

NEWS
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Federal Funds May Come Through for West Valley Nuclear Facility Cleanup

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CATTARAUGUS COUNTY, N.Y. -- An amendment to a bill making its way through Congress would mean more federal funding to help clean up the West Valley nuclear fuel reprocessing facility in Cattaraugus County.

The amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act, sponsored by Republican Tom Reed and Democrat Brian Higgins, provides an additional \$4 million for continued cleanup work at the site.

The amendment and the overall bill passed the House Thursday.

West Valley was slated for a reduction in funding, but the Reed-Higgins amendment boosts funding back up to last year's level.

"A lot of credit has to go to the West Valley task force," said Congressman Tom Reed (R). "The community group communicates with us on a regular basis, and we work hand and hand and listen to their concerns, and as they will tell you and the constituents will tell you cleaning this West Valley site up is a priority that need to be done for quality of life and the potential risk that is represented by the site to the environment, and we just want to make sure that we're a good resource and we stand with them to get this taken care of once and for all."

West Valley was established in the 1960s and halted re-processing operations back in 1976.