

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: May 14, 2013  
Subject: **Summary of the April 24, 2013 Meeting**

## **Next Meeting**

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be: June 26, 2013

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM**  
Location: Ashford Office Complex  
9030 Route 219  
West Valley, NY

Note: Participants must be U.S. citizens and have photo identification. Please contact Bill Logue (860-521-9122, [Bill@LogueGroup.com](mailto:Bill@LogueGroup.com)) with questions or comments concerning this summary or future meetings.

## **CTF Members and Alternates Attending**

Chris Crawford, Rob Dallas, Chris Gerwitz, Mike Hutchinson, Lee James\*, Lee Lambert, Kathy McGoldrick\*, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Warren Schmidt, Ray Vaughan.

## **Agency Participants and Observers**

*Department of Energy (DOE)*: Bryan Bower, Martin Krentz, Moira Maloney, Sandra Szalinski, Ben Underwood\*.

*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)*: Tom Attridge, Paul Bembia, Elizabeth Lowes, Andrea Mellon.

*New York State Department of Environmental Protection (NYSDEC)*: Patrick Concannon, Ken Martin.

*CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWW)*: Lynette Bennett, Dan Coyne, John Rendall.

*Observers*: Joanne Hameister, Barry Miller.

## **INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Logue welcomed all present, reviewed the meeting agenda and materials<sup>1</sup> and made several announcements. David Huizenga, Senior Advisor for DOE Environmental Management has invited CTF members to meet for dinner on May 14 to follow-up on the February meeting in Washington. Later in the meeting a CTF member encouraged as many members as possible to attend the dinner to make the case for WVDP with Mr. Huizenga. The Quarterly Public Meeting will be on May 22, 2013 following which an Agenda Work Group call will be convened.

## **CATTARAUGUS COUNTY PLAN TO REPLACE THOMAS CORNERS ROAD BRIDGE**

Tom Attridge of NYSERDA informed the CTF that Cattaraugus County intended to rebuild the bridge over Buttermilk Creek on Thomas Corners Road. The bridge is within the northern edge of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center and will need temporary and permanent easements to complete the work. Mr. Attridge explained that radiation surveys had been performed in 1968, 1979 and 1984 and displayed the results of the 1979 aerial survey. Because these surveys are older, NYSERDA is doing field characterization work prior to any construction at the site. A geoprobe unit extracted soil samples from 4-8 foot depths on the eastern side of the creek and by hand auger on the western side. Samples have been sent for testing and characterization will be complete in early May. After results are returned, the County

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<sup>1</sup> Each is listed at the end of this summary and may be found at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org) under 2013 Meeting Materials.

\*Participated by telephone.

will begin work and NYSERDA will support the work with radiological safety coverage as informed by the results of the radiological characterization.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2013 & 2014 BUDGET UPDATE**

Bryan Bower from DOE provided an update on the 2013 and 2014 budget status. He showed graphic representations of how each dollar of Environmental Management (EM) funding is spent per mission area and also by project and the EM FY 2014 funding request. (Available online with the meeting materials.) The WVDP 2014 budget request is \$66 million. Mr. Bower stated that, on a positive note, because the sequestration funding is based on the FY 2012 budget not on the 2013 budget request, WVDP could receive approximately \$14 million more than was expected. However, this is subject to reprogramming decisions of DOE EM and the capacity to use the funds during the remainder of the fiscal year. A question was raised about a statement being made by Senator Schumer that funding was substantially less than described. Mr. Bower responded that it was possible the Senator was reacting to proposed FY 2013 numbers not those from sequestration. The point was made by a CTF member that even \$66 million is not enough as \$75 million is what was anticipated in the Environmental Impact Statement. Mr. Bower reviewed how funding is allocated at WVDP among: excess facilities deactivation and decommissioning; transuranic (TRU) and mixed/low-level waste (LLW) disposition; and safeguards and securities.

## **PROJECT UPDATE**

Dan Coyne of CHBWV presented a project update. At the outset he noted that if the 2013 additional funding from DOE as a result of sequestration is received CHBWV will work with DOE to set joint priorities and execute the additional work. Priorities might include continuation of legacy waste shipment and procurements for the high-level waste (HLW) storage. There could be a temporary increase in the workforce and the company has spoken with the International Association of Machinists about this.

**Safety.** Mr. Coyne stated CHBWV has worked 164 days without a lost-time accident or illness. Injuries have not occurred in high hazard areas but in the parking lot and offices. Consequently employees have begun developing a wellness campaign with the focus of reducing soft-tissue injuries. Mr. Coyne also explained other initiatives CHBWV was working on including the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) the STAR program to achieve these safety recognitions in CHBWV's name. They are now held on an interim basis based on prior contractors performance. The first STAR was awarded in the 1990's and been held since.

**Milestone 1.** The HLW cask transporter specification/preliminary design for procurement was approved. The repair to the Vitrification Cell shield door went more quickly than expected resulting in lower dose exposure for workers than anticipated. The design and planning for the HLW canister storage pad continues and bidders are being pre-qualified.

**Milestone 2.** Mr. Coyne reviewed the status of legacy waste processing, shipping and disposal. The current emphasis is on preparing waste for shipment. If additional funding is available additional waste shipping will be explored.

**Milestone 3.** The Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) deactivation continues with ongoing removal of asbestos containing material and piping. The lower extraction aisle is now demolition ready. In the Vitrification Facility the Vit Cell aisle deactivation is complete, as is the airlock door repair. Some of this work is high-dose. A Brock remote process tool in the Chemical Process Cell is too contaminated to repair

and is in the process of being packaged as waste. The contamination is largely from airborne material sticking to tracks, hydraulic fluids, and air intakes of the Brock. It will be cleaned with air and water before disposal. With cold, dark and dry activities in the MPPB, supplemental electrical heating units are being installed to replace the steam heating. A site water system consisting of wells is being designed to reduce reliance on the dam and reservoirs. A CTF member commented that the reservoir should not be abandoned without some long-term planning first – it was suggested that some type of environmental review be completed before abandonment. In response to other questions Mr. Coyne noted that dam work continues, there is no known contamination in the reservoirs and that upkeep of the area is necessary because the adjacent rail line will be used in the future.

**Milestone 4.** The 01-14 building demolition is continuing, as is other balance of site facility work. Construction debris waste shipments continue. The 01-14 demolition is acting as a proof of concept for the MPPB demolition.

Mr. Coyne reviewed the near term work plan. Additional questions/comments were asked/offered by CTF members. A member suggested that the CTF be prepared to discuss with Mr. Huizenga what could be done if funding were at \$75 million and that no funds should be wasted. In response to a question from a CTF member regarding the schedule for MPPB demolition, Mr. Coyne stated that he could not give specific timelines for the various potential funding levels. The current plan, based on \$60 million annually, is for canister relocation to be complete in late 2014 or early 2015 with 2 years of MPPB demolition to follow.

A brief discussion ensued about air monitoring. The first quarter data is indistinguishable from background. A CTF member expressed concern about the sensitivity/analytical method detection capabilities and his understanding that the current set-up does not record over time, a reading that would indicate the cumulative effect. The sample frequency of the ambient air monitors, the stack monitors and the construction area air monitors will be checked and provided to the CTF. In the future a technical presentation will be given on this issue including a comparison of the results from the MPPB stack and ambient air results.

An observer stated that he believed the EPA recently raised the level of what is harmful radiation. Mr. Rendall of CHBWV stated that EPA is very involved in this project and attends monthly meetings to keep informed about the project.

#### **CTF DISCUSSION OF HIGH-LEVEL WASTE – AESTHETICS OF CASK STORAGE SYSTEM**

The CTF discussed long-term aesthetics of the HLW storage pad and casks. The casks will be 14-16 feet tall and have a licensed design life of 50 years. Several members noted local weather conditions and impacts on concrete and questioned whether the integrity of the system could survive freeze/thaw without spalling or deteriorating. Mr. Rendall stated that he had viewed other casks in similar locations and they were performing well and that no additional coating is intended other than an application to cure the concrete. CHBWV will do a presentation on this at a future meeting.

After discussing the aesthetics, several members stated that their perspective had changed and the group agreed that, while not attractive, funding is best spent on the cleanup rather than appearance. Several commented that seeing the casks might remind people that the work is not complete if this waste is not removed under the WVDP Act.

## CTF DISCUSSION AND BRAINSTORMING ABOUT OUTREACH

Bill Logue reminded the group that in their annual self-evaluation they identify “outreach” as an area that needs to be improved. He asked the group to think about who they want to outreach to, why, how and when. During the discussion they noted that the goal is to communicate progress and what remains to be done in a clear and concise way to both constituents and the press. Bryan Bower and Paul Bembia offered to be available to present if asked.

The group agreed to develop a 20 minute PowerPoint presentation and script that could be delivered by any CTF member, and perhaps uploaded on the CTF website. This would help inform the public and build advocacy for continued cleanup. Church groups were suggested as a venue for dissemination. A workgroup for the presentation was formed with John Pfeffer, Lee Lambert and Ray Vaughan.

The concept of a brief documentary was raised. The possibility of broadcasting this and/or CTF meetings on local cable TV was raised. Several members remarked that people seem to watch local cable channels. The suggestion was made that CHBWV work with a local film student to produce it.

The CTF confirmed that Bill has been playing the role of press contact. He committed to send a copy of the CTF press policy.

## OTHER BUSINESS AND OBSERVER COMMENTS

A CTF member asked about the leachate elevations in the State-Licensed Disposal Area. Mr. Bembia stated that NYSERDA is performing evaluations but there was no increase from February 28 to April 4.

Joanne Hameister informed the CTF that she was recently erroneously identified in an article as a CTF member rather than representing the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes. She explained she was very clear when she spoke to the reporter that she did not speak for the CTF. She has requested a correction. She also stated that with regard to video recording of meetings that the CTF should be very careful about sound quality. People do watch – even very late at night so the quality needs to be good.

## ACTION ITEMS

Action	Who; Date
Send press Policy	Logue; 5/6/2013
Provide sample frequency of air monitoring	CHBWV; 5/8/13
Prepare Presentation	Work group; TBD

## DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 4/24/2013
Thomas Corners Bridge Presentation	NYSERDA; 4/24/2013
Budget Update	DOE; 4/24/2013
WVDP Project Update	CHBWV; 4/24/2013
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 3/24/2013