

## **Proposal for a West Valley Full-Cost Accounting Study**

**Goal:** The purpose of the study is to provide an analysis of the long-term economic and environmental consequences of the West Valley nuclear waste site final cleanup options.

**Objectives:** The study will assess the economic and environmental impacts and provide cost estimates for each remedial option with a special focus on three remedial options: 1) Exhumation and long-term on-site above ground storage; 2) Exhumation and temporary on-site above ground storage and long-term storage at a federal facility; and 3) Long-term monitoring and maintenance of the buried waste. The study will investigate the following issues.

- Evaluate the adequacy of the Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed site-wide erosion controls, timetable and their estimated costs.
- Analyze the government's 1996 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on long-term remediation of the West Valley site, and studies on remediation costs and long term costs.
- Evaluate the costs, risk and impacts of credible risk scenarios. Include assessment of economic benefits of having the remediated land available for development with job creation estimates.

### **Why does Western New York need this study?**

- We are at a critical juncture as federal and state agencies will decide on the final cleanup plan in the next year and a half. There is a lack of information and a critical need to fully assess the economic and environmental long-term impacts of cleanup options and evaluate the geological erosion at the site.
- An independent, objective study by national experts will provide valuable information to citizens, organizations and policymakers, allowing us to more effectively participate in DOE's decisionmaking process on the final cleanup.
- It is important to have an independent evaluation of the adequacy of DOE's sitewide erosion control plans, as a flawed plan could result in major off-site pollution posing health and environmental threats to nearby communities and drinking water supplies.
- DOE has not conducted this type of investigation in past studies. DOE, NYSERDA and other government agencies do not traditionally include a long-term economic analysis in their studies and may not have the expertise.
- The analysis will quantify the cleanup costs which would help in lobbying for more federal funding.
- It is a top WNY environmental priority, supported by over 20 groups, which will impact the region's environment and the Great Lakes Basin Area for generations to come.