

Project Overview



The West Valley Demonstration Project and the State-Licensed Disposal Area

Introduction

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSEERDA) are jointly preparing the *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 will address the completion of the decommissioning of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and the decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC) and State-Licensed Disposal Area (SDA).

DOE and NYSEERDA formally started the SEIS process on **February 21, 2018**, with the publication of DOE's Notice of Intent and Draft Scope in the *Federal Register* and NYSEERDA's notice in the New York State *Environmental Notice Bulletin*.

Background

In 2010, DOE and NYSEERDA, as co-lead preparers, issued the *Final 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) (2010 FEIS). As described in DOE's 2010 Record of Decision (ROD) and NYSEERDA's Findings Statement, the agencies decided to implement the Phased Decisionmaking Alternative.

During implementation of Phase 1 of the Phased

Decisionmaking Alternative, which is ongoing, a number of highly contaminated facilities at the West Valley Site are being removed. The Phased Decisionmaking Alternative deferred decisions (known as Phase 2 decisions) on several facilities while DOE and NYSEERDA gather additional information and perform additional analyses to inform the Phase 2 decisions.

The facilities and areas for which decisions were previously deferred include:

- Waste Tank Farm
- Non-Source Area of the North Plateau Groundwater Plume
- Cesium Prong
- Balance of the WNYNSC property
- U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission-Licensed Disposal Area
- Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill
- Contaminated Stream Sediments
- State-Licensed Disposal Area

DOE and NYSEERDA intend to jointly prepare an SEIS to inform Phase 2 decisionmaking for the West Valley Site. DOE and NYSEERDA have determined that the preparation of an SEIS would further the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR, 6 NYCRR Part 617) by including new information and changes since issuance of the 2010 Final EIS, and is consistent with the commitment in the 2010 ROD and Findings Statement to providing robust and meaningful opportunities for public participation during decommissioning. The SEIS will further the purposes of NEPA and SEQR by incorporating the new information produced by the Phase 1 Studies, other scientific studies being performed at the West Valley Site, and the Probabilistic Performance Assessment as part of the evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of the Phase 2 alternatives. The SEIS will "tier" (40 CFR 1502.20) from the 2010 FEIS. This means that, where appropriate, information and analyses from the 2010 FEIS will be summarized and incorporated by reference in the SEIS.

Phase 2 decisions will be informed by the additional analyses and other scientific studies being performed at the West Valley Site during Phase 1, a long-term Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA), and the SEIS, which will incorporate the above analyses as part of the evaluation of the potential environmental impacts.

Alternatives

The SEIS will examine the range of reasonable Phase 2 alternatives and their potential environmental impacts. As required by NEPA and SEQR, the SEIS will also analyze the No Action Alternative to serve as a baseline for comparing the impacts of the other alternatives.

The range of reasonable alternatives encompasses those involving release of West Valley Site facilities and areas for re-use under unrestricted and restricted conditions. As specified in NRC’s Final Policy Statement, DOE and NYSEERDA intend to use NRC’s License Termination Rule as the framework to evaluate alternatives for decommissioning and/or long-term stewardship actions involving West Valley Site facilities.

The evaluation will include analysis of the long term potential impacts to human health and the environment for the facilities and areas on the West Valley Site. DOE and NYSEERDA will consider this and other technical information as it is being developed, as well as public comments, in determining details of the alternatives to be analyzed in the SEIS.

Preliminary alternatives planned for analysis in the SEIS include Sitewide Close-in-Place, Sitewide Removal, hybrid alternatives, and the No Action Alternative.

Potential Environmental Issues for Analysis and Potentially Significant Adverse Impacts

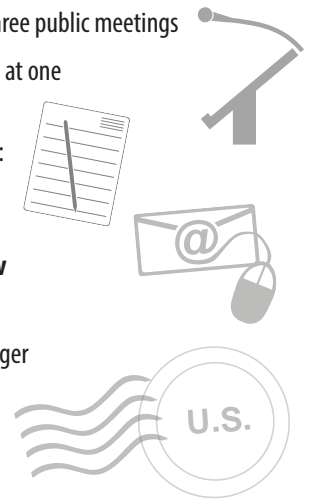
DOE and NYSEERDA seek public comment on defining the scope of the following issues to address in the SEIS:

- Land use and visual resources
- Water resources (surface and ground water)
- Site infrastructure
- Meteorology and air quality
- Noise
- Geology and soils
- Human health and safety
- Socioeconomics
- Site geomorphology
- Ecological resources
- Environmental justice
- Seismology
- Waste management and pollution prevention
- Cultural resources

Ways to provide comments on the proposed scope and content of the SEIS:

- By verbally commenting at one of the three public meetings
- By submitting comment forms available at one of the three public meetings
- By submitting via the project website at: **www.SEISWestValleySite.com**
- By email to: **SEISWestValleySite@emcbc.doe.gov**
- Or by U.S. Mail to:

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Comments are due by **April 23, 2018**.
 Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

NEPA Cooperating and SEQR Involved Agencies

DOE has invited the the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to participate as cooperating agencies under NEPA. NYSEERDA has asked NYSDEC and the New York State Department of Health to participate as involved agencies under SEQR.

Activities and Schedule

The tentative schedule for the SEIS for the West Valley Site is shown in the timeline below. It includes two main opportunities for public involvement: the 60-day public scoping period (currently taking place) and a 6-month comment period on the Draft SEIS.



PREPARE WEST VALLEY SITE PHASE 2 SEIS

CEDR = Conceptual Engineering Design Report
 FS = Findings Statement
 ROD = Record of Decision
 SEIS = Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement