

**WEST VALLEY CLEAN UP**  
**By Bob Ciesielski**

The West Valley nuclear waste site clean up was discussed in our last issue. The public comment period has been extended at least until September 4, the Friday before Labor Day. The issue is between whether to do a partial clean up of about 2% of the material at the site and wait for up to 30 years to make a decision concerning the clean up of the remainder (the Department of Energy and NYSERDA's "Preferred Alternative"), or to decide now for a total clean up to take place as soon as possible (the position of the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations). It is essential that you comment at [www.westvalleyeis.com](http://www.westvalleyeis.com) or by letter to Catherine Bohan, EIS Document Manager, Department of Energy, P.O. Box 2368, Germantown, MD 20874. Additional information may be seen at [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org), the website of the Nuclear Resource Information Service.

Niagara Group Ex Com members Larry Beahan, Art Klein and Bob Ciesielski testified at public hearings in Cattaraugus County and Buffalo in early April, calling for the complete clean up. Our New York State Atlantic Chapters representative Roger Downs called for the same at a public hearing in Albany.

Art Klein was instrumental in securing passage of Erie County Resolution calling for the complete and immediate clean up. The Town Boards of Amherst and Evans, and the Cities of Buffalo and Tonawanda have passed similar Resolutions. All Resolutions were forwarded to the DOE and NYSERDA.

On May 30, 2009, a media event at the Erie Basin Marina in downtown Buffalo highlighted the threat to the drinking water of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario posed by the leakage of radioactive material into Buttermilk Creek and Cattaraugus Creek. The event included a flotilla of canoes and kayaks with banners and signs calling for a decision to completely remove nuclear waste from the West Valley Demonstration Project site.