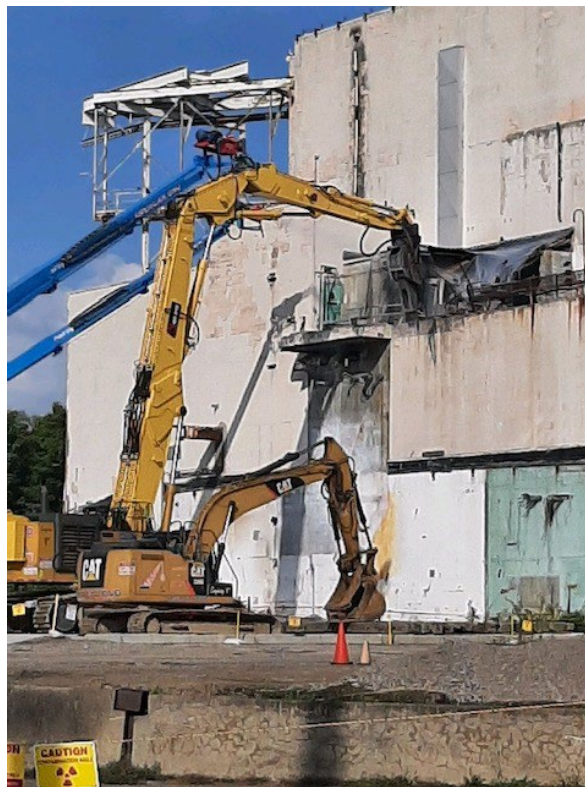


Controlled deconstruction of the main plant begins at the WVDP

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Springville Journal Staff

WEST VALLEY – The Department of Energy’s **West Valley Demonstration Project** in New York, began the controlled deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building. The demolition is expected to take approximately 30 months to complete. The MPPB is one of the last remaining major facilities at West Valley, and the successful deconstruction of this facility will further reduce environmental risks and position the site for the next phase in cleanup.



The Department of Energy’s **West Valley Demonstration Project** has started the controlled deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building.

The workforce has conducted significant work over the past two decades to prepare the MPPB for deconstruction in a manner that is protective of human health and the surrounding environment. These employees have safely reduced the radioactivity in the facility by over 98 percent through the removal of more than seven miles of contaminated piping and over 50 tons of contaminated

equipment. This effort also included the use of liquid nitrogen at up to 60,000 psi (pounds per square inch) to provide an aggressive, yet safe, cleaning application to ensure that deconstruction is safe and protective of the surrounding community. These activities were completed in August 2022, allowing DOE to initiate the start of the controlled deconstruction of the facility.

“The safety of the workforce, community and surrounding environment remain WVDP’s top priority, and all precautions have been taken to ensure MPPB deconstruction activities align with this ever-important priority,” DOE-WVDP MPPB Project Director Stephen Bousquet said.

The planned approach for taking down the MPPB incorporates best practices and lessons learned from WVDP and across the DOE complex including the use of deliberately planned and sequenced deconstruction and implementation of robust work controls. An extensive modeling and real-time monitoring system has been established to help ensure that any potential radiological exposure from demolition activities is kept well below regulatory levels.

Extensive measures are being used to prevent the potential spread of radioactive contamination and safety professionals will provide continuous monitoring and sampling during the deconstruction process.

The MPPB, is a five-story, 35,100 square feet reinforced concrete structure (130-feet-wide, 270-feet-long, and 79-feet-tall at its highest point), that operated as a commercial reprocessing facility to recover reusable plutonium and uranium from spent nuclear reactor fuel. It operated from 1966 to 1972, during which approximately 640-metric tons of irradiated nuclear fuel was processed. In addition to radiological contamination, the facility also contained hazardous materials, including asbestos insulation, lead and PCBs.

John Rendall, President of CHBWW stated, “Our workforce was deliberate in the planning, deactivation and execution of this work. Every effort has been made to implement robust work controls to help protect the workforce, the public and the environment.”