&W West Valley, LLC
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Cask Loading and Handling

The canisters will be loaded into HLW Overpacks that are preloaded in the VSCs. Loaded VSCs will be moved into the Mini Pad and then into the Apron, where the overpacks will be welded shut and the VSCs sealed. Loaded VSCs will then be transported along a 1/2 mile on-site roadway to the HLW Storage Pad. Specialized cask handling equipment will be used inside the current storage facility and outdoors.



A specially designed railcar and a T-230 cask handling vehicle will be used to manipulate and load the casks into the building.

Transport and Cask Placement

A low tractor and 4-frame crane will be used to transport the loaded casks from the current storage location to the HLW Pad. An approach apron facilitates cask placement. The pad is now paved with adjoining crane pads to facilitate cask removal for future off-site shipment.



A low tractor and 4-frame crane for cask relocation.

HLW Interim Storage

The packaged canisters will remain in passive storage on the secure pad until a federal HLW repository is available.



The fully loaded pad will appear similar to the HLW storage pad shown above. The HLW Overpacks are designed for on-site transport via NAC-BTC Storage and Transport Cask, pictured at right.



EM Sites to See Cost Savings From Sharing Equipment to Relocate Waste

Equipment will be repurposed to advance proposed dry storage efforts



Workers at the West Valley Demonstration Project load the specially designed, robotically operated welder onto a flatbed for shipment to the Hanford Site.

WEST VALLEY, N.Y. – Cost savings will result from two [EM](#) cleanup sites sharing highly specialized equipment for packaging and relocating nuclear waste to storage locations.

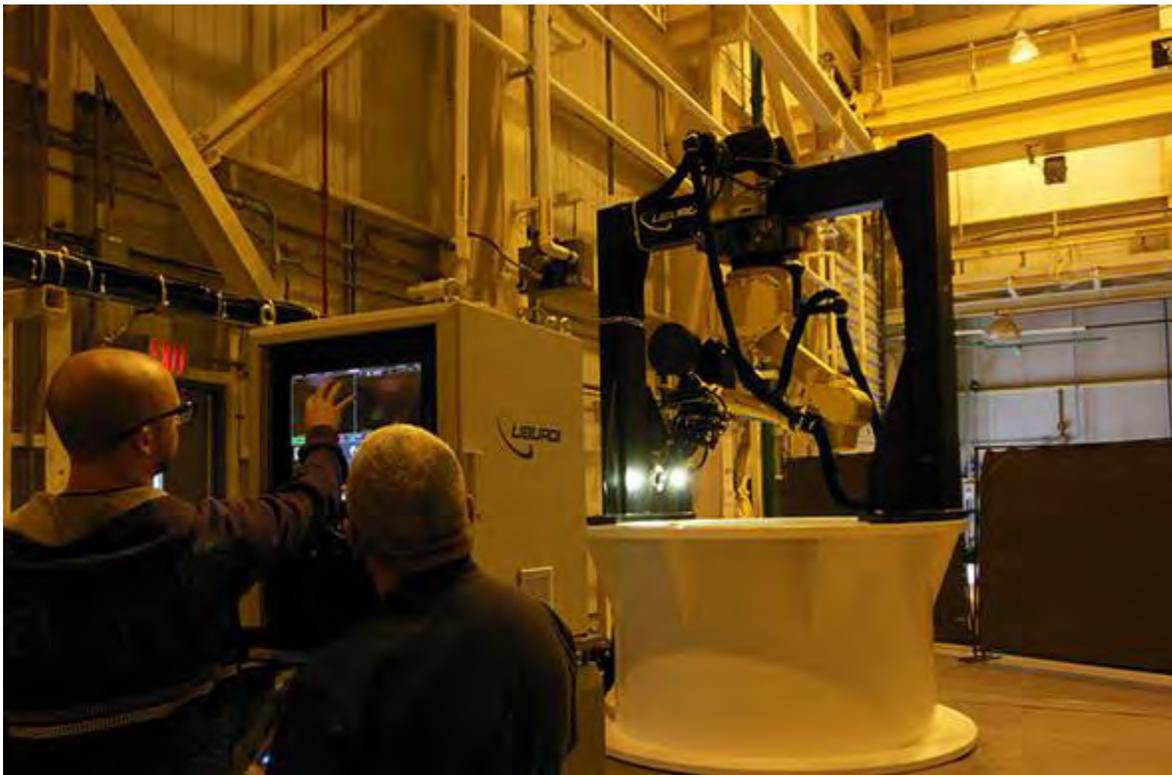
Workers at the [West Valley Demonstration Project](#) (WVDP) in New York shipped welding equipment to the [Richland Operations Office](#) (RL) at the [Hanford Site](#) in Washington state on Jan. 8 to assist in proposed packaging and moving of radioactive cesium and strontium capsules to dry storage. Sharing the equipment valued at approximately \$2.4 million helps the sites achieve savings.

The robotically operated welder was designed and fabricated to seal the WVDP overpacks. Workers inserted five high-level waste canisters into a stainless steel overpack that was preloaded into a steel-lined concrete vertical storage cask. They welded the overpack lid shut using the welder prior to moving the storage cask assembly to the interim storage pad.



The welder enables repetitive precision welding, producing a high-integrity seal to ensure a safe, secure shipment-ready package. The welder's remote operation capability prevents radioactive exposure to the operator.

The welder's computer interface is capable of monitoring and controlling welder amperage, voltage, travel speed, wire feed speed, and the hot wire current. All of this, combined with a fully integrated robotic arm, further enhances the safety and precision for welding operations.



West Valley Demonstration Project operators train with the automated welding system.

At Hanford, a team is scheduled to relocate 1,936 cesium and strontium capsules stored underwater at the [Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility](#) to an outside storage area. The planned storage area at Hanford, similar to the one at WVDP, is modeled after dry spent fuel storage systems at commercial nuclear power plants in the U.S. It will feature above-ground, shielded cask storage, which requires little maintenance.



This summer, the Hanford team is scheduled to receive a large tow tractor and vertical transporter used to move casks to outdoor storage at WVDP. The equipment was designed and built to move each 87.5-ton, steel-reinforced vertical storage cask to the interim storage pad at the WVDP.

Teams from both sites previously shared best practices. Employees from RL's cleanup contractor CH2M Hill Plateau Remediation Co. visited counterparts at CH2M BWXT West Valley (CHBWV) to learn about the WVDP's successful relocation of 278 canisters of vitrified high-level waste to an onsite interim storage pad. The canisters were packaged in overpacks and welded shut with the specialized welder before being relocated. CHBWV accomplished this task in November 2016, a year ahead of schedule.

"It's important to share lessons learned and best practices," CHBWV President Jeff Bradford said. "This helps to prevent potential problems, increase safety, and maximize success."

-Contributor: Joseph Pillittere

SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

Serving Springville, Concord, Ashford, West Valley, Collins, Colden and East Concord

01-18-2018 edition

Letter to the Editor: West Valley Food Bank appreciates all who have helped

Editor:

As we close out the old year and ring in the new, all of us at the West Valley Food Bank wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the organizations and individuals that were involved in helping us during the past year.

We would like to thank the West Valley Fire Department, the **West Valley Demonstration Project (CHBWV)**, Tops Market in Springville, the West Valley Central School, the West Valley Post Office and the many private donations from churches and individuals.

So many have been instrumental in supporting our Food Pantry and helping us carry out missions to help our neighbors in need. With your help we have been able to assist more than 70 families and provide over 2,200 meals. You all are an inspiration.

Thanks again from the West Valley Food Bank

West Valley Food Bank