



The League of Women Voters of New York State
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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
of New York State

March 1, 2010

Catherine Bohan
EIS Document Manager
West Valley Demonstration Project
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 2368
Germantown, MD 20874

RE: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center

Dear Ms. Bohan,

The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWNYS) is pleased that the Department of Energy has agreed to shorten the time frame for decision-making as stated in the draft EIS, from 30 years to ten years, if the Phased Decision-Making Alternative is chosen. Numerous commentors on the draft asked for that change, and we are pleased that the Department responded positively to the concerns of the public. The promise of public input in future decisions is also duly noted.

On the other hand, the LWNYS, and most of those who commented on the proposals for cleanup, favored Site-Wide Removal of the radioactive and other chemical and hazardous waste at the site, and we continue to await a statement of intent to eventually conduct a site-wide cleanup.

The League maintains, as do many individuals and environmental groups, that the site is unsuitable for storage of such waste because of the high precipitation rate in the area and the geographic instability of the terrain, subject to erosion. As we stated in our letter of August 2009, this combination creates a potential for contamination downstream which would endanger the water supply for millions of people in the Buffalo/Niagara Falls area and points beyond.

We reiterate our earlier statement that the people deserve a complete cleanup that will allow full, unrestricted use of the land in the future. Attainment of that goal is possible only after implementation of the most cost-effective and health-ensuring alternative: full exhumation of all contaminants at the site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy B. Swan".

Betsy Swan, President

Roberta Wiernik, Natural Resources Specialist