

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, Task Force Facilitator
Date: February 2, 2007
Subject: **Summary of the January 24, 2007, Citizen Task Force Annual Meeting**

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force meeting will be held as follows:

Date: **Wednesday, February 28, 2007**
Time: 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Location: **Ashford Office Complex**
9030 Route 219
West Valley, NY

NOTE: All participants must be U. S. citizens and bring photo identification.

If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact Melinda Holland at (828) 894-5963, or Tom Attridge at (716) 942-9960, ext. 2453.

CTF Attendees

Attending were: Paul Piciulo, Bryan Bower, Lee Lambert, Darwin John, Tim Siepel, Eric Wohlers, Pete Scherer, Bill King, Joe Patti, Stephen Kowalski, Chris Pawenski (for Andrew Eszak), Mike Briskey (for New York State Assemblyman Giglio), Pete Cooney, Ray Vaughan, and John Pfeffer.

CTF Members not attending (nor represented by an alternate) were: Bill Snyder (for Gary Eppolito), Mike Hutchinson, and Julie Siranni (for New York State Senator Young).

Meeting Highlights

- ▶ Presentation on DOE's 2007 goals for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) site work.
- ▶ Presentation of NYSERDA's 2007 goals.
- ▶ CTF Annual Meeting:
 - ▶ 2006 CTF Accomplishments.
 - ▶ 2006 CTF Member Attendance.
 - ▶ Review of Results of the 2006 CTF Process Evaluation.
 - ▶ Discussion on how to improve the CTF process.
 - ▶ CTF Goals for 2007.
- ▶ Discussion of next steps, agenda topics, action items and observer comments.

Meeting Summary

Tom Attridge reviewed the documents¹ provided for this meeting and Melinda Holland reviewed the agenda. This meeting was the Task Force's Annual Meeting. Ms. Holland reviewed the CTF's 2006 accomplishments and congratulated the Task Force on a successful, active year.

Next, Ms. Holland discussed CTF member attendance during 2006 noting that all members (or their alternates) except Gary Eppolito (or his designated alternate Bill Snyder) attended at least one half of the meetings held during 2006. She quoted Section II.A.1 of the CTF Mission and Ground Rules which

¹ The documents distributed at this CTF meeting may be found on the "Meeting Materials" page of the CTF web site at www.westvalleyctf.org

provides “Members who fail to attend half of the scheduled meetings in a calendar year may be removed from the CTF by consensus of the CTF members present at the first scheduled meeting of each year.” After some discussion of this issue, the CTF requested that Bryan Bower, DOE, and Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA, call Mr. Eppolito to inquire about his commitment to having the Town of Concord continue to have a seat on the Task Force. CTF members noted that the same issue was discussed at last year’s Annual Meeting. Task Force members asked that Mr. Eppolito attend meetings or find an alternate who can attend at least one half of the meetings per year. CTF members also discussed the possibility of offering that seat to a representative of a downstream municipality.

Ms. Holland reviewed her recent, unsuccessful efforts to find an appropriate candidate for the existing CTF vacancy. She asked members to let her know of possible candidates who have technical background, knowledge of the site, and a sincere interest in participating actively on the Task Force. Some CTF members suggested consideration of candidates outside of the local community such as University of Buffalo faculty. John Pfeffer offered to email people at the University of Buffalo to see if anyone might have an interest in participating on the CTF.

Ms. Holland reviewed the compiled results of the CTF 2006 Process Evaluations. She asked the Task Force for suggestions on how to improve the process in light of the results of the evaluations. Task Force members noted that the press releases issued by the CTF thus far are having a positive impact with the getting more public exposure. A CTF member noted that it is difficult to improve outreach to the community when there is no progress to report regarding the site.

Another member stated that the dialogue between DOE and the Task Force needs to be improved and suggested that the CTF look at how it can help improve this relationship. He noted that this is not directed at Bryan Bower, noting that DOE Headquarters may place limits on what may be said to the Task Force. Requesting a meeting between CTF members and DOE Headquarters management was suggested by some Task Force members. Mr. Bower responded that he has attempted to share as much information as he can considering limitations created by the two lawsuits and the open procurement process. At the request of the CTF, Mr. Bower agreed to investigate the possibility of a meeting between CTF members and DOE Headquarters representatives either in Washington D.C. or at a future Task Force meeting.

DOE 2007 Goals

Next, Bryan Bower, DOE, reviewed 2007 goals for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) site work as follows:

- ▶ Conduct activities that bring the site closer to closure/completion of the project;
- ▶ Award a new site contract in 2007;
- ▶ Strengthen and reinvigorate the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process using the Core Team process;
- ▶ 2007 Performance goals for the WVDP:
 - ▶ WVNSCO contract extended until June, 2007;
 - ▶ Ship drums from Drum Cell for disposal;
 - ▶ Ship legacy low-level waste for disposal;
 - ▶ Process wastes through the Remote-Handled Waste Facility;
 - ▶ Conduct decontamination and decommissioning work in the Main Plant;
 - ▶ Continue cleanup of the Fuel Receiving and Storage facility;
 - ▶ Continue infrastructure reduction;
 - ▶ Re-establish railroad usage (including necessary repairs) for waste shipments to reduce costs;
 - ▶ Evaluate management options for the NRC-Licensed Disposal Area (NDA), North Plateau Ground Water Plume, and Waste Tank Farm;
 - ▶ Continue discussions with NYSERDA regarding the plume; and
 - ▶ Work with NYSERDA on options for non-impacted areas of the site.

Mr. Bower also summarized his personal goals for 2007 as including:

- ▶ Building a stronger relationship with the CTF and other stakeholders;
- ▶ Foster the government to government relationship with the Seneca Nation of Indians;
- ▶ Build trust with the CTF and other stakeholders;
- ▶ Provide answers when making commitment to do so.

In response to a CTF member's question, Mr. Bower explained that DOE is looking into long-term and short-term improvements to the rail system serving the site as using rail will save on waste transportation costs. A Task Force member asked about site employment levels in 2007 and Mr. Bower responded that he predicts that site employment will remain stable this year.

A Task Force member raised a concern regarding the language of Section 6F of the proposed West Valley Remediation Act, given the language of 10 CFR 20.2002 regarding the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) authority to grant licenses. He noted that the language of the bill would need to be changed to address this issue or he would no longer be able to support the legislation. Another CTF member suggested that the issue should be discussed with Hal Brodie, Counsel for NYSERDA. The Task Force member noted that the Congressional delegation is considering re-introducing this legislation as is, so if the CTF wants to suggest changes it needs to be done soon. Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA, offered to have Hal Brodie contact Mr. Vaughan to discuss this issue.

NYSERDA 2007 Goals

Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA, summarized his agency's goals as follows:

- ▶ State-Licensed Disposal Area (SDA):
 - ▶ Continue to manage the SDA safely and meet regulatory obligations; and
 - ▶ Initiate technical studies to support decision making and address topics the CTF has raised.
- ▶ WVDP Goals:
 - ▶ Ask DOE to focus site cleanup activities on areas of highest risk, such as ~~the~~:
 - ▶ the Process Building,
 - ▶ stopping the spread of the plume,
 - ▶ covering the NRC-Licensed disposal Area (NDA) to stop water infiltration, and
 - ▶ HLW Tank characterization and cleanup.
- ▶ Goals Regarding NYSERDA/DOE Disagreements:
 - ▶ Continue to work to resolve differences;
 - ▶ Remain open to negotiations;
 - ▶ Support the pending legislation;
 - ▶ Define a path forward on the EIS that includes a proposed action; and
 - ▶ Accomplish as much work as possible irrespective of disagreements.

Break Out Group Discussions on CTF 2007 Goals

Next, the Task Force members and alternates divided into two break out groups to brainstorm CTF goals for 2007. After listing possible goals, each group used a "dot voting" technique to prioritize the goals. The goals developed by each breakout group and the corresponding 'dot vote' scores are listed below (organized by the number of votes):

Break Out Group #1 Goals

- Alert and educate the public about site issues such as the plume [7 dots];
- Push for EPA's proposal for cleanup of the North Plateau facilities [6 dots];
- Meet with new state and federal leaders and elected officials, bring them up to speed, use "in the face" lobbying approach like what was used for the Mound/Miamisburg site redevelopment; request funding for CTF travel for this effort [5 dots];

- Develop press release process with prior consensus from full CTF (streamline press release process) [4 dots];
- Get the site at least to “brownfields” status [3 dots];
- Review dependability of High-Level Waste Tank grouting; and
- Work towards future re-use of site.

Break Out #2 Goals

- Have federal (Congressional) officials attend a CTF meeting [6 dots];
- Revisit Remediation Act legislation [5 dots];
- More face-to-face meetings with DOE officials [4 dots];
- Set up a meeting with EPA on EPA’s goals for North Plateau closure [4 dots];
- Provide support for NYSERDA lawsuit [4 dots];
- Presentation to CTF by expert on erosion modeling (Greg Tucker was suggested) [3 dots];
- Focus on getting NDA and SDA cleaned up [3 dots];
- Seek/continue to receive letters of support from municipal boards [3 dots];
- Learn about DOE’s Core Team process vs. NYSERDA’s EIS process [2 dots];
- Set up a meeting with NRC on that agency’s position/role for protection of the public [2 dots];
- Receive timely information from DOE and NYSERDA on Interim Measures [2 dots];
- Explore/re-evaluate CTF effectiveness and how to improve it [1 dot]; and
- “Future land use” - stay on focus [1 dot].

Next, the full Task Force discussed the goals developed by the break out groups and possible strategies for implementation of those goals. A CTF member noted there were many similarities between the two groups of recommendations, including legislation, public outreach, education, HLW tanks, plume, and future use. CTF members discussed the importance of some of the specific goals, including working with EPA Region II on their proposal for remediation of the North Plateau facilities. Task Force members suggested inviting an EPA Region II representative to give a presentation to the CTF on their proposal. CTF members also supported inviting Greg Tucker, an erosion modeling expert, to give a presentation at a future CTF meeting. CTF members suggested continuing the discussion on how to develop and finalize Task Force press releases at the February meeting.

Another goal stressed by CTF members was improving communications with other federal and state agencies such as NRC and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). A CTF member suggested that in his presentation at the April Task Force meeting, Chad Glenn, NRC, should also discuss NRC’s role in protection of the public. Completing the EIS process was suggested by a Task Force member as an important goal. Dr. Piciulo, NYSERDA, noted that his agency does not believe that the EIS process is working well and suggested that the focus needs to be on development of a Preferred Alternative. The CTF member asked if the Task Force could meet with participants of the Core Team process and Mr. Bower offered to investigate this option.

It may not be possible to accomplish some of these goals at a single CTF meeting, thus a CTF member suggested using work groups to focus on specific goals over the year. To assist in developing approaches to implement the CTF 2007 goals, a Task Force member suggested that Ms. Holland organize the recommendations of the break out groups under the objectives stated in the CTF Mission and Ground Rules (this information is provided in Attachment 1 to this summary).

After a brief discussion, CTF members agreed that the Agenda Work Group should continue to be the process used to develop future meeting topics, strategies to implement CTF goals, and the 2007 CTF Work Plan. Ms. Holland was tasked with scheduling an Agenda Work Group conference call in advance of the February 28th CTF meeting and organizing the information needed to support this call.

Next Steps

Melinda Holland will organize an Agenda Work Group conference call to develop future meeting topics, discuss approaches for implementing CTF 2007 goals, and drafting the 2007 CTF Work Plan.

Observer Comments

There were no observer comments.

Action Items

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
NYSERDA and DOE to contact Gary Eppolito/Bill Snyder about their commitment to continued membership on the CTF	Bower & Piciulo	02/09/07
Email University of Buffalo contacts regarding interest in serving on the CTF	J. Pfeffer	02/16/07
Inquire about possible meetings between CTF representatives and DOE Headquarters management	B. Bower	02/28/07
Ray Vaughan and Hal Brodie to discuss provisions of the West Valley Remediation Act Section 6F	Vaughan & Brodie	02/28/07
Investigate the possibility of a Task Force meeting with participants of the Core Team process	Bower	02/28/07
Further develop strategies to implement CTF 2007 goals, use work groups, propose meeting topics, and draft the 2007 CTF Work Plan	CTF Agenda Work Group	02/28/07
Schedule an Agenda Work Group conference call in advance of the February 28 th CTF meeting and organize the information needed to support this call	Holland	02/16/07
Invite Greg Tucker, an erosion modeling expert, to give a presentation at a future CTF meeting	TBD	02/28/07

Documents Distributed

Document Subject	Document Description	Date; Generated by (if applicable/known)
01/24/07 Agenda	Agenda	Holland; 01/17/07
December 20, 2006 CTF Meeting Summary	Summary	Holland; 01/06/07
WV CTF 2006 Year End Evaluation Compilation	Evaluation	Holland; 01/23/07
WV CTF 2006 Accomplishments Summary	Accomplishments	Holland; 01/23/07
WV CTF Mailing Address Lists	Address Lists	Holland; 01/22/07
WV CTF Mission and Ground Rules	Ground Rules	Holland; 01/24/07
WV CTF Press Release: "Task Force Pushes for More Cleanup of Groundwater Plume"	Press Release	CTF; 01/17/07
WV CTF Letter to NRC Regarding the N. Plateau Ground Water Plume	Letter	CTF; 12/22/06
NRC Letter to Lambert & Vaughan Acknowledging Receipt of CTF Letter	Letter	NRC; 01/03/07

ATTACHMENT 1

**Break Out Groups Recommended 2007 CTF Goals
Organized by the Objectives Listed in the CTF Ground Rules**

- 1. *Provide a forum for open discussion of related issues by community representatives;***
 - ! Alert and educate the public about site issues such as the plume [7 dots];
 - ! Meet with new state and federal leaders and elected officials, bring them up to speed, use “in the face” lobbying approach like used for the Mound/Miamisburg site redevelopment; request funding for CTF travel for this effort [5 dots];
- 2. *Identify and understand the various interests of the community and other interested parties;***
 - ! Work towards future re-use of site.
- 3. *Increase the flow of information between DOE, NYSERDA and the Task Force Members (“Members”) (and their constituencies);***
 - ! More face-to-face meetings with DOE officials [4 dots];
 - ! Presentation to CTF by expert on erosion modeling (Greg Tucker was suggested) [3 dots];
 - ! Focus on getting NDA and SDA cleaned up [3 dots];
 - ! Receive timely information from DOE and NYSERDA on Interim Measures [2 dots];
 - ! Learn about DOE’s Core Team process vs. NYSERDA’s EIS process [2 dots];
 - ! Review dependability of High-Level Waste Tank grouting;
- 4. *Expand areas of agreement, clarify differences, and explore ways to establish mutually agreed upon recommendations among the Task Force Members;***
 - ! Get the site at least to “brownfields” status [3 dots];
 - ! Possible CTF support for NYSERDA lawsuit [4 dots];
 - ! Explore/re-evaluate CTF effectiveness and how to improve it [1 dot];
 - ! “Future land use” - stay on focus [1 dot];
- 5. *Enhance public involvement in the decision-making process;***
 - ! Have federal (Congressional) officials attend a CTF meeting [6 dots];
 - ! Revisit Remediation Act legislation [5 dots];
 - ! Develop press release process with prior consensus from full CTF (streamline press release process) [4 dots];
 - ! Seek/continue to receive letters of support from municipal boards [3 dots];
- 6. *Coordinate with regulators.***
 - ! Push for EPA’s Region II’s proposal for cleanup of the North Plateau facilities [6 dots];
 - ! Set up a meeting with EPA on EPA’s goals for North Plateau closure [4 dots];
 - ! Set up a meeting with NRC on that agencies position/role for protection of the public [2 dots].