

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: July 16, 2013  
Subject: **Summary of the June 26, 2013 Meeting**

## Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be: July 24, 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

Deb Aumick\*, Chris Crawford, Rob Dallas, Lee James\*, Lee Lambert, Paul Kranz, Kathy McGoldrick, Joe Patti, Bill Snyder, Ray Vaughan. Facilitator: Loraine Della Porta\*.

## Agency Participants and Observers

*Department of Energy (DOE)*: Craig Rieman, Martin Krentz, Moira Maloney, Sandra Szalinski, Ben Underwood\*, Zintars Zadins.

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

*CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWV)*: Lynette Bennett, Charles Biedermann, Dan Coyne.

*Observers*: Diane D'Arrigo\*, Joanne Hameister, Barbara Warren\*.

## INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials.<sup>1</sup> All present observed a moment of remembrance for CTF member Warren Schmidt. An errata from the April 2013 meeting summary was noted: Ray Vaughan had suggested the agencies explore the use of a small tunnel boring machine for exhumation. The members reviewed the thank you card sent to David Huizenga, Senior Advisor for DOE Environmental Management.

## PROJECT UPDATE

Dan Coyne of CHBWV presented a project update.

**Safety.** Mr. Coyne stated CHBWV has worked 207 days without a lost-time accident or illness. There was one first aid reported in May. The site is ahead of goals for Total Recordable Case Rate and Days, Away, Restricted, or Transferred Case Rate. A complex emergency response exercise was held involving the local community including first responders and med-flight. The 01-14 Building demolition was completed without radioactive contamination or safety issues.

**Facility Disposition Progress.** Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) deactivation continues with ongoing removal of: asbestos containing material (ACM) and piping, 3,400 linear feet of piping in the Liquid Waste Cell, and office ceiling tile and carpet. Characterization of the Hot Cells was performed. In the Vitrification

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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.

Facility filters, debris and miscellaneous equipment were sized and packaged. The Vitrification Facility Cells may be used for decontaminating the High-Level Waste (HLW) canisters. The 01-14 Building Step 3 demolition is complete. One hundred intermodal shipping containers with demolition materials were shipped to Pennsylvania and Utah. The intermodals were received free from the Brookhaven Lab and a local transporter is providing services. Other Balance of Site Facility (BOSF) work continues including development of work instruction packages for demolition of the New Cooling Tower and Con Ed Building.

**Waste Operations/Disposition.** Legacy waste is being made ready for shipping with consolidation of Mixed Low-Level Waste (MLLW). With sequestration funding, eight workers have been temporarily recalled to assist in this work. The workers are receiving training and have a combined 92 years of experience. Mr. Coyne reviewed a summary of waste volumes shipped in May and to date for hazardous/universal waste, industrial waste, LLW and MLLW.

In the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) the 3C-2 dissolver vessel was size reduced with a plasma arc cutter and packaged for shipping. Sixteen drums of LLW and 8 drums of Remote-Handled TRU waste were generated. The process generates dust requiring changing filters bi-weekly. A question was asked about other site's experience with dust collection and plasma arc cutters. Mr. Coyne responded that the methodology was required because of the size of the vessel and very limited space to perform the work.

In response to a question later in the meeting, Mr. Coyne noted that wastes were being package in disposal eligible containers such that if a WIPP determination and/or a Greater-Than-Class-C determination would allow it, the wastes could be shipped to the appropriate disposal facility. Later in the meeting, he noted that Congressmen Reed and Pearce introduced an amendment to the Defense Authorization Act to allow for acceptance of WVDP waste at WIPP.

**Chemical Process Cell.** The washdown and packaging for shipment and disposal of the Brokk® machine is complete.

**HLW Canister Relocation Project.** Mr. Coyne reminded those present that the project involves retrieving the HLW canisters from storage in the MPPB, packaging them in containment vessels and relocating them to a storage pad elsewhere on the site. The contract is in place for cask and component construction and fabrication of the liners has begun.

The canisters emit approximately 2,700 R/hour; this requires remote work to avoid worker exposure. Remote test wiping of the tops of several canisters has occurred and they pass tests for gross alpha activity levels. The contract for HLW packaging/decontamination is likely to be awarded in July. The Request for Proposals for the storage pad construction is being finalized with construction in fall 2013. Some coordination issues on the pad design drawings were resolved. MPPB preparations are underway for the canister movement, as is procurement for two transporters, one to move the canisters and place them in casks in the MPPB and the other to move the casks to the pad. Other preparation include: soil borings in the MPPB, canister decontamination tests, removal of non-HLW from the canister movement path.

**Look Ahead.** The canister storage pad should be complete by October. By September, 75 shipments of legacy waste will be complete and, by October, 243 high moisture cement drums will be processed to make them shipment ready. By September the Vitrification Cell equipment cleanout will be complete. By the end of September removal of ACM from the lab, laundry and offices of the MPPB will be complete. He noted some of the legacy waste is from the 1980's. In May the old warehouse pad was demolished. The Counting

Lab slab was demolished in June and the New Cooling Tower and Old Waste Water Treatment Facility will be demolished in July.

## **PHASE 1 STUDIES UPDATE**

Moira Maloney of DOE provided an update on the Phase 1 Studies Process. She noted that the three working groups have been on hold pending agency discussion on incorporating uncertainty into the Phase 1 Studies. The Erosion Working Group (EWG) and the Exhumation Working Group (EXWG) are being asked to resume work. The Engineered Barriers Working Group (EBWG) will remain on hold awaiting more progress from the other working groups.

The EWG has been authorized to complete two tasks by September: first to 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. This will provide the agencies with additional information regarding the nature of uncertainty in erosion estimates. For the second task the EWG was asked to analyze their July 2012 study recommendations 1-3 (terrain analysis, age dating and paleoclimate, and recent erosion and deposition processes) 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. This task relates more to field studies data collection which will be used for input parameters for the models and the effects on modeling. A goal is to get at issues of uncertainty regardless of the erosion model used.

The EXWG had been asked to develop recommendations relating to complete and partial tank and waste exhumation and the uncertainties and benefits of pilot exhumation activities. Their recommendations will include information on the nature of uncertainty related to study topics (e.g., radionuclide inventory) and address how studies characterize/reduce uncertainty to achieve agency consensus. Working group recommendations will be discussed with stakeholders and the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP). The agencies will then decide on a path forward.

Agency representatives responded to questions. The agencies anticipate feedback from the EWG and EXWG recommendations to be available to the agencies in September. The goal in having the working groups make these recommendations concerning uncertainty is to build agency consensus and ensure that the selected studies result in the “biggest bang for the buck” in terms of providing information that will help the agencies resolve technical issues that were identified in the 2010 FEIS and serving as one of many inputs in the Phase 2 decision.

## **CTF DISCUSSION ABOUT OUTREACH & MEMBERSHIP**

After CTF discussion concerning outreach to elected representatives over the summer, Lee James committed to providing possible dates for a meeting with Congressman Reed and sharing them with Chris Crawford who will coordinate with Bill Logue and Lynette Bennett of CHBWV on invitations to other federal and state elected officials and coordination with the agencies. Possible agenda items include funding, waste disposition for both TRU and HLW, erosion concerns and reminding officials of the CTF position with respect to what is happening on the site on Phase 1 and the Phase 2 cleanup decision. CTF members could make a brief presentation and a site tour could be offered. This will be adapted depending on which and how many elected representatives agree to meet. A member suggested that if a decision could be arrived at concerning orphan wastes it could save significant costs in onsite canister storage.

Ray Vaughan previewed a draft presentation from the Outreach Work Group. He noted some immediate edits concerning acronyms and density of slides and naming convention for the site. NYSERDA has provided some factual and clarity comments and DOE committed to providing comments in the near future. A script will be written to accompany the final presentation. All agreed it was a good start. Members suggested ways of reaching out to groups with regular meetings such as Chambers of Commerce and the Technical Societies Council among others. Members agreed to send suggestions to Bill Logue to compile. Bill Logue mentioned future website improvements to aid in outreach. A brief discussion of social networking and tweeting ensued.

The CTF discussed membership following a brief review of the membership history. The West Valley Central School Board will appoint a new representative. Assemblyman Giglio will appoint a representative to replace Warren Schmidt. The Town of Concord will have a new representative after the fall election. To bring a medical perspective, members suggested Dr. Hanson, a local pediatrician, and Dr. Reed at Roswell Park Cancer Center. Bill Logue will reach out to them about their interest and to the Seneca Nation of Indians. He also committed to create a matrix of membership and stakeholder interest areas and to review the ground rules concerning membership. If an environmental perspective is needed in the future the River Keepers were suggested.

### **OTHER BUSINESS AND OBSERVER COMMENTS**

Mr. Bembia stated that NYSERDA is performing evaluations on the State-Licensed Disposal Area leachate elevation in Trench 14 and that there has been no increase in levels from February 28 to date. There were no observer comments.

Possible future meeting topics include: Permeable Treatment Wall, rail line discussion lead by Ray Vaughan, Trench 14 leachate levels.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who; Date</b>
Invitation to elected representatives	Crawford/James/Logue; 7/10/2013
Outreach to medical representative and prepare matrix	Logue; 7/10/2013
Revise Outreach Presentation	Work group; Ongoing

### **DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED**

<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Generated by; Date</b>
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 6/26/2013
WVDP Project Update	CHBWV; 6/26/2013
Phase 1 Studies Update	DOE & NYSERDA; 6/26/2013
Agenda Work Group Conference Call Summary	Logue; 5/29/2013
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 6/26/2013