

Thursday, January 18, 2024

Progress with WVDP decommissioning to continue in 2024



Crews continue the deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Workers at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** continue to move forward in their efforts to decommission the West Valley Nuclear Service Center and build on the success from last year. New projects and goals have been set for 2024 as crews continue work on the site.

After starting the demolition of the Main Plant Process Building in the Fall of 2022, the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management and its prime contractor **CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC** at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** has safely shipped over 9,000 tons of debris from the demolition of the Main Plant Process Building this year. For the calendar year, crews have packaged and shipped by rail over 500 waste containers for safe disposal off site, with each container loaded with an average of 38,000 pounds of debris.

WVDP crews this past year also safely processed, over-packed and shipped two of seven degraded Chemical Process Cell waste containers off-site for disposal. Both containers had a combined weight of 169,000 pounds. The over 2,000 square-foot cell was designed to dissolve sheared spent nuclear fuel and reduce the volume of high-level waste generated fuel reprocessing and was later used as a storage interim space for vitrified high-level waste canisters.



West Valley crews safely shipped more than 9,000 tons of debris from the demolition of the Main Plant Process Building this year, after launching the project early last fall.

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Also this year, crews completed the construction of a new guardhouse. The new guardhouse will better serve the current and future onsite security needs, provide more space for officers with updated offices and provide modern equipment, badging for site staff and storage space. The former guardhouse was built in the early 1980s when cleanup at the site first began. While the old guardhouse served its purpose, the site outgrew its current capabilities.



A new guardhouse was constructed at the West Valley Demonstration Project to better serve current and future onsite security needs.

WVDP employees were also honored this year by Alfred Taylor, DOE-VPP Office Director, who presented them with a Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program Star of Excellence plaque for exceeding minimum safety rates and having an overall robust safety program. The site also received their recertification as a VPP Site.

“Our dedicated workforce continues to deconstruct the Main Plant Process Building in a manner that is protective of the workforce, the public and the environment,” Department of Energy WVDP Director Brian Bower said. “The MPPB is one of the last remaining major facilities at West Valley, and the successful demolition of this facility will further reduce environmental risks and position the site for the next phase in cleanup. Since the start of Main Plant demolition last fall, our workers have significantly changed the landscape and footprint of the site – further reducing legacy risks. Safety continues to be at the forefront every day, especially when working in and around challenging and high-risk areas. Employee involvement and a proactive approach to safety promotes a safety culture that is continuously improving the work environment and reducing risk. Our WVDP Team has demonstrated that commitment by their recent recognition as a Voluntary Protection Program Star Site and VPP Recertification. The WVDP team’s success is due to its spirit of teamwork and the importance of using feedback, lessons learned and best practices. I’m proud to be a part of a team that prides itself on delivering results in a safe and compliant manner. Our accomplishments on this project are only possible through the commitment and talent of our employees; and I look forward to continuing our work together.”

Looking toward 2024, goals for the new year include performing work in a manner that is protective of employees, the public and the environment; demo and ship 10,000 tons of MPPB waste; remove old locker rooms and gatehouse, regrade area and install new sidewalks; add a new access roadway between the north and south parking lots; complete the disposal of the remaining eight High Integrity Containers; dispose of seven of the legacy debris containers; achieve clean closure of the LSA #2 through required documentation, confirmatory sampling and closure activities and implementing Optically Stimulated Luminescence dosimetry.

“The work we accomplished this year, including the safe and compliant disposal of over 9,000 tons of Main Plant demolition debris, completing the construction of the new guardhouse and many more accomplishments could not have happened without our dedicated workforce and our partners,” CHBWV President and General Manager

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Jason Casper said. "These accomplishments demonstrate the importance of performing work safely, compliantly and with deliberate speed. This team's commitment to perform work in a safe and compliant manner speaks volumes of their commitment to protect each other, the public and the environment. Together, the team uses their combined experiences, knowledge and expertise to find solutions to safely reduce legacy risks at this site. I am truly proud to be a part of this team, and I look forward to continuing our work together in our cleanup mission."

Warsaw Reporter
Max Borsuk, Editor