



For Immediate Release

Contact: Barbara Warren, CEC 845-754-7951;
Diane D'Arrigo, NIRS 301-270-6477 x 15

Decision-makers at West Valley Nuclear Site Ignoring Climate Change Groups demand action to prevent nuclear waste eroding into water supply

Aug. 26, 2013, Buffalo, NY Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC) is demanding accountability from responsible agencies regarding the expected impacts from Climate Change on dangerous radioactive waste buried in and near unstable slopes at West Valley. West Valley is already very vulnerable to erosion. Increasingly intense storms and heavy rainfall at more frequent intervals will exacerbate erosion, potentially releasing significant quantities of radioactivity to Cattaraugus Creek and the Great Lakes, and damaging the drinking water supply for millions of people.

Agencies in charge are ignoring science by failing to admit West Valley's vulnerabilities and by planning to leave radioactive waste in eroding ground upstream of water supplies. Groups will attend a public meeting with the DOE (US Dept. of Energy) and NYSERDA (NYS Energy Research & Development Authority) from 3-5 PM on August 28th to demand answers about the absence of science in their approach to climate change and other issues.

"Decision-makers at West Valley are not using the best climate change science, which has been documented in federal and state reports. DOE and NYSERDA have admitted they expect severe impacts of climate change in other reports, but deny the reality of those impacts in their own plans and studies at West Valley. West Valley nuclear waste can, has and will leak," said Barbara Warren, Executive Director of Citizens' Environmental Coalition.

"We already saw the serious erosion that heavy rainfall and flooding did at West Valley in August of 2009. That one storm resulted in the movement of tons of earth in a landslide moving the creek closer to burial trenches with radioactive plutonium, cesium, strontium and more. As did the Village of Gowanda, the West Valley site requested federal emergency funds for extensive repairs from that storm," said Diane D'Arrigo, NIRS Radioactive Waste Project Director.

Citizens' Environmental Coalition, a statewide environmental health organization, based in Albany, NY has been working on a campaign with the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) and others to increase public awareness about the potential dangers of failing to completely clean up this former

nuclear waste reprocessing site and to hold the federal Department of Energy and NYSERDA accountable. Prevention is the only path to take, digging it up with the goal of isolating the radioactive material. The West Valley Clean-up Campaign has been funded by a \$15,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo.

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Regular information and updates will be posted at these websites:

www.cectoxics.org; www.bit.ly/westvalley; www.westvalleyaction.org

Government Agency Meetings are open to the public in person, by phone and by webcast every 3 months. The next one follows the additional 3-5 PM afternoon meeting from 6:30 – 8:30 PM, Wednesday, Aug. 28th. Address: Ashford Office complex, 9030 Route 219, West Valley, N.Y.
www.westvalleyphaseonestudies.org