



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
WEST VALLEY, NEW YORK 14171-9799**

**For immediate release
December 5, 2008**

Phase 1 Decommissioning Plan for the West Valley Demonstration Project Available for U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Review

West Valley, NY -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the issuance of the *Phase 1 Decommissioning Plan for the West Valley Demonstration Project (Decommissioning Plan)* to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for its technical review and comment. The decommissioning plan is also being made available for public inspection today.

The DOE has prepared this decommissioning plan to fulfill its obligations under Public Law 96-368, the West Valley Demonstration Project Act of 1980, the September 23, 1981 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DOE and the NRC, and the February 3, 2003 NRC request for the DOE to submit a decommissioning plan for the DOE West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) at West Valley, New York.

The activities described in this Decommissioning Plan are consistent with the Phased Decision-making Alternative, the preferred alternative for project closure, described in the *Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center (Draft EIS)*. Notification of this Draft EIS is published in today's Federal Register and begins a six-month public comment. To the extent that DOE ultimately selects an approach that differs from the Phased Decision-making Alternative, the Decommissioning Plan would need to be modified accordingly.

Under the Phased Decision-making Alternative, the decommissioning of the WVDP and the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (Center) would be completed in two phases. This Decommissioning Plan, announced in today's Federal Register, describes the Phase 1 activities within the WVDP project premises and involves near-term removal actions including removal of the Main Plant Process Building, Vitrification Facility, source area of the North Plateau Groundwater Plume, wastewater treatment facility lagoons, and ancillary buildings, foundations, slabs, and pads. The Phase 2 decision on the decommissioning of the remainder of the WVDP and Center, or its long-term management, would be made in the future and is not part of this Decommissioning Plan.

The NRC review of this decommissioning plan will begin from today's Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* and is expected to be completed in late 2009.

Located about 35 miles south of Buffalo, the WVDP is a DOE-managed, contractor-operated, environmental cleanup and waste management project located on approximately 200 acres of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center, owned by the State of New York and administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. West Valley Environmental Services (WVES) manages and operates the WVDP under contract to DOE. The WVES team is comprised of URS Washington Division, Jacobs Engineering, Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC), and Parallax.

Further information about the West Valley Demonstration Project can be found at <http://www.wv.doe.gov>. For more information about the *Phase 1 Decommissioning Plan for the West Valley Demonstration Project*, please contact either:

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