

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland
Subject: Summary of September 18, 2001, Task Force Meeting
Date: October 15, 2001

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force (CTF) meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date: Tuesday, December 4, 2001
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY

The focus of the December 4th CTF meeting will be announced at a future date. If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact Melinda Holland at (864) 457-4202, or Tom Attridge at (716) 942-2453.

The next meeting of the CTF's **Future Site Use Work Group** is scheduled for:

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2001
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY

CTF Attendees

Attending were: Bill King, Lee Lambert, Nevella McNeil, John Pfeffer, Paul Bembia (for Paul Piciulo), Pete Scherer, Tim Siepel, Ray Vaughan, Alice Williams, Joe Patti, Bridget Wilson, Eric Wohlers, and Warren Schmidt.

CTF Members not attending were: Pete Cooney, Lana Redeye, Larry Rubin, Paul Piciulo, and Murray Regan.

Agency Attendees

Attending in person: Tim Rice and Jack Krajewski, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Attending by video conference: Darrell Sims, Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analysis; John Greeves, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Bob Nelson, NRC, Chad Glenn, NRC.

Administrative Announcements and Updates

Tom Attridge opened the meeting by briefly describing the written materials that were disseminated at the meeting. Melinda Holland then reviewed the agenda.

Paul Bembia mentioned that NYSERDA and DOE resumed negotiations today with a meeting in Washington DC between Robert Card, DOE's Assistant Deputy Secretary and Bill Flynn, President of NYSERDA. Paul spoke with Bill Flynn after the meeting in Washington. Mr. Flynn said the meeting had gone well. He said they reviewed areas of past agreement and identified issues still to be resolved. Mr. Flynn was pleased with DOE's commitment to resolving the remaining issues. They hope to have the next meeting on or near October 10th. [They met on October 10th]

Next on the agenda was Eric Wohler's presentation on the 2001 Long Term Stewardship (LTS) Workshop he attended in Grand Junction CO, in early August 2001. He noted that since he attended the 1999 LTS

Workshop two years ago, considerable progress has been made on developing policies and approaches for LTS. Eric said that over 300 people attended the workshop. The report from the workshop should be posted on the web¹ sometime in the near future. Eric was impressed with the workshop format which included numerous small break-out group meetings which focused on developing an LTS plan for a fictional site. A brief summary of the findings of these small groups is attached to this summary. Eric also suggested that CTF members review the workshop presentations given by four individuals he thought would be of interest to the Task Force (Dick Church, Jr., Mayor of Miamisburg, OH; Steve Tarlton, State of CO, Department of Public Health and Environment; Mario Ierardi, U. S. Department of Defense; Seth Kirshenberg, Energy Communities Alliance). All presentations from the workshop may be copied or read on the web².

Eric also recommended that CTF members become familiar with the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) which is an organization of local communities that have major DOE installations as neighbors. ECA was established in 1992 to bring together local government officials around DOE sites to share information, establish policy positions, and advocate community interests in the DOE arena. ECA is the only organization dedicated solely to meeting the broad-ranging needs of DOE communities. Copies of ECA's July and August "Energy Communities Alliance Bulletin" were distributed at the CTF meeting and can be found on the web³. Eric recommended reading the ECA/Environmental Law Institute report entitled "The Role of Local Governments in Long-Term Stewardship at DOE Facilities⁴."

Eric stated that one of the things he left the conference with was an understanding of the importance of thinking ahead about LTS measures and related record keeping while developing the preferred alternative. He also stressed the need for site decision documents to include provisions on LTS. He noted that a major focus for the conference was the need for a national policy on LTS. Dave Geiser, head of DOE's LTS office, stated at the conference that he hoped to have an LTS action plan by the spring of 2002 with LTS guidance to follow. The Table of Contents from DOE's latest draft of the LTS Plan Guidance is attached to this summary. CTF members noted the need to have site LTS plans developed in cooperation with stakeholders. A CTF member noted that NRC's D&D criteria will cap the total allowable dose and may limit what can be left in place and how LTS is conducted. He asked NRC representatives who were participating via video conference about the status of the NRC Policy Statement. John Greeves, NRC, responded that Commissioner Dicus had stated the goal was to issue it by the end of August, but he has not seen the document and does not have any new information on its status.

A Task Force member noted that the new 'war on terrorism' and relief funds for New York City may result in DOE's budget becoming even tighter.

Eric was very impressed with the presentation made by Dick Church, the Mayor of Miamisburg, OH.

¹ <http://www.doegjpo.com/programs/ltsm/general/events/index.html>

² <http://www.gjo.doe.gov/programs/ltsm/general/events/01worksh/index1.html>

³ <http://www.energyca.org/ECABulletin.html>

⁴ <http://www.energyca.org/LTS.html>

Tim Siepel presented an update on the activities of the Future Site Use Work Group. The work group held meetings on July 17th and August 7th which included brainstorming and discussion of a national research/educational center which could be done in partnership with a university such as Cornell or SUNY Buffalo. Mark Mitskovski and work group members have developed an outline for a report on future use options. Tim explained that due to the loss of the volunteer assistance from Ecology & Environment, the work group will need to work together to complete the report. Another work group member stated that Mark Mitskovski had indicated that there was a good possibility of obtaining some money from Erie County and that he would investigate the availability of grant funding from specific agencies in Cattaraugus County. He asked site officials to also consider providing funding for the project.

A CTF member suggested that the work group should consider starting a “West Valley Energy & Environment Institute” in the near future by initially using site resources and volunteer labor donated by current site employees and local residents. The proposed Institute would be focused on small research and development energy and environmental projects. A copy of his proposal is attached to this summary. This concept will be discussed further by the work group. A CTF member questioned who would manage the effort and pointed out the need for good management of such an endeavor. It was acknowledged that leadership and management would need to be developed for the volunteer project to succeed.

A Task Force member noted that the work group needs to know what parcels of land may become available for future use. A NYSERDA representative stated that the process to assess site cleanup and closure alternatives is still ongoing and the remedial approach used will affect the options for future use of the land. The work group member stated that they will need that information to complete its recommendations. Another work group member responded that the report can proceed with recommended uses prior to remedy decisions.

A work group member asked NYSERDA for more information about NYSERDA’s activities at the Malta site. NYSERDA responded that they have recently opened a clean energy technology development park at the old Malta rocket test facility near Saratoga, NY. It is known as the Saratoga Technology Energy Park [STEP] and is a joint effort of NYSERDA, University of Albany, and the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation. A copy of Governor Pataki’s press release on this project is attached to this summary.

The next Future Site Use Work Group meeting is October 23rd and will feature a presentation by NYSERDA on the breadth of projects conducted by NYSERDA, how NYSERDA does business, and any other topics that might be of interest to the work group, including the Saratoga Technology Energy Park [STEP]. November 8th is reserved for the next work group meeting and will include a presentation by Dick Church, the Mayor of Miamisburg OH. Currently, the work group members include: Mark Mitskovski, Bill King, Ray Vaughan, Tim Siepel, Joe Patti, Pete Scherer, Nevella McNeil, and John Pfeffer. All CTF members are welcome to attend work group meetings.

Geology and Erosion Modeling Presentations

The final half of the meeting focused on two presentations. First, Paul Bembia of NYSERDA gave a brief presentation about the geology of the site area. Then Joe Price, SAIC, provided an update on the erosion modeling work that is currently being conducted as part of the environmental impact analysis process. Mr. Price compared the erosion modeling process used in the 1996 Draft EIS with the current erosion analysis model (SIBERIA). He also shared the plans for completion of the erosion analysis in the near future. A Task Force member questioned whether background levels in the creeks are being considered in the modeling calculations. Mr. Price responded that there is not much data on this, but he feels that the impact of any sediment coming from upstream would be small. Another CTF member provided an example where background levels of iron in the past have caused State Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit violations, thus background levels should not be ignored. He also pointed out that a shortcoming of the DEIS erosion analysis was its failure to look at the impact of the main channel of Buttermilk Creek. Mr. Price agreed, and noted that the DEIS erosion analysis focused on the areas closer to the site at that time, but the new analysis now considers Buttermilk Creek. In response to another question, Mr. Price replied that the

models used in the 1996 DEIS were developed in the 1940's. A CTF member questioned when predicted impacts would be seen on the South Plateau, if erosion was left unmitigated. Mr. Price stated that the new modeling show potential impacts occurring within a few hundred years, though he reminded the group that the result he presented was based on the assumption that no erosion control work was being done at the site during the time analyzed.

A member asked for background information on the Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) model that SAIC is using to calibrate the SIBERIA model. WEPP was developed by Purdue University for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (U.S. Dept. of Agriculture). In response to a question about whether the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE) overestimated erosion, Mr. Price responded that comparing USLE and SIBERIA is like comparing apples and oranges. SIBERIA is providing a different result on down-cutting and stream shape than can be seen with the USLE.

A CTF member raised a concern over possible mis-calibration of the SIBERIA (and WEPP) model relative to the 1980 - 1990 calibration used in the 1996 DEIS. The fact that slumping of creek banks was not considered but is readily observable in area creeks causes him to question the accuracy of the model's assumptions. Mr. Price responded that processes like slumping are accounted for in the upper level modeling assumptions. Further questions included: whether bed-load was properly accounted for; whether the 10-year study using actual erosion data is a better basis for calibration vs. the use of a few grab samples of creek sediments; and the use of a longitudinal profile comparison. Mr. Price responded that they used actual information for sediment transport loss in the creeks, looked at whole system including Buttermilk Creek, and used conservative rates for down cutting of creeks.

A CTF member asked if this study considered any man-made erosion controls. A DOE representative responded that this initial model does not - it is to look at the worst case scenarios with no erosion controls in place. Later, when the preferred alternative is developed, they will look at all alternatives with use of erosion control measures and how they perform. She said that the results of this modeling are similar to what we have seen in past efforts; that erosion must be managed at the site if any wastes remain. Another member asked about the big storm in 1998 (8" of precipitation in 4 hours) and how this model includes large storm events. Mr. Price said that the model includes the 100-year storm and several smaller storms. Another member suggested additional things which should be considered in this modeling: the impact of global warming on storm variability/frequency; a larger model of Buttermilk Creek; and consideration of 'stream piracy' as described in a recent GSA Today article.

Task Force Member Vacancy

The CTF facilitator, Melinda Holland gave the Task Force an update on her activities in finding a candidate to recommend to the CTF, DOE and NYSERDA to fill the vacancy created by Larry Smith's resignation. Ms. Holland explained that she has interviewed a number of candidates and is following up on a few more before making a recommendation to the group. She expects to have a recommendation by the December Task Force meeting.

Next Steps

- ▶ The CTF Future Site Use Work Group agreed to meet on Tuesday October 23, 2001, 7:00 p.m. at the Ashford Office Complex.
- ▶ Topics requested for the December 4th CTF meeting include: an update on the results of the seismic study and the NRC Policy Statement.

Observer Comments

An observer noted that Governor Pataki's press release on the new technology park at Malta is available through the NYS web page⁵.

⁵ [Http://a.www.state.ny.us/](http://a.www.state.ny.us/)