

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: February 19, 2013
Subject: **Summary of the January 23, 2013 Meeting**

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM, March 27, 2013**
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219
West Valley, NY

Note: Participants must be U.S. citizens and have photo identification. Please contact Bill Logue (860-521-9122, Bill@LogueGroup.com) with questions or comments concerning this summary or future meetings.

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Deb Aumick*, Chris Crawford*, Rob Dallas, Chris Gerwitz, Mike Hutchinson, Steve Kowalski*, Kathy McGoldrick, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Warren Schmidt, Bill Snyder, Ray Vaughan*.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Martin Krenz.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Tom Attridge, Paul Bembia, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon, Allyson Zipp*.

CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWV): Lynette Bennett, Charles Biedermann, Dan Coyne, John Rendall.

Observers: Diane D'Arrigo*, Rick Miller, Barbara Warren*.

Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting materials.¹ He introduced back-up facilitator Loraine Della Porta.

CTF Meeting with DOE in Washington

The upcoming meeting of a group of CTF members and DOE Environmental Management (EM) leadership was discussed. The meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2013 from 11:00 AM to noon. Bryan Bower of DOE suggested that any materials for the meeting be provided at least 24 hours in advance. Mr. Bower suggested to the CTF that they should be explicit about and frame the “ask”. The CTF discussed the message they wanted to convey concerning project funding and also discussed what information they were seeking regarding the impact on the project of reduced funding. Questions raised included:

- 1) What are the environmental impacts?
- 2) Will the Scope of Work be reduced?
- 3) What is the economic impact?

Mr. Bower stated that DOE will be able to provide some answers through various scenarios once the budget is finalized. He stated that, with reductions, the scope is not likely to change – the question is how much longer the project will take and how much more it will cost. DOE has not looked at economic impact.

¹ Each is listed at the end of this summary and may be found at www.westvalleyctf.org under 2012 Meeting Materials.

*Participated by telephone.

A question was raised by the CTF about what the cost is to “de-mobilize” work as a result of reductions. The response was that there is a cost associated with it and once DOE gets a budget – they will provide more information. Mr. Bower noted that, generally, budgets are known far enough in advance that work is not mobilized when there is budget uncertainty – so de-mobilization is usually not an issue.

Later in the meeting the group returned to the “ask” of DOE. Several members stated that funding should be at \$75-85 million range and the CTF should be firm on this because it was a premise of the CTF in supporting a phased approach. Others noted that budget cuts should be equitable – WVDP was the only project to receive a 25% cut. The CTF agreed that this point needs to be made to DOE in Washington.

Mr. Bower explained that DOE can maintain “min-safe” with reduced funding but at the expense of not completing clean up work. Mr. Coyne explained that DOE had asked CH2MHill B&W to look at three scenarios for performing work at a lower funding level. Each scenario presented had no environmental impact. Mr. Logue will work with Mr. Gerwitz and Mr. Pfeffer to help shape the material that will be brought to Washington, DC. Mr. Pfeffer will take the lead in drafting and Mr. Logue will provide the background material. The group agreed that the letter and the graphic previously created were good.

The CTF group traveling to Washington is trying to schedule a meeting with the congressional delegation to discuss the impact of recent and potential future funding cuts at the WVDP. This effort is being coordinated through Congressman Reed’s office.

ECA/ECOS Meeting Update

A conference was held in New Orleans in December 2012 of the Energy Communities Alliance and Environmental Council of the States. John Pfeffer attended on behalf of the Town of Ashford and reported that two major topics were discussed: 1) Tanks leaking at Hanford and 2) Everyone is looking for funding. Mr. Bower and Mr. Bembia also attended the conference. They agreed it was a good meeting and an opportunity for “peer exchange”. Participants were able to see DOE online planning tools. Mr. Bower stated the current planning tool only has a certain number of options for WVDP and DOE is in the process of adding another scenario (a \$60 million budget scenario will be added). Mr. Bower advised the CTF that if they wanted to see additional scenarios added to the planning tool to let him know.

Mr. Bower noted that there is limited funding and any increase for WVDP means a decrease for another site. It was suggested that the Full Cost Accounting Study is a source of information on future costs. Mr. Bembia stated that a theme at the conference was funding is an issue at all sites and DOE’s message about funding has not been hopeful. At some sites, DOE may request that compliance agreements be re-negotiated if they are unable to meet their obligations. Mr. Bembia stated it was good that a CTF delegation was meeting with DOE EM leadership. Mr. Pfeffer concurred, and stated there is limited funding and no expectation that funding will increase at bigger sites.

Another topic at the conference was the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future. There is a lot of interest in addressing the issue of a permanent repository for high-level waste (HLW). Several communities are exploring hosting interim storage sites (Carlsbad, NM and the state of Idaho). In addition, the DOE Energy Parks initiative was a conference topic.

Phase I Studies Update

Lee Gordon from NYSERDA reported that the Quarterly Public Meeting (QPM) would be held on February 27, 2013. He provided an update on the Phase I Studies process.

Erosion Working Group. Mr. Gordon noted that the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) review was complete. He elaborated that the Erosion Working Group (EWG) began a year ago and in July 2012, recommendations for Phase I Studies were submitted (see slides). He further noted that on September 13, 2012, stakeholders and regulators provided input and on January 12, 2013, the ISP review of EWG recommendations was submitted. DOE and NYSERDA will evaluate the ISP's review as well as stakeholder and regulator input of the EWG recommendations and make decisions about the path forward. Information can be found on the Phase 1 Studies website and will be a topic at the February 27th QPM.

Mr. Gordon reported that the **Engineered Barriers Working Group** kicked off in July 2012 and was finalizing their recommendations. He further reported that the **Exhumation Working Group** had kicked off its work on October 3, 2012 and was continuing to work on its recommendations.

Mr. Gordon gave an overview of the Phase 1 Studies website. The site provides study area updates and also has an "auto update" feature where people can register to receive notice of changes. The site also contains stakeholder comments and responses, public meeting materials and project background documents.

Project Update

Dan Coyne of CHBWW gave a project update (see slides).

Safety. Mr. Coyne stated CHBWW has worked 514 days without a lost-time work accident or illness. Including work prior to CHBWW's contract, there have been more than 4.8 million hours without a lost-time work accident or illness. He also provided an overview of the annual two-day safety training provided for 105 employees.

Milestone 1. Mr. Coyne reviewed Milestone 1 accomplishments. He stated work continues on the HLW Canister Project to move the canisters from the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB). The HLW storage system is at 50% design review. In response to a question, Mr. Coyne stated that once results are available, CHBWW could present to the CTF. CTF members asked if consideration had been given to the visual appearance of the storage system. He responded that the snow fence would not look nice but they were considering security requirements and asked the CTF to inform CHBWW if there was something the community wanted to see done on the site. He stated CHBWW was open to talking about creative ideas that could be implemented without "breaking the bank". Mr. Bower added that DOE did not ask the contractor to make it aesthetically pleasing – so if the CTF wants something done – it should bring it to DOE and DOE will in turn approach the contractor. CTF member stated that with regard to aesthetics, it is often dependent on how long something will be in place at the site. If something will be on-site for six months that might be OK – but if it will be there for 50 years, aesthetics become important. It was noted that the CTF relies on the contractor for information about how long things will remain on site. It was agreed that it would be good to use the March meeting for an in-depth discussion of fences, berms, etc.

Waste removal activities continued in the Equipment Decontamination Room and Chemical Process Cell.

· www.westvalleyphaseonestudies.org

Milestones 2 & 3. Mr. Coyne provided an overview of Milestone 2 & 3 accomplishments (see slides). For planned legacy waste shipment: Low-level Waste (LLW) is 34% complete, mixed LLW 25% complete, industrial and hazardous waste 100% complete. A variety of other work continues in completing continues in completing the processing of the 3C-2 Dissolver, planning for the processing of the 3C-1 Dissolver, sampling and processing of LLW, and evaluating disposal paths for waste containers.

Preparations continue for demolition of the MPPB and Vitrification Facility including removal of piping, ceilings grids, lighting and isolation of utility lines. He gave the status of the demolition process of the 01-14 building where they are presently completing Stage 1 of the work at the northwest corner of the 01-14 building. He also noted how 01-14 will look once Stage 2 of the demolition is completed around the end of April 2013. He concluded review of the milestones by noting the work on the balance of site facilities.

Mr. Coyne gave an overview of regulatory compliance. NYSDEC approved the RCRA closure of the Hazardous Waste Storage Lockers in November 2012. A solar powered sampler is being designed for the NDA runoff diversion channel. There were no reportable spills for the past quarter and Petroleum Spill Report was submitted to NYSDEC on January 3, 2013. A Regulatory Roundtable was held on November 15, 2012. Mr. Coyne further noted that CHBWV continues to conduct ambient air monitoring in support of the 01-14 demolition.

Mr. Coyne discussed the CHBWV contract. He explained that it is a performance-based contract that is incentivized for safe and effective completion of the four major milestones. Mr. Coyne further explained that DOE provides oversight of CHBWV's work, but the actual execution strategy for the work is determined by CHBWV. DOE does not tell them how to do the work.

A CTF member asked about funding reduction, specifically, how those decisions are made and by whom. Mr. Bower explained the contracting strategy. He stated that DOE tries to determine how long something will take and then decides how long the contract can be extended. Mr. Bower continued that sometimes, the decision can be made to "peel off" a piece of work. He explained that if the contract scope is reduced, DOE would consider what scope could be reduced from the contract and how that scope could ultimately be completed. He said, for example, that DOE might look for scope that could be done by a small business. He stated decisions are based on what ultimately provides the highest value to the taxpayer based upon the funding profile.

Results from Annual Survey

Mr. Logue distributed the draft annual summary of accomplishments. He explained that in prior years, a different kind of chart had been utilized but due to the late arrival of some surveys, he improvised and the revised version will be sent to the CTF. He pointed out that answers have been pretty consistent from year-to-year. There continues to be frustration with respect to constituent outreach. He suggested that part of the next meeting be devoted to addressing that issue. Mr. Bower and Mr. Bembia are available to present to groups on request. The idea of creating a "dashboard" was raised again.

The survey indicates a desire for better coordination with regulatory agencies. He noted that the feedback for him as the facilitator indicated they could use more assistance in dealing with "difficult issues". Mr. Logue stated he would welcome any input from the group and encouraged the CTF and others to provide him with feedback in "real time" (during a break, after or between a meeting).

Meeting Attendance. Mr. Logue reviewed CTF attendance for the prior year and noted that some CTF members had attended less than the 50% of meetings required by CTF's Ground Rules. Individuals were then asked whether they wished to continue to serve. All agreed that members all continue. Mr. Logue will distinguish on the attendance sheet between attendance at regular meetings and QPMs.

Planning for 2013. Mr. Logue asked for suggestions on format for future meetings and none was immediately provided. After discussion the group agreed that on some issues it would be useful to have a presentation at one meeting and then reserve time at the subsequent meeting for questions and discussion after time for reflection. Topics suggested for upcoming meetings included:

- Invite the town of Ashford to present and discuss thoughts about future site use with respect to the Asset Revitalization Initiative.
- Discussion of Phase 2 decision and implications for studies, information needed by CTF and relationship to information developed through Phase 1 Studies (e.g., exhumation options).
- Several CTF members have been invited by Cort Richardson of the Council of State Governments Northeastern Office to participate in panel at the DOE National Transportation Stakeholders (NTSF) Meeting on May 14 – 16 in Buffalo. The response and who might attend should be a topic for the March meeting.
- Demonstration of the groundwater erosion modeling tool.

Mr. Bower, Mr. Bembia and Mr. Coyne encouraged the CTF to suggest topics that would be helpful to them as they consider feedback to the agencies on Phase 1 and Phase 2 activities and studies. As part of the discussion, it was noted that if a NEPA decision is made by 2020, planning will need to start about three years in advance (or by 2017).

Observer Comments

In response to questions from observers Mr. Logue clarified the different meetings discussed which included 1) the pending February CTF delegation to Washington to meet with DOE EM leadership, 2) the December ECA/ECOS meeting/conference attended by the town of Ashford and the agencies, and 3) the planned NTSF meeting in May to which a number of CTF members have been invited.

Observers were reminded of the opportunity to submit questions and suggestions to the agencies via email through the contact information on the Phase 1 Studies Website.

Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Draft Materials for Washington meeting	Pfeffer/Logue; 2/1/2013

Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 1/23/2013
Phase 1 Studies Update	NYSERDA; 1/23/2013
WVDP Project Update	CHBWV; 1/23/2013
News Clipping Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 1/23/2013