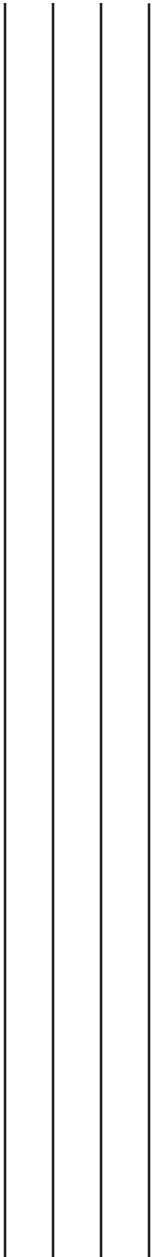


West Valley Citizen Task Force



June 6, 2001

Mr. Spencer Abraham
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of the Secretary
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Mr. William Flynn, President
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Corporate Plaza West
286 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12203-6399

SUBJECT: WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT BUDGET CUT

Dear Secretary Abraham and President Flynn:

We, the members of the West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF), are writing to express our consternation and frustration with the breakdown of negotiations between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) regarding your respective responsibilities for decommissioning and decontamination of the site in West Valley. This site became contaminated with nuclear waste, as a result of a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant and two burial grounds which were operated in our town in the 1960's and 70's, under sponsorship of the State of New York and with the encouragement of the Atomic Energy Commission. Much of the reprocessed nuclear fuel and buried waste came from federal government sources and projects. Later, as a result of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act of 1980, DOE accepted partial responsibility for clean-up, decontamination and decommissioning of the site.

There has been a tremendous amount accomplished towards the clean-up in the past few years, as DOE and NYSERDA have cooperated in outstanding ways, pioneered a world class project of vitrification, and made great strides. Now, as we enter the final phases of this great project, the effort is in danger of faltering, as the two major partners have failed to reach agreement on their respective responsibilities. We, as the representatives of the community, find this unacceptable.

This is our home. This is where we live and raise our families. Living next to something dangerous and poisonous, which might be abandoned in an unsafe state by the only parties in position to make it safe, is not an option which we can live with. Consequently, the present breakdown in negotiations is not something we will accept.

What are the issues? We could accept the need for secrecy during the active phase of the negotiations. But now that they have broken down, why are they still shrouded in secrecy? Is this the way business is done, in a free society, in a democracy? We demand to know, what are the issues that have endangered the clean-up of our homeland?



We members of the CTF have given much of our own time and energy toward this project. We have served four years now without pay. We have been told by both DOE and NYSERDA that we have performed well and provided a valuable service. If that is so, why are we being excluded now? Maybe we can help.

We the CTF do not take sides in this dispute between DOE and NYSERDA. We are simply saying that WE WANT IT RESOLVED! We live here. We can not have it left the way it is. As the CTF, we are at your disposal, to serve in any way we can, to bring these two parties back to the table, as soon as possible, and get this matter settled. There must be something we can do, to be of service, to get this negotiation going again. We have offered our services in the past, and we continue to offer our services to resolve any and all issues concerning the site.

Please respond.

Very truly yours,

West Valley Citizen Task Force

CC: U.S. Senator Charles Schumer
U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton
U.S. Representative Amo Houghton
U.S. Representative Jack Quinn
U.S. Representative Tom Reynolds
U.S. Representative John LaFalce
NYS Senator Pat McGee
NYS Assemblyman Dan Burling
NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Young
Susan Brechbill (DOE)
Alice Williams (DOE)
Paul Piciulo (NYSERDA)
Melinda Holland, Holland and Associates
CTF Members

cc: U.S. Senator Charles Schumer
U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton
U.S. Representative Amory Houghton
U.S. Representative Thomas Reynolds
U.S. Representative Jack Quinn
U.S. Representative Louise Slaughter
Bob Warther, DOE
Elizabeth Lowes, DOE
T.J. Jackson, DOE
Peter Smith, NYSERDA
Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA
Chad Glenn, NRC
Jeanette Eng, EPA
Tim Rice, NYSDEC
CTF Mailing List (without enclosures)