

# SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

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## ***Demo starts at WVDP thanks to workers***



09-30-2017 - ASHFORD—The West Valley Demonstration Project is one step closer to completing its mission, with the beginning of demolition of its Vitrification Facility. Officially started on Sept. 11, the demolition is expected to take about eight months. A commemorative event marked the beginning of the demolition of the first Vitrification Facility in the United States.

“We’re here to celebrate the success of the project,” Jeff Bradford, president and general manager of CHBWV, said. “This is the glamour moment ... but it’s been years of hard work, planning and guys doing skilled, measured ... work on the inside.”

The work is about 20 percent done, and crews are working from both the back and front of the building to move along the project. The second half of the building will begin its demolition in 2018. Most who spoke at the event called the beginning of the demolition an example of hard work and partnerships.

“Thanks to the dedicated workforce,” New York State Energy Research and Development Authority WVDP project manager Brad Frank said. “It’s been challenging and historic ... this is a great example of teamwork.”

Stacy Charboneau, associate principal deputy assistant secretary, field operations for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management, said the demolition was good for environmental restoration and said she appreciated the work that went on behind the scenes.

“You’re going to start seeing the skyline change ... but you won’t see the years of hard work that went into making the [vitrification] facility ready for demolition,” Charboneau said. “[Workers] are owed a debt of gratitude for doing the work and doing it safely.”

She then presented project director Bryan Bower and International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers union president Rob Dallas the Legacy of Stars award for their work. The award signifies a safe workplace; in 2016 the WVDP reached 2 million safe work hours.

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“The workers do the work ... to ensure they come home safe and keep the community safe,” Charboneau said. “They can recertify at star value ... this is four years running.”

Jennifer Henry, Integrated Safety Management program coordinator said the award signifies the work done to keep everyone, both workers and the Ashford community, safe. Henry is responsible for the continuing training at the project site, which helps keep the workers safe.

“The workers meet and talk about safety ... there’s multiple discussions,” she said. “That comes up the ladder to management, where we work to implement the safety ... then back down.”

She added there is a 100 percent accountability from all the workers, between training and mentoring moments. Earning the Legacy Award for the fourth year shows their commitment to safety is working.

“It shows we’re doing an excellent job maintaining safety, and maintaining a safe working environment,” Henry said.



To prepare for demolition, process equipment was removed and interior surfaces were decontaminated and sealed. Working from the outside, the demolition will use heavy equipment to size-reduce the structure in sections. Waste will be managed and staged at the site, and disposed offsite at a federal waste disposal facility.

“Despite the small quantity of remaining radioactivity, all activity will be conducted in accordance with state, federal and regulatory requirements,” reads a press release. “Controls will be in place during demolition to prevent the spread of contamination.”

## **WVDP vitrification facility facts:**

Constructed and operated in the 1980s as a non-radioactive testing area

It’s a 10,700 square foot reinforced concrete structure, 133 feet long by 102 feet wide.

One of two facilities in the United States.

It achieved the highest operational availability of any vitrification in the world

First facility of its kind in the U.S. to complete its mission

Approximately 15,000 cubic feet of equipment and materials were removed from the facility in preparation of demolition, including three large contained components.