

## **Background Information**

- The Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC) was the site of the first commercial reprocessing plant of nuclear fuel in the United States. Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., a private company, built and operated the fuel reprocessing plant and burial grounds, processing 640 metric tons of spent nuclear fuel at the WNYNSC from 1966 to 1972. It shut down in 1972 for modifications and never resumed reprocessing operations.
- In 1980, Congress passed the WVDP Act, Public Law 96-368. The WVDP Act requires the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to demonstrate that the liquid high-level radioactive waste from reprocessing could be safely managed by solidifying it at the WNYNSC and transporting it to a Federal repository for permanent disposal.
- The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is within the WNYNSC. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSEERDA) holds title to the entire WNYNSC on behalf of the State of New York.
- The WNYNSC is presently divided into three operational areas: WVDP Project Premises (managed by DOE), State-Licensed Disposal Area (SDA), and retained premises.
- In 2010, DOE and NYSEERDA as co-lead preparers, issued a *Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision/Findings Statement for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and the Western New York Nuclear Service Center* (DOE/EIS-0226). The agencies decided to implement the Phased Decisionmaking Alternative.
- DOE and NYSEERDA are now jointly preparing a *Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center* (DOE/EIS-0226-S1) (SEIS). The SEIS is being prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR).
- The SEIS fulfills a commitment in the 2010 decision to provide robust and meaningful opportunities for public participation in decommissioning.
- The Proposed Action is the WVDP's completion and the decommissioning and/or long-term management or stewardship of the WNYNSC and SDA. This includes the decontamination and decommissioning of the facilities remaining at the West Valley Site after completion of Phase 1 decommissioning.
- Phase 2 decisions will be informed by the Phase 1 and other scientific studies being performed at the West Valley Site, a long-term Probabilistic Performance Assessment, and an SEIS that will incorporate the above analyses as part of the evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the range of reasonable Phase 2 alternatives proposed for the West Valley Site.
- The agencies plan to make Phase 2 decisions in 2022.

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