



Environmental Management Systems and Communications



Joseph Pillittere, Manager
Communications
West Valley Demonstration Project

2017 Gap Analysis

Recommendation for Transitioning to New ISO 2015 Standard:

Develop a Communication Plan for internal and external communications, which could be used to increase awareness and practice of EMS.

Communication Plan

- ▶ The need existed to develop a new Communication Plan, that focused on creating awareness of the project and support for its operations, internally and externally.
 - Developed and received approval for the site's Communication Plan on March 5, 2018
 - Approached by Regulatory Strategy's Environmental Management Program Manager about 2017 survey results
 - Plan was revised to include EMS communications

Communication Plan Foundation (3-Cs)

- ▶ **Close** – Maintain open and honest communication with all stakeholders, including employees
- ▶ **Concise** – Right language (no jargon), right facts, right way, right time (few words, big impact)
- ▶ **Continuous** – Communicate often with pertinent information

Communication Plan Recognition

- ▶ A 2018 audit for ISO 14001: 2015 Certification noted WVDP's Communication Plan as a noteworthy practice because it focused on internal and external communications regarding the environment and project-related cleanup progress.
 - Used Plan to publicize transition to ISO 14001: 2015 Standard

Communication Highlights on EMS

► Short articles on EMS are featured in the following newsletters:

◦ Integrated Safety Management System (monthly)

◦ West Valley Chronicles newsletter (quarterly)

ISMS Monthly News – July 2019

July Awards

For the month of June

Brian Adams *

Rich Adams *

Jim Mansfield *

Devek Walls

Tom Rucitta

Steve Gerneth

Rich Black

Pete Lantieri

Jim Williams

Lucas Coffins

Kevin Boyle

Betty Roe

Colby Green

Scott Irwin

Jeffrey Kriemmen

* Winner of Parking space for the month

Please see number 100 of the ISMS for a full list of winners.

ISMS Steering Committee Members:

Chairman: Ken Williams

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Chairman: Ken Williams

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shop and a person without a problem. After a significant amount of investigation and troubleshooting, they believe they discovered the source of the problem.

They believe that a ventilation duct was blowing onto the interior of the detector and causing distortion of the sampled air from the breathing air compressor. This distortion would have been potential for a high CO condition in the breathing air supplied to the workers, but no alarm indication would have been received. Since the discovery, the ventilation has been removed, the crew was briefed, and the detector case remains closed during operation. – *Alex Fawcett*

Jim Mansfield: Thank you for your prompt response to the LRI demo area. You were identified by some of your coworkers for recognizing the safety distance for clearing at LRI demo was not adequate along the roadway.

During the demo of the cable tower outside LRI, you took prompt action to post the road to keep non-essential personnel out of the area and safe.

Jim, my sincere thanks for identifying and correcting this issue. – *Ken Williams*

SAFETY RECOGNITIONS

Brian Adams & Rich Adams:

Brian and Rich said they were just doing their job, but I think it was a little more than that. Due to facility changes, a carbon monoxide detector was set up at a breathing air station located at WHPA. These

detectors were technicians were performing the monthly calibration and alarm check of the detector, and it wouldn't pass in the end. They brought it back to their

shop and I passed without a problem. After a significant amount of investigation and troubleshooting, they believe they discovered the source of the problem.

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Mary Fries: Mary replaced all inter weather housing on the perimeter air samples for LRI demo. She had noticed they were in danger and took corrective action on her own. – *Ed Hart*

Devek Walls: I would like to personally recognize and thank Devek for addressing a safety issue regarding emergency around the fire hydrant located adjacent to the Shipping Depot. I identified the

hydrant last Thursday, May 30, 2019 and saw Devek out working around the hydrant. I approached him and asked if he could address the emergency green around the hydrant adjacent to the Shipping Depot before the end of the day. Within the hour, Devek went out there and addressed the concern without being assigned to do so.

Great job and thank you Devek for promptly addressing this safety issue. – *Larry Mische*

Tom Rucitta: On June 5, Tom was checking out survey work being done at the VRI facility. What he noticed to the job site and started asking questions, he identified that workers had entered the VRI facility without having the atmosphere checked by Safety. He immediately told the workers to stop and exit the VRI facility and make notifications.

Tom received an "On the Spot" parking ticket for his actions. **Steve Gerneth:** Gerneth noticed that a sanction with a radiological posting on it was moved and used by another organization to mark an industrial hazard which caused the radiological posting to be removed. He notified the RC Manager and had everything fixed properly.

Jack Wells: Jack noticed that an employee was outside without a yellow vest on. He took it upon himself to bring a vest out to the individual.

Pete Lantieri: Pete noticed that the all signs could be understood during a test of the sheltering alarm. He had RC's follow along procedures until it was proven that it was only a test. He reported the deficiency to PEO.

Jim Williams: Jim was looking at the issue in our South Parking lot.

ISMS Monthly News – July 2019

Up and Coming

Safety Slogan: Leave your mark and submit a safety slogan!

Simple Rules...

1. Keep it simple! Your slogan should be one sentence long.

2. Be inspirational! Your message should motivate us to work safely!

Submit slogan to Cheryl Hootman, WVP-2000, and earn a ticket for the Safety Incentive Program Drawings.

July Question of the Month:

What are you doing to stay fit for duty while working in warm temperatures? (Employees)

What are you doing to help your employees stay fit for duty while working in warm temperatures? (Managers)

June's Question of the month winner: Mark Heddon

#RecycleRightNY - What's up with Single-Use Plastics?

It's hard to go anywhere today without encountering single-use plastics (SUPs). Single-use plastics have grown in popularity for their ability to provide convenience, protect food, and provide lightweight packaging options. However, plenty of confusion surrounds how to properly dispose of many single-use plastic items. Are they recyclable? If so, how? If not, what are the alternatives?

Help us Recycle Right NY! Just because an item is plastic or has the chasing arrows symbol, it does not always mean it can go into your household recycling bin. It is important to follow rules for your specific program to keep our recycling stream clean and of high quality.

Common SUP items you should not put in your household recycling bin:

- Plastic Utensils
- String/Coffee Stirrers
- Coffee Pods
- Chip bags, candy bar wrappers and other snack packaging and wrappers
- Chip bags
- Cling wrap
- Plastic bags
- Styrofoam
- Single-use disposable plastic plates and cups
- Some types of balloon connectors

If you have questions, check with your local hauler or county/municipal recycling coordinator. Recycling rules differ by location and program.

Help protect the environment and reduce plastic waste in your life, and choose reusable alternatives. Challenge yourself to replace one single-use plastic product with a reusable alternative this week. Tag the challenge challenge and go #RecycleRightNY.

Learn more about the Recycle Right NY Campaign and how to receive free downloadable campaign materials. Remember to tag #RecycleRightNY on your social media!



March 2019
Issue 43



WVDP Team Completes Installation of Vitrification Facility Weather Protective Cover

WVDP Team completed the installation of a polycarbonate weather protective cover over the vitrification facility's concrete slab. This protective cover installation signifies the end of all physical work associated with the vitrification facility's demolition. Located adjacent to the Shipping Depot, the cover is necessary to protect the weathering of the concrete slab portion of the facility as required in this contract.

CHBW President Scott Anderson, stated: "Protecting the workforce and the environment were paramount during the entire demolition process. The installation of the cover signifies months of planning, safe installation, and reducing environmental risks. I am proud of our team and what they continue to accomplish."

Prior to its demolition, approximately 10,000 cubic feet of material was removed from the facility, including three very large components. This included the safe loading and offsite disposal of 150-ton Vitrification Facility Melter, 167-ton Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank, and 150-ton Melter Feed Haul Tank.

The former Vitrification Facility was a three-story, 10,700 square foot structure made up of structural steel, reinforced concrete, and metal siding. It had a footprint of 133 feet long by 112 feet wide. It is one of two vitrification facilities to have been operated in the United States, and the first one to complete its mission.

The WVDP Team continues to eliminate potential environmental threats and reduce the site's footprint. Our team's safe and compliant work performance demonstrates their deliberate and methodical approach to decommissioning.








CHBW RECEIVES BLUE RIBBON AT WASTE MANAGEMENT

CHBW's Regulatory Strategy received a Blue Ribbon for its Professional Poster Session on Open-Air Demolition Air Monitoring at this year's Waste Management Symposium.

The Environmental Protection Agency approved alternative method for ambient air monitoring was used at the third Safety Demonstration Project during the demolition of the vitrification facility, which was completed on September 30, 2018. Air monitoring units around the perimeter and inside the demolition area were successfully used to track and record air data to protect the health and safety of employees, general public, and the environment. 80 worksheets and perimeter air sample results were taken regulatory levels and compared with the requirements in the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants and the Occupational Radiation Protection Regulations (29 CFR 1910.103).

CHBW's Regulatory Strategy Vice President, Steve Williams, presented the informational poster on her department's research, planning, and implementation efforts for open-air demolition monitoring at the WVP-2000 air monitoring department, along with subject matter experts and cross-departmental team members, demonstrated this innovative monitoring approach from someone with a critical role in the facility's success.

This year's Waste Management Symposium, which also marked the 50th Anniversary of Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management, featured exhibits, panel discussions, videos, presentations, and poster sessions.

"This was a team effort that involved several months of planning," Williams said. "The proof of this accomplishment was implementing safe, innovative, and regulatory compliant cleanup practices in everything we do."




Communication Highlights on EMS (Cont.)

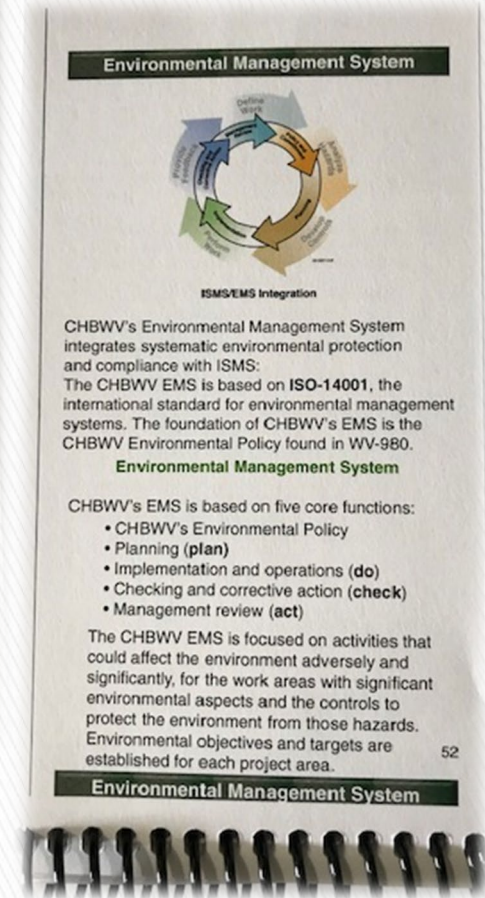
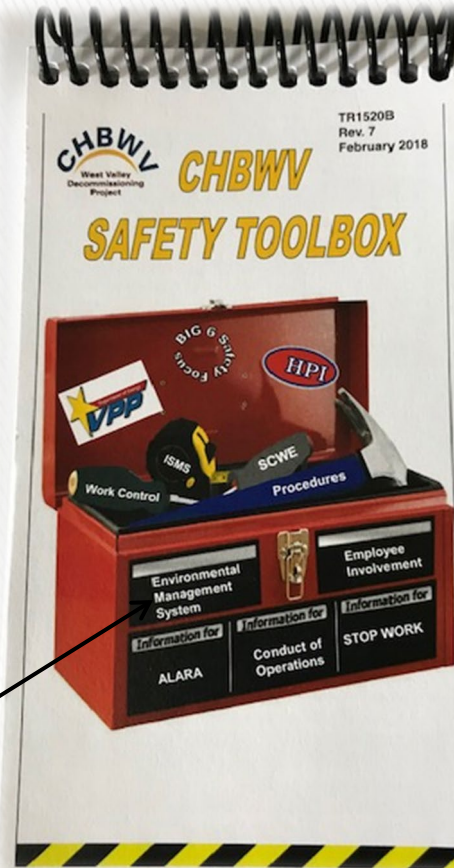
Face-To-Face: The site's Environmental *Media Policy is communicated to subcontractors working onsite to ensure compliance.

(*Stone, gravel, fill, etc.)



Communication Highlights on EMS (Cont.)

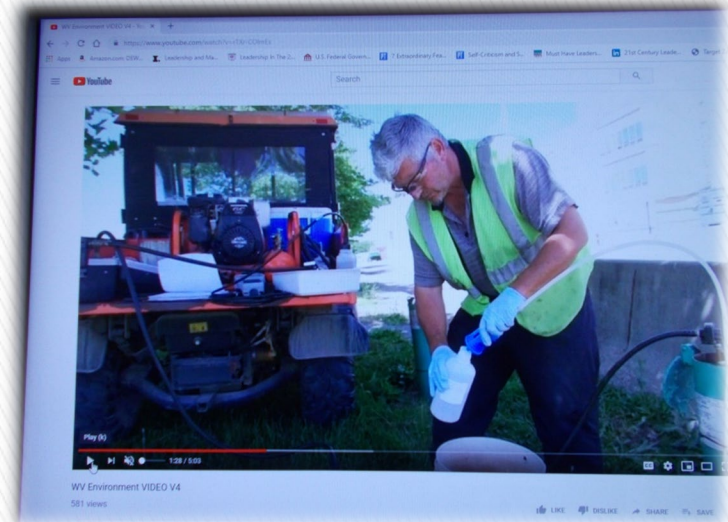
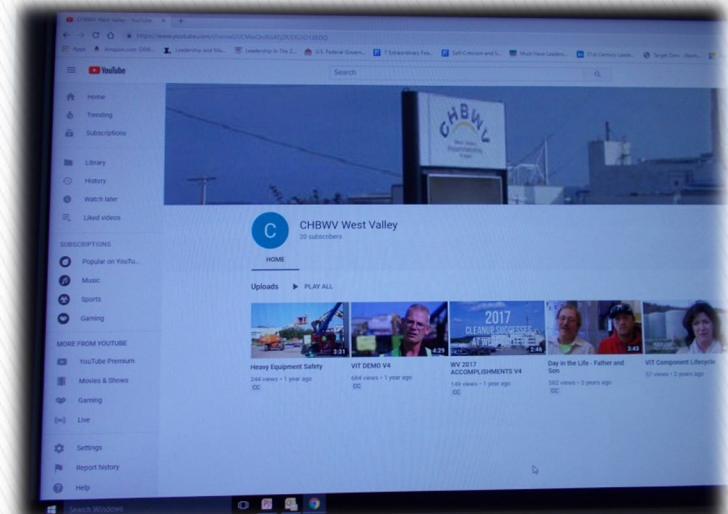
- ▶ ISMS Plan, which includes EMS, is used to take a commonsense approach to working safely.
- ▶ A Quick Reference Guide is distributed to all employees with key information on safety, policy adherence, and environmental compliance.



Communication Highlights on EMS (Cont.)

► 12 YouTube Videos:

- Environmental
- Vitrification Facility Demolition
 - Melter Shipment
 - VIT Component Shipment
- High-Level Waste Relocation
- Three - “Meet an Employee”
- Progress
- Annual Accomplishments
- Heavy Equipment
- “Day in the Life” of WVDP Worker

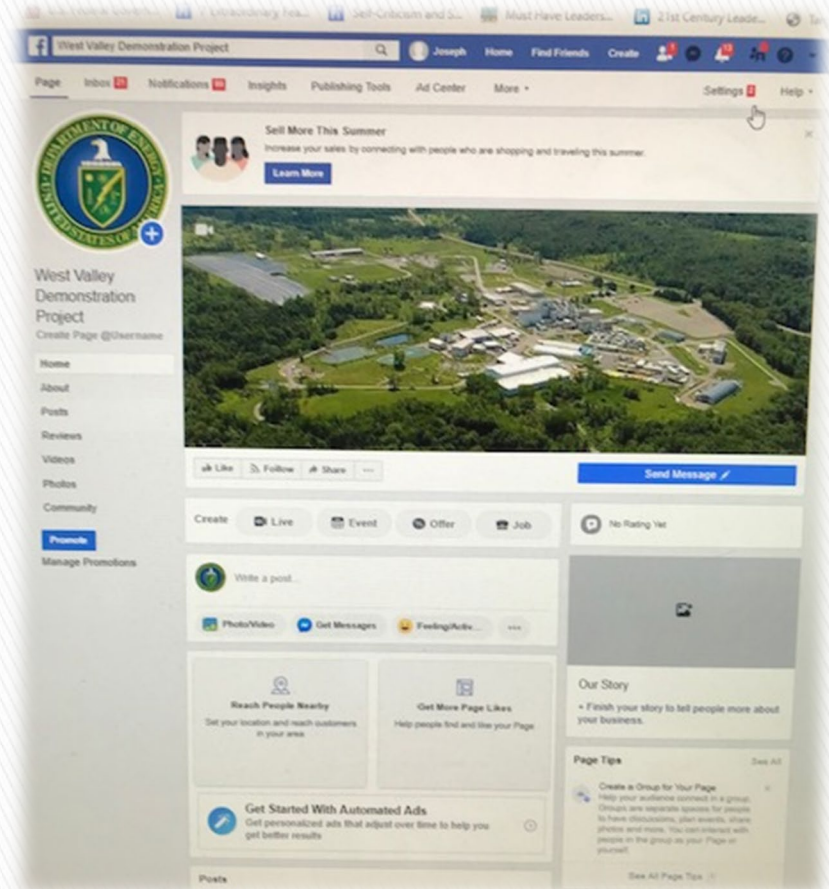


<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwQnJK6ATjZfUDG1O1XEDQ>

Other Communication Methods for EMS

(I = Internal and E = External)

- ▶ All-User Messages I
- ▶ DOE *EM Update* Newsletter E
- ▶ Website E
- ▶ Intranet I
- ▶ Facebook Page I/E
- ▶ Posters I
- ▶ Large banners I
- ▶ Public Meetings I/E
- ▶ ASER I/E



EMS Best Practices Success Story

- ▶ West Valley was the first site to be recognized for its EMS communications.
- ▶ Even with a small staff, West Valley found ways to ensure that updates and project information are regularly included in their communication channels.
- ▶ Success Story
link: https://powerpedia.energy.gov/wiki/Environmental_Management_Systems#Department_of_Energy_EMS_Best_Practices



Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION BRIEF



June 2019

Environmental Management System Success Story:
Communications at West Valley Demonstration Project

Keys to Success

Challenge: Keeping the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) staff and the surrounding community informed of the site's efforts to be good stewards of the environment.

Solution: WVDP makes communication a priority among staff responsible for the site Environmental Management System (EMS). Together, EMS staff and the Communication Manager developed and implemented a communication plan for internal and external environmental project-related communications. They routinely look for information and projects to include in the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) Newsletter, the West Valley Chronicle internal newsletter, All-Employee messages and for meetings. To keep the community informed, WVDP established a website and Facebook page to post information and articles regarding site cleanup progress.

Benefits: A continual emphasis on communication at various levels keeps the EMS in focus across a wide range of stakeholders, from those who work regularly on the EMS, to site leadership and to the surrounding community.

Lessons Learned: WVDP's communication strategy features frequent and easily digestible articles such as ones that include sustainability tips that one can use at home or at work. This approach makes the topic more relatable to the employees.

Continual Improvement: In addition to improving communications, WVDP is also committed to continually improving its EMS. The site is currently implementing a tracking system for environmental issues to review corrective actions and ensure that issues are resolved without recurrence.



CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley (CHBWW) Regulatory Strategy team members Jerry Hoch, Janice Williams, Kim Mansfield, and David Klenk pose with the site's Environmental Management System Program Certificate for the revised ISO 14001:2015 standard.

Background
The WVDP is a small Department of Energy site in West Valley, New York, with the current mission of performing both demolition of facilities associated with nuclear fuel reprocessing and managing site cleanup. At WVDP, personnel have a number of different roles and responsibilities, leading to a close-knit staff and integration of programs that work well together.

Best Practices
WVDP was commended by an ISO 14001 auditor for having an effective communication plan that focused on keeping internal and external stakeholders informed of environmental work and project-related cleanup progress. The site uses several methods to communicate information regarding its EMS and environmental policy, both internally and externally.

Short articles on the EMS are included in a monthly newsletter on ISMS. These easily digestible articles include information that employees can relate to and practice. Another effective internal practice is ensuring the Environmental Media Policy is communicated to the site subcontractors with any new project. Whenever a new project is started, a qualified employee ensures the subcontractor is aware of and trained in the site



Thank You!

Questions?