



## Phase 1 Studies Update

Citizen Task Force  
June 26, 2013



## Near-Term Path Forward



- The Erosion Working Group (EWG), Exhumation Working Group (EXWG), and Engineered Barriers Working Group (EBWG) have been on hold as the agencies discuss approaches to incorporating uncertainty in the Phase 1 Studies
- As the agencies continue discussions, they have authorized the EWG and EXWG to resume work, with the objective of better understanding the nature of uncertainties and how recommended studies may serve to reduce such uncertainties



## Erosion Working Group (EWG)



- DOE and NYSERDA have authorized the EWG to complete the following tasks by September 2013:
  - Task 1 - EWG will prepare a report on **uncertainty estimates** for a range of erosion prediction methodologies applied over a range of time (decade-millennial) and space (hillslope-watershed) scales
  - Provide the agencies additional information regarding **nature of uncertainty** in erosion estimates

3



## Erosion Working Group (EWG)



- Task 2 - Analyze the July 2012 EWG study recommendations 1-3\* to identify components likely to **reduce uncertainty** in erosion predictions regardless of erosion prediction methodology (gully vs. landscape models) or analytical framework (deterministic vs. probabilistic) used

\*Study 1 – Terrain Analysis; Study 2 – Age Dating and Paleoclimate; Study 3 – Recent Erosion and Deposition Processes

4



## Exhumation Working Group (EXWG)



- EXWG was earlier tasked to develop and submit recommendations to address 3 Potential Areas of Study (PAS):
  - Alternative approaches to, costs of, and risks associated with **total tank and waste exhumation**
  - Viability, cost, and benefit of **partial exhumation** of waste and removal of contamination
  - Exhumation uncertainties and benefit of **pilot exhumation** activities

5



## Exhumation Working Group (EXWG)



- The EXWG's recommendations will include information on the nature of uncertainty with respect to the exhumation study area topics
  - e.g., inventory uncertainties
- The recommendations will discuss how the studies will characterize and/or reduce uncertainties in support of agency consensus
- Recommendations will be discussed with stakeholders and Independent Scientific Panel input
- Agencies will decide on a path forward with respect to study recommendations

6



## Engineered Barriers Working Group (EBWG)



- The EBWG will remain on hold until more progress is made with the EWG and EXWG
- The agencies feel more progress on the Erosion and Exhumation study areas will allow for more effective definition of objectives for the Engineered Barriers study area