

**Adirondack Mountain Club \* Alliance for a Green Economy  
Cattaraugus-Chautauqua for Clean Water \* Citizens Campaign for the Environment  
Citizens' Environmental Coalition \* Clean Air Coalition of WNY  
Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes \* Community Concerned About NL Industries  
Concerned Citizens of Allegany County \* Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County  
Defend Ohi"yo' \* Environmental Advocates EANY \* WNY Peace Center  
Green Education and Legal Fund \* Highlands at Pittsford  
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater \* Indigenous Women's Initiative  
Interfaith Climate Justice Community of WNY  
League of Women Voters Buffalo/ Niagara \* Nuclear Information & Resource Service  
New York Public Interest Research Group NYPIRG \* Sierra Club  
United Neighbors Concerned About GE Dewey Loeffel Dump  
Western New York Environmental Alliance \* Western NY Drilling Defense**

July 13, 2022

Governor Kathleen C. Hochul <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>  
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Dear Governor Hochul and New York State legislative leaders:

We need your immediate assistance to ensure that more radioactive contamination is not spread across the state from the West Valley nuclear site in Western NY during open-air demolition of the severely contaminated, high-level nuclear waste reprocessing building. Sometime this year this facility is slated to be demolished without enclosure or offsite monitoring. We note the building is only 20 miles from Gov. Hochul's home in Hamburg NY.

We urgently need an **enclosure during demolition, offsite real-time, publicly-reported monitoring before, during and after demolition** and a permanent, searchable, publicly accessible, on-line library with all documentation on the West Valley site, including assumptions made for final cleanup decisions. Finally, a clear directive and adequate funding are needed for NY State agencies to assert state authority for the best public protection at the many nuclear sites in NYS especially West Valley to prevent dispersal of radioactive materials during demolition of the Main Plant Process Building and future actions at the site.

The US Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for cleaning up a major portion of the site and NYS has permanent ownership and liability. DOE has removed some radioactivity but long-lasting contamination including plutonium remains. DOE refuses to cover and enclose the building during demolition because it is not in a highly populated area, but there are dairy and other farms nearby and growing communities. Importantly, the radioactivity could spread far not only locally but throughout Western NY, across the whole state and even into neighboring states and Canada. There is no safe radiation level and this was one of the most intensely radioactive buildings in the country. DOE plans to do open air demolition without real-time offsite monitoring or reporting.

Enclosures have been used during cleanups in NYS and across the country. A building enclosure was used at the Separations Process Research Unit or SPRU site in Niskayuna, NY- but only after a radioactive air release ignited citizen concern and EPA required it. The Army Corps of Engineers used enclosures when it remediated the uranium facility in Colonie, NY. The EPA's Superfund Program has regularly used enclosures when remediating Superfund waste sites.

We urge that Governor Hochul and the NYS Legislature to:

- 1) Require an Enclosure over the demolition of the West Valley nuclear waste site Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) and future excavations.
- 2) Require real-time monitoring of radioactive air and water off-site in real-time with easily accessible public on-line reporting.
- 3) Require a publicly accessible, searchable electronic library with all reports, data, assumptions and expert elicitations considered and used for decisions on cleanup and final site disposition.
- 4) Provide essential resources for state agencies to assert and implement state authority to achieve the best possible economic, health and environmental protection at the nuclear sites in NYS especially West Valley. This includes independent state agency review, monitoring and oversight of all demolition and cleanup activities.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

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