

Milestones celebrated at WVDP



Photo provided

Members of the Waste and Site Operations Department celebrate the completion of milestone two as they stand in front of the remaining half of the dissolver before it is shipped offsite for disposal.

Max Borsuk Staff Reporter

As decommissioning continues at the West Valley Demonstration Project, the completion of two major milestones was celebrated during an event Sept. 27.

Representatives from CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC, the U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy and Research Development Authority came together at the site to celebrate the de-

molition of the vitrification facility and disposition of legacy waste.

The vitrification building was a 50-foot tall, 10,000 square foot building originally used to solidify radioactive high-level waste. From 1996 to 2012, the facility solidified 600,000 gallons of high-level waste.

Demolition on the vitrification facility started on Sept. 11, 2017, the largest and most complex demolition of a radioactively contaminated facility at the WVDP to date. From removing the 100-ton shield

door to the demolition of the reinforced concrete process cell, crews solved all major challenges and worked together efficiently and safely.

"The crew and the team met these challenges head on as a team and it ensured a safe and successful project," Vice President of Facility Disposition and Deputy General Manager Tom Dogal said. "No major upset conditions with this demolition and for that, I applaud everybody."

During the disposition of legacy waste, over 180,000

cubic feet of waste was shipped offsite for disposal, with the milestone being completed seven months ahead of schedule. Along with the waste, crews completed the safe preparation, packaging and shipment of several large components used in the waste vitrification and moved over 240 containers of transuranic waste into long-term storage.

See "Milestone" on page 5

Teamwork large part of smooth project

Milestone from page 1

"There is a common theme to how we met all those challenges and that is a team," Vice President of Waste Management and Site Operations Peggy Loop said. "People of various departments on this site with various skill that work together in every one of those instances and to be creative and solve problems and finish the work."

Representatives from NY-SERDA and Department of Energy spoke about the success of the project and commended everyone for their hard work throughout the process. Alison Hunt, representative from Congressman Tom Reed's office, announced a bill authorizing funding of \$75 million per year for the WVDP through 2025 has passed the House of Representatives.

"It truly is a team effort here working with NY-SERDA to keep the cleanup moving forward," NY-SERDA Program Director Paul Bemba said. "I want to thank each person here individually because ultimately although it is a team effort, teams are made up of people and each person



Photo by Max Borsuk

CHBWV President and General Manager Scott Anderson speaks at the event.

here makes the Demonstration Project successful."

Along with the milestone successes, U.S. Department of Energy Director of the WVDP Brian Bower commended crews on the removal of the ventilation stack from the main process building and administra-

tion building.

"That skyline change ... is really representative of over a decade of work that has gone on inside the main plant," Bower said. "That is a very visual representation of our workers who suit up every single day and undertake that ... job."