

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: August 20, 2020
Subject: **Summary of the July 22, 2020 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: **September 23, 2020 at 6:30 PM**
Location: Zoom

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Charlie Davis, Clyde Drake, Heidi Hartley, John Hood, Kathy McGoldrick, Tony Memmo, John Pfeffer, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers. Facilitator: Loraine Della Porta.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Martin Krentz, Bethany MacNeill, Moira Maloney, Audrey Seeley.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV): Joe Pillittere, John Rendall, Kelly Wooley.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Pat Concannon, Lynn Winterberger.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Marlayna Doell, Amy Snyder.

Government Accountability Office: Dan Will

Neptune and Company: Aaron Bandler, Sean McCandless.

Public: Wayne Barber, Diane D'Arrigo, Kelsey Shank, William Townsend.

Introductions, Announcements, Administrative Business

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹ and discussed options for the September meeting. Lee Gordon informed the CTF that NYSERDA President and CEO Alicia Barton had stepped down as NYSERDA's President. She recently took a position with First Light Power in Massachusetts. Doreen Harris of NYSERDA has been named acting President and CEO.

SEIS Schedule Update

Marty Krentz, of DOE, provided an update of the schedule for the Supplement Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Because of delays associated with the complexity of the Probabilistic Performance Assessment modeling, and the consequent impact on the Draft SEIS, the latter will not be released until 2022. A more detailed schedule update will be provided at a Quarterly Public Meeting (QPM) later this year or in 2021.

CHBWV Project Update

John Rendall of CHBWV presented a project update. The WVDP started the move to Phase2 COVID-19 Response reopening on July 8. Staffing levels will be at 60% and some telework will continue. High priority and low to moderate risk operations will resume, many with a greater use of personal protective equipment.

Safety. As of June 30, the 12-month rolling average for Total Recordable Cases (TRC) is now 0.0. Days Away, Restrictions, Transfers is now at 0.0. The last TRC was March 20, 2019 and last Recordable injury March 27, 2019. This amounts to 680,637 work hours or 468 days.

Deactivation and Demolition Progress. Performance Based Incentive 1 (PBI#1) addresses the demolition and removal of the MPPB; deactivation of the MPPB is 85% complete. The apparent reduction in completion percentage is because several facilities have been added into that scope. PBI#2 includes other work under the contract including Balance of Site Facilities (BOSF), Surveillance and Maintenance and site operations; for BOSF 44 of 46 facilities have been demolished and areas restored or 96% of the work completed.

¹ Each is listed at the end of this summary and may be found at www.westvalleyctf.org

Under PBI#1 Demolition of the Contact Size Reduction Facility, Manipulator Repair Shop, Laundry Facility, Utility Room Extension, and Main Plant Office Building are complete. The Utility Room demolition started on July 13. Mr. Rendall showed pictures of the preparation and progress of the Utility Room demolition to date. These include maintenance of the turbomister, “exercising” two excavators, manhole plate cover placement, adjusting boundary areas, placement of the container scale, and demolition activity. Around the MPPB grading for equipment stability adjacent to the foundation is being performed. The Load-In Facility will not be demolished until 2023 as it will be used for weather protection of equipment during MPPB demolition.

COVID-19 Response Phase 2 Activities. Resumption of additional activities includes weed clearing, herbicide spraying, Shipping Office Depot Renovations, laundry delivery, A/C repair on the extra office space, and inspection of Radiological Controls. For BOSF and infrastructure the gravel removal and restoration of the Chemical Process Cell-Waste Storage Area will be completed and the Schoolhouse septic tank and well will be removed. The Wastewater Treatment Facility has been removed from the BOSF demolition list because it will be used as a holding tank for sanitary waste water.

Watersheds, LiDAR, and Rainfall Recurrence Frequency

Lee Gordon of NYERDA made presentation on Watersheds, LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), and Rainfall Recurrence Frequency that was almost entirely graphics in order to assist the group in visualizing the watershed surrounding the WVDP and Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC).

Watersheds. He opened with a map of the watersheds across the nation. The watersheds surrounding the Great Lakes are not significantly larger in area than the lakes. The Lakes ultimately drain through the St Lawrence River. The Cattaraugus watershed that surrounds WVDP drains into Lake Erie. Much of the other surrounding watershed area ultimately drains into the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico.

The Cattaraugus watershed is about 559 miles² and includes the 29 miles² of the Buttermilk Creek Watershed which surrounds the site. Mr. Gordon showed LiDAR images of the terrain of the Buttermilk Creek Watershed. He indicated how the LiDAR data can be used to calculate both slope (the steepness of the terrain) and aspect (the direction the slope faces). Using algorithms it is then possible to calculate the flow accumulation in the watershed as water converges from rivulets to streams ultimately flowing into Buttermilk Creek. He then applied this to the WNYNSC to show the size and directional watershed flow in Quarry Creek, Franks Creek, and Erdman Brook. The LiDAR images can be overlaid with photographs to create a virtual fly through of the area and water flow.

LiDAR, Erosion and Elevation Changes. Following this portion of the presentation, Mr. Gordon showed images of downcutting of the creek sides due to erosion of loose materials. A graphic depicted the geologic structure under the site relative to Franks Creek and Buttermilk Creek. There are sand, gravel fluvial and alluvial layers, clays and till above the bedrock. Relative to Franks Creek the bedrock is 500 feet below. Three-D modeling can show these layers.

Mr. Gordon explained how the LiDAR process works. Through the use of periodic LiDAR surveys and high-resolution Aerial Orthoimagery, models can be developed that depict changes in elevation. LiDAR was conducted in 2010 and 2015 and will be repeated in the fall of 2020.

Rainfall Frequency. Mr. Gordon noted that for many years the primary source of rainfall data was Technical Paper 40 from the US Department of Commerce. He showed a graphic for a 100 year storm in the US and described how to interpret it. He indicated the importance of knowing the storm duration. According to the technical paper, a 100-year 3-hour storm in Western New York would result in ~3 inches of rain. Rainfall data over 24-hour periods was derived from tropical storms which tend to be slow moving. For the area around the site storm durations are typically shorter. He then showed anecdotal information of short-term storms in excess of 5 inches in the area. NOAA data indicates that a 24-hour storm of 4.87 inches is considered a 1,000 year storm. This anecdotal information and presentations in the Climate Change workshop indicate that the area is seeing a higher frequency of intensive storms.

The question is how to account for this information in the evaluations underlying the Phase 2 decision. Neptune and Company will speak to this question of lower probability but high impact events. That is currently planned for a future QPM.

CTF Members expressed appreciation for the presentation. Mr. Vaughan suggested that somewhat parallel data

could be drawn from the USGS stream flow gage on Cattaraugus Creek that has been collecting data for 80+ years. He asked if Neptune would be able to estimate rainfall from such data, with or without climate change, for a period of 1,000 or 10,000 years. Mr. Gordon noted that Neptune would be addressing this, and they are developing probabilistic distributions of erosion rates; the tails of which are accurately capturing extremes. From historical air photos Neptune is looking at predicted valley widening. A significant question is whether the predictions are appropriately bounding distributions.

Graphics. Because the graphics are large files, copies will be placed on the CTF website as individual files.

Other Business

For the September meeting NYSDEC will present an overview of RCRA, NYSERDA will do a Trench 14 Leachate Update and CHBWV will present a Project Update.

Ms. Townsend asked for information about disposal options for Greater-Than-Class-C Waste (GTCC) as the issue is mentioned in the Strategic Vision for the WVDP Phase 1B. Mr. Bower stated that there had been a report to Congress on GTCC in 2018 and that the GAO report on the West Valley Reauthorization Act due later this year would address disposal options. Following the meeting the CTF members received links to the 2018 report and the Environmental Assessment and EIS for GTCC.

The facilitator will convene an agenda work group meeting to confirm these topics, the October meeting and the timing of a presentation by Mr. Vaughan on probabilistic modeling, limited data sets and expert projections.

Observer Comments

There were no observer questions.

Action Items

Action	Who; When
Schedule Agenda Work Group Call	Logue & Agencies

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 7/22/20
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 7/22/20
Watershed Presentation	NYSERDA; 7/22/20
Summary of July 8, agenda Work Group Call	DOE; 7/15/20
News Clippings Since the Last Meeting	NYSERDA; 7/22/20