



BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WEST VALLEY SITE

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Western New York Nuclear Service Center

The West Valley facility was a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant.

Reprocessing - Spent nuclear fuel removed from nuclear reactors was chopped, dissolved and chemically processed to recover uranium and plutonium from the nuclear fuel.

The recovered uranium and plutonium (the products of the plant) were sent to other facilities to be reused.

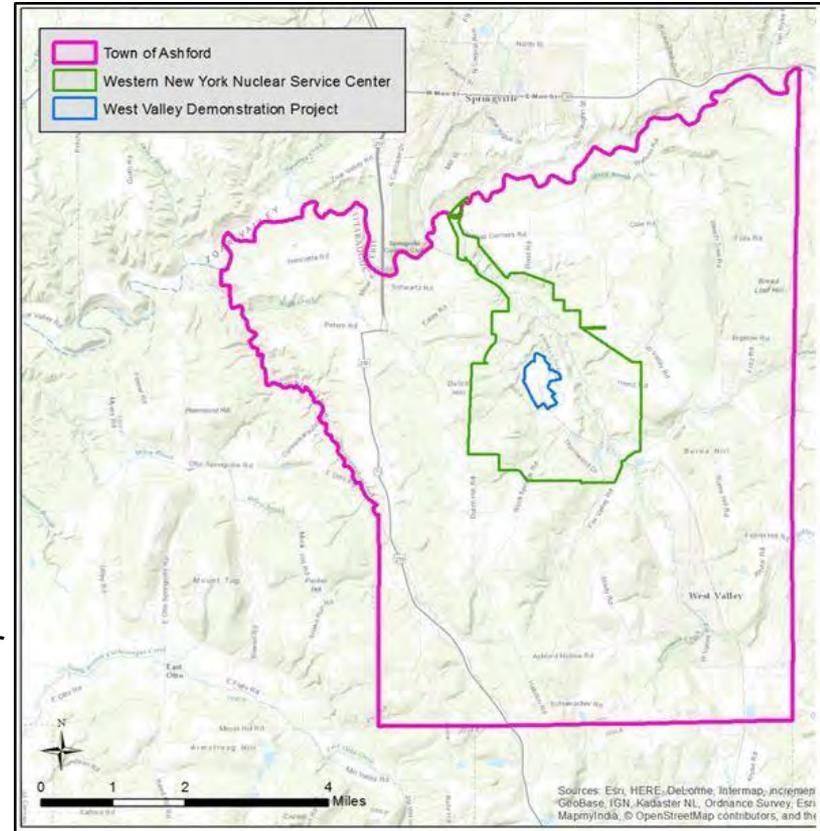


Western New York Nuclear Service Center

In 1956, the Atomic Energy Commission created a program to encourage private industry to develop spent nuclear fuel reprocessing plants.

Through this program, the AEC:

- Made classified technology on reprocessing available to private industry;
- Invited private industry to design, construct, and operate spent fuel reprocessing plants; and
- Provided a baseload of spent fuel to keep the reprocessing plant operating until additional nuclear power plants were constructed.
- New York State became interested in the AEC reprocessing program to promote industrial development within the state, and acquired the property in the Town of Ashford in 1961 for the construction of the reprocessing plant.



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Nuclear Fuel Services Inc. (NFS), a private company, was selected to design, build and operate the reprocessing plant.

640 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel were reprocessed at West Valley between 1966 and 1972.



2.8 million cubic feet of radioactive waste were also disposed at the site in two disposal areas.

- 1963-1981 – During NFS operations
- 1982-1986 – During the WVDP

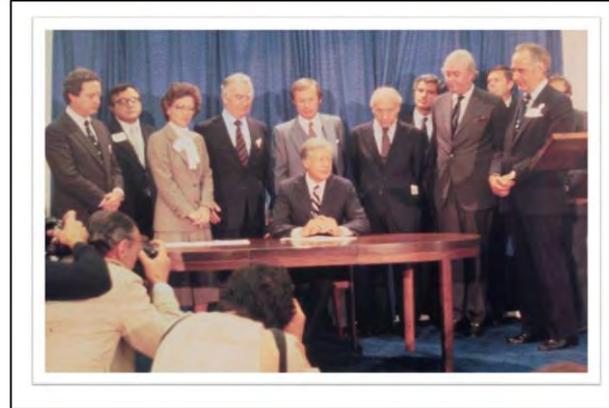
NFS Halted Reprocessing for Upgrades in 1972

- After operating the plant for six years, NFS halted reprocessing in 1972 to make improvements to the plant.
- Modifications were expected to cost \$15 million.
- New Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations were being developed for waste management and seismic protection.
- NFS estimated that meeting the new NRC regulations would cost \$600 million.



WVDP Act is Passed in 1980

- In 1976, NFS informed NYSERDA that it would not resume reprocessing and would transfer the facility to NYSERDA when the lease expired in 1980.
- Congress held hearings and directed the Department of Energy to study options for the future of the Center.
- Congress passed the West Valley Demonstration Project Act in 1980, establishing the HLW solidification demonstration project led by the Department of Energy in cooperation with NYSERDA.
- DOE took possession of 167 acres of the Center in 1982.



President Carter signs the WVDP Act in 1980

Tuesday, March 9, 1982
DOE Takes Control of West Valley Nuclear Fuel Facility
 The Department of Energy today took control of the West Valley nuclear fuel reprocessing center in Buffalo, N.Y., following a push from Sen. Dan Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Stanley Lundine (D-N.Y.). Moynihan and Lundine said the transfer of the site, and Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc. (NFS), which operates the site, will be completed by Friday, February 23, 1982.

DOE was ready to start work at the site last October. Some 600,000 gallons of liquid, high-level radioactive wastes are sitting in tanks, the result of commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing done between 1966 and 1972 at the plant located 30 miles southeast of Buffalo. NFS decided in 1976 to get out of reprocessing. A 1980 law provided for a DOE-run cleanup at West Valley.

But the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and NFS—a subsidiary of Getty Oil Co.—were unable to agree on how the turnover should come about. NYSEDA wanted NFS to turn the site directly over to DOE. NFS preferred relinquishing the site to the state, then having the state turn it over to Uncle Sam.

Liability for spent fuel still at West Valley troubled NFS. The company had contracts to reprocess fuel for four utilities: Commonwealth Edison, Rochester Gas and Electric, General Public Utilities and Wisconsin Electric Power. Some 140 metric tons of spent fuel remain at the site, still titled to the utilities (although until recently, they argued they didn't own it).

(Continued on back page)

Transfer of N.F.S. Facility to be Made at Midnight this Thursday

by Tom Heltz

Transfer of operational control of the facility from its present operator, Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., to the DOE's operating contractor, West Valley Nuclear Fuel Services, Co., a subsidiary of Westinghouse, will be accomplished Thursday night at midnight, February 23, 1982. A press conference and facility tour for the media will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, February 23, 1982.

The U.S. Department of Energy and its operating contractor, were notified late last week that New York State and Nuclear Fuel Services were prepared to effect transfer of the West Valley Demonstration Project premises and facilities to the U.S. Department of Energy for the purpose of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act.

The agreement by the State of New York and Nuclear Fuel Services, signed by Federal Judge John T. Efilin, marks the end of a

West Valley Pact Starts Cleanup
Energy Dept. Takes Site Immediately

By Bob Dearing

The long-delayed cleanup of the West Valley nuclear fuel reprocessing center, which was closed in 1976, will begin today as the U.S. Department of Energy takes control of the site.

The agreement between the state and the federal government was signed last week. It provides for the transfer of the site to the federal government by midnight on Thursday.

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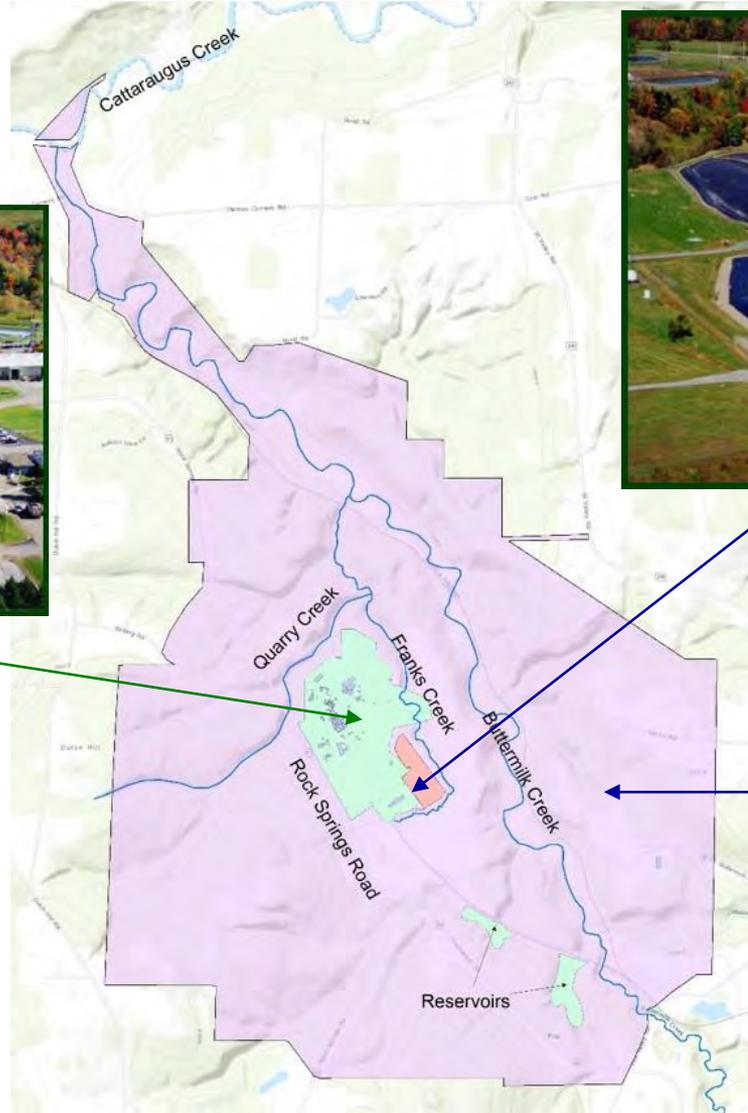
West Valley Demonstration Project Act

WVDP Act Requires DOE to:

- Solidify, in a form suitable for transportation and disposal, the high-level radioactive waste at the WNYNSC *Completed*
- Develop containers suitable for the high-level radioactive waste's permanent disposal *Completed*
- As soon as feasible, transport the solidified waste to a Federal repository for permanent disposal *Pending the development of a federal repository*
- Dispose of low-level radioactive waste and transuranic waste produced by the solidification of the high-level radioactive waste *In progress (LLW), no disposal path (transuranic waste)*
- Decontaminate and decommission:
 - the tanks and other facilities used at the WNYNSC in which the high-level radioactive waste was stored
 - the facilities used in the waste's solidification, and
 - any material and hardware used in connection with the West Valley Demonstration Project, *In progress*

in accordance with such requirements as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may prescribe.

Western New York Nuclear Service Center (3338 acres)



State-Licensed Disposal Area

- 16 acres
- State owned
- State managed
- State licensed and permitted

Retained Premises

- ~3150 acres
- State owned
- State managed
- NRC Licensed

West Valley Demonstration Project Premises

- 167 acres
- State owned
- DOE managed
- NRC licensed, but license for this area is on hold during the WVDP.

