

West Valley ships its first containers of deconstruction waste



Photo provided

A railroad engineer prepares a shipment from the West Valley Demonstration Project prior to it leaving the site. The first shipment included 12 waste containers filled with debris from the ongoing deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building. To date, 43 containers of debris have been safely shipped off-site for disposal. Shipping the waste by rail enhances safety by reducing vehicle traffic associated with completing the shipments via truck.

The Department of Energy and cleanup contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley have successfully shipped 43 containers of waste from the deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building, which began on Sept. 21. During this project, the site is expected to ship approximately 1,500 containers by rail line.

“The rail line is being used for the deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building and future cleanup work at the site,” DOE WVDP MPPB Project Director Stephen Bousquet said. “This rail line represents a better method for waste disposition that’s safer and more efficient. It will help to accelerate remediation efforts in the future.”

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Shipping the waste by rail enhances safety by reducing vehicle traffic associated with completing the shipments via truck. Train shipments increase efficiency by allowing more material to be shipped compared to trucking. The train shipments also cost less than truck shipments, saving taxpayer dollars.

The project previously worked with the Buffalo- Pittsburgh Railroad Administration to rehabilitate the Western New York Nuclear Service Center rail spur and BPRR's main line prior to its use.