

CHBWV celebrates over 10 years of safe and compliant cleanup at the WVDP



Photo provided

A site aerial taken at the end of May 2024 shows the changes in the site's landscape.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley celebrated more than 10 years of safe and compliant cleanup activities at the **West Valley Demonstration Project**. Since August 2011, CHBWV, the Department of Energy's cleanup contractor, has continued to accelerate cleanup, eliminate potential environmental hazards and reduce the footprint and life-cycle costs at the site.

Jason Casper, CHBWV President and General Manager stated, "The work performed since 2011 has changed the landscape of the site forever; and is an important accomplishment in the progress to decommission the site. This effort shows that robust engineering controls coupled with state-of-the-science monitoring can accomplish the safe removal of nuclear facilities."

Under their contract, CHBWV has completed the following major accomplishments:

- Packaged and shipped the vitrification melter (160 tons) and two large vitrification components (180 tons and 150 tons) off-site for safe disposal.
- Relocated 278 high-level waste canisters to an onsite storage pad (first time in U.S. history, vitrified high-level waste (HLW) - liquid waste converted into a glass substance - was placed into interim storage, outdoor passive storage).
- Completed the disposition of more than 180,000 cubic feet of low-level legacy waste produced from past cleanup activities.
- Demolished the 01-14 Cement Solidification Facility.

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- Demolished the Vitrification Facility, the first Vitrification Facility in the country to be successfully constructed, operated and demolished.
- Demolished seven ancillary support structures surrounding the Main Plant Process Building, including the Manipulator Repair Shop, Contact Size-Reduction Facility, Laundry Facility, Utility Room Building, Utility Room Extension building, Load-In/Load-Out Building and Main Plant Office Building.
- Deactivated the Main Plant Process Building, including the removal of seven miles of piping and over 50 tons of equipment
- Removed 110 feet of the Main Plant Process Building's ventilation stack, weighing more than 20,000 pounds
- Deployed a liquid nitrogen decontamination system (Nitrocision®) to effectively scabble highly contaminated concrete from the Product Purification Cell walls.
- Demolished and restored the area of 46 balance of site facilities that were no longer needed for current or future cleanup activities, including Administrative Office Building, Liquid Pretreatment System building and Chemical Process Cell-Waste Storage Area building.
- Safely shipped 2,976 cubic feet of hazardous/universal waste; 281,224 cubic feet of industrial waste; 24, 173 cubic feet of mixed low-level waste and 2,971,846 cubic feet of low-level waste.
- Completed infrastructure improvement to support future clean-up with the installation of a new potable water system, a new electric substation, a new natural gas line, a new guardhouse and restoration of the rail line servicing the site.
- Continuing the deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building, which started in September 2022; and have passed the 50% completion mark while maintaining safety and compliance.
- Community Outreach Initiatives: Annual Community Services Donations-\$90,000; Annual Community Donations - \$12,000; Annual Food Drive - 100,000 pounds of food for nine local food pantries; Annual United Way Campaign - \$12,000 (average); and Toys For Tots - 350 toys.

"These accomplishments demonstrate the importance of putting safety first, solid communication, teamwork and best practices," CHBWV Deputy General Manager Kelly Wooley said. "The CHBWV Team was deliberate in the planning and execution of this work, which resulted in the safe and compliant completion of challenging and high-risk cleanup activities. This is a proud moment for our team and the work they continue to do at the **WVDP**."

Throughout all of this work, employee safety and protection of the environment remain the top priority. Workers continue to use extensive measures to prevent the spread of radioactive contamination and safety professionals provide continuous monitoring and sampling during cleanup activities. This work at the site has been accomplished while working among heavy construction equipment; in areas with radiological, industrial and hazardous materials and in changing weather condiments.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC manages and operates the **WVDP** under contract to DOE. The CHBWV team is comprised of Jacobs, BWX Technologies (BWXT) and the Environmental Chemical Corporation.