

# OLEAN TIMES HERALD

August 8, 2024

## Citizen Task Force members tour the West Valley Demonstration Project



Citizen Task Force members gather in front of the High-Level Waste Storage Pad during a tour of cleanup efforts at EM's **West Valley Demonstration Project**. Pictured (from left): Robert Ring, Jordan Buffalo, Shannon Seneca, Ken Kassel, Kathy McGoldrick, Lee James, Ray Vaughan, Angela Santiago and Ray Raffel.

WEST VALLEY — Members of the **West Valley Citizen Task Force** recently visited the **West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP)** to observe cleanup progress and meet with subject matter experts from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management (EM) and cleanup contractor **CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC (CHBWV)**.

The Citizen Task Force provides advice on the completion of the **WVDP** and cleanup, closure and long-term management of the facilities at the site.

Established by the **New York State Research and Development Authority** with participation from EM, the Task Force has several objectives which include fostering an open dialogue between both agencies on cleanup activities, increasing the flow of information between agencies and the Task Force, enhancing public involvement, coordination with regulatory agencies and clarifying differences and establishing mutually agreed upon recommendations.

Jennifer Dundas, assistant director of the EM **West Valley** Office of Technical Services, said the site tour is a valuable resource to provide hands-on information to CTF members.

“It’s important to see the work up close that’s being accomplished at the site, how it fits into DOE’s mission and to provide answers to their questions or concerns,” Dundas said.

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During their visit, CTF members were provided with a safety briefing and operational status before going onsite for the tour.

The tour included the Main Plant Process Building deconstruction area, Remote-Handled Waste Facility, Permeable Treatment Wall, Radiation Monitoring Room, New York State-Licensed Disposal Area, Nuclear Regulatory Commission-Licensed Disposal Area and High-Level Waste Storage Pad.

Jason Casper, president of **CHBWV**, thanked CTF members for visiting the site.

"I'm glad you could join us for the site tour and open discussion," Casper said. "The best way to learn is to stay informed, involved and engaged. A site tour is one of the best ways to accomplish all three."

Olean Times Herald Staff