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## West Valley continues progress during mission critical operations

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WEST VALLEY – Crews continued work on a smaller scale than usual while in an essential mission-critical operating posture at EM’s West Valley Demonstration Project. While deactivation and decommissioning operations were put on hold, workers completed critical compliance inspections, environmental monitoring, and other activities.



Workers Darren Rhodes and Brad Schurr begin the installation of a weather protective cover on one of four high-integrity containers located in a secure storage area onsite.

“The protection of our workers, the public and the environment has always been our core value,” EM WVDP Director Bryan Bower said. “During our pandemic response, the WVDP team maintained our focus on safety and compliance, while continuing to advance our mission to eliminate legacy risks at the site.”

Employees installed a new hoist in the equipment decontamination room inside the main plant process building. This new hoist will be used for moving waste boxes and drums when the site returns to full operations; and crews resume deactivation work inside a former reprocessing cell there.

Crews also encapsulated the main plant office building concrete slab so it is no longer posted as an asbestos area.

Workers installed protective covers on four 69,000-pound high-integrity containers stored in a secure location onsite to protect them from water infiltration. Each HIC contained spent ion exchange resins and diatomaceous earth from the FRS water treatment system.

Employees performed annual inspections of a dam onsite as part of environmental monitoring.

Workers installed new trailers onsite for use as breakrooms, locker rooms, offices and meeting areas to increase social distancing efforts. They also installed other upgrades to site infrastructure, such as Plexiglas® shielding and reconfiguring breakrooms and meeting areas, to further protect workers from the potential spread of COVID-19.

“Our team continues to use their combined knowledge to safely maintain the site during essential mission critical operations,” CHBWV President John Rendall said. “I’m proud of their efforts, accomplishments and in the work they continue to do on this project.”