



THE WEST VALLEY
CITIZEN TASK FORCE

April 24, 2019

Honorable Charles Schumer
130 South Elmwood Avenue, #660
Buffalo, NY 14202

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
Larkin at Exchange
726 Exchange Street, Suite 511
Buffalo, NY 14210

Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
Room S-128
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Energy and Water Development
Room S-128
The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: The West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act and annual appropriations for the West Valley Demonstration Project

Dear Senators Schumer, Gillibrand, Alexander and Feinstein,

For the past two decades the West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) has monitored progress at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and has supported level funding at a minimum of 75 million dollars per year. The CTF urges you to support the West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act which will provide the necessary authorization for Congress to appropriate this level of annual funding for the West Valley site for the next several years.

Site clean-up under the WVDP Act is proceeding in two phases, with Phase I partially completed but running behind schedule. In the Phase I Record of Decision issued by the U.S. Department of Energy in 2010, the WVDP project timeline was based upon an anticipated funding level of \$75 million annually. Funding cuts since that time have reduced the funding allocations (for example, to \$63 million in FY 2017), which jeopardized the original timeline. Funding was fortunately restored to \$75 million last year, thanks to the efforts of you and your colleagues. The CTF appreciates these efforts and hope that passage of the West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act will enable annual appropriations to maintain level funding at \$75 million, so the critical work can get back on schedule.

Maintaining such level funding has several benefits, including the cost savings that can be achieved by allowing necessary components of the work to proceed in parallel. For example, the last stages of repair/maintenance of the rail spur and the preparations for demolition/removal of

the Main Plant Process Building need to move forward together, so that offsite transportation of large amounts of demolition debris can be done by rail. Other decontamination/deactivation work and the removal of contaminated lagoons will also benefit from the availability of rail transportation and the safety and cost benefits it offers. Synchronizing these complex tasks will reduce project costs, improve project coordination and eliminate redundancy in program efforts.

Stability of the workforce – a key factor for both the local economy and the continuity and efficiency of the project – also benefits from adequate and predictable funding. Most importantly, level funding at \$75 million/year will contribute to timely completion of Phase I and a smooth transition to Phase II which will address the radioactive wastes buried at the West Valley site. Depending on the option chosen for Phase II (decision pending in 2022 or 2023), clean-up costs may range up to \$8 to \$10 billion, potentially involving decades of additional work at an annual cost such as \$75 million. The Phase II decision will be based on erosion studies and other evaluations that are currently underway to protect Western New York communities and the Lake Erie watershed from long-term negative impacts from this radiologically contaminated site.

The CTF appreciates your continuous support and know that you recognize the results and value of the ongoing work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. Given the excellent progress at completing work in a safe and efficient manner at the Project, and given the breadth of agreement and support from stakeholders on the path forward, we urge you to support the West Valley Reauthorization Act and to continue annual appropriations at a level that maintains the momentum and achieves timely cleanup.

Sincerely,



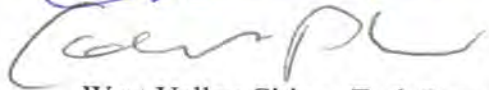
Cathy Memm, SNI
ECDEP

Clyde Duke

Jack J. O'Neil

Patricia K. Townsend

J. J. [unclear] WPS



West Valley Citizen Task Force

Eve W. Wolkers



Joseph M. [unclear]

Copy:

Anne Marie White, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management

Bryan Bower, Director, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project

Paul Bemba, Director, NYSERDA West Valley Site Management Program