

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue & Loraine Della Porta*, Citizen Task Force Facilitators
Date: October 11, 2013
Subject: **Summary of the September 25, 2013 Meeting**

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be: October 23, 2013

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM**
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

Rob Dallas, Mike Hutchinson, Lee James, Deb John, Lee Lambert, Kathy McGoldrick, Joe Patti, Bill Snyder, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers. Eric Lawton Superintendent of West Valley Central School.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Ben Underwood*.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Paul Bembia, Elizabeth Lowes, Andrea Mellon, Allyson Zipp*.

CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV): Dan Coyne, Cindy Dayton, Heatherly Dukes, John Rendall, Bill Schaab.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Patrick Concannon, Ken Martin.

Observers: Diane D'Arrigo*, Barbara Frackiewicz, Rick Miller, Paul Siepierski, Dan Tevlock.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹ and reiterated the protocols for web participants. Paul Bembia informed the CTF that Tom Attridge would be retiring. Tom was the lead contact at NYSERDA for the CTF since its inception. Bill Logue informed the CTF that Steve Kowalski would no longer be representing the West Valley Central School. Lee Lambert volunteered to draft letters of appreciation to Tom and Steve. Paul Bembia informed the CTF that the Franks Creek Erosion Mitigation Project would be complete within several days and NYSERDA would report on it soon.

PROJECT UPDATE

Dan Coyne of CHBWV presented a project update.

MPPB & Vitrification Facility. The Main Process Plant Building (MPPB) deactivation and asbestos abatement is complete in the Analytical Lab Aisle and Laundry. Liquid Waste Cell interference removal is complete. Deactivation work continues in the Upper Warm Aisle, Hot Cells and Plant Office. High-hazard areas characterization continues. In the Vit Facility the Out-of-Service piping systems in the Operating Aisles are deactivated and clean out continues of materials and debris.

¹ Each is listed at the end of this summary and may be found at www.westvalleyctf.org under 2013 Meeting Materials.

*Participated by telephone.

Balance of Site Facilities. Demolition and waste load out is complete for the Waste Tank Farm Test Tower. Demolition of the 01-14 Building with RCRA closure sampling and soil cover placement complete. The New Cooling Tower is on the ground. In the coming week demolition will occur for the Vit Hill trailers and Expanded Environmental Lab.

Waste Operations. The waste shipping campaign under Milestone 2 of the contract continues. Mr. Coyne distinguished between legacy waste packaged under prior contractors and newly generated waste, such as from the 01-14 Building, generated under the CHBWV contract. He then reviewed the volumes and percentage completion of waste shipments: Repackaging in the Waste processing Area with 113 drums completed and 64 B-25 boxes. Legacy waste shipments to date are 54,998 ft³ of Low-Level Waste (LLW), 1,615 ft³ of Mixed LLW (MLLW), 120 ft³ of hazardous waste and 976 ft³ of industrial waste. Newly generated waste shipments completed: 211 ft³ hazardous/universal waste ft³, 67,865 ft³ of industrial waste, 69,865 ft³ of LLW, and 596 ft³ of MLLW. The Vitrification components are being prepared for off-site shipment and disposal with the grout recipe being prepared and a Request for Proposals (RFP) for transport issued. Vendors will propose the shipment method. Trucking to a West Seneca/Bufalo area for further rail shipping is likely.

Six-Month Look Ahead. In the next six months CHBWV plans the following work: complete HLW storage pad construction; prepare melter and components for shipping; complete low-dose transuranic drum removal from Chemical Process Cell; commence Vitrification Cell decontamination; and conduct pre-demolition and initiate demolition activities for seven site facilities. Mr. Bower clarified that “low dose” transuranic waste coming from the Chemical Process Cell was less than 80 R/hour and is remote handled.

Storage Pad. Mr. Coyne noted that in excavating for the HLW Storage Pad some low-dose contaminated asphalt was found in the spoil pile and pit. Work was stopped and the contaminated soil and asphalt was placed in five intermodal boxes for shipping and disposal. Independent readings at the pit bottom confirmed that the area was ready for fill and pad construction. He noted that the county has placed signs to advise the public of increased truck traffic.

Discussion. A CTF member asked if there was risk from roof leaks entering contaminated areas and spreading contamination through groundwater. Mr. Coyne stated no leaks have been in the affected areas and that when a leak is observed radiological control techs are called.

HIGH LEVEL WASTE CANISTER RELOCATION AND STORAGE PROJECT UPDATE

Heatherly Dukes of CHBWV provided an update of the HLW Canister Relocation and Storage Project. She reviewed the High-Level Waste (HLW) to be relocated from the MPPB to the Storage Pad. The technical approach calls for the a multi-purpose canister (MPC) to be place inside a vertical storage cask (VSC), and the MPC/VSC combination to be moved into either the Vitrification Facility (VF) or the Chemical Process Cell (CPC). In either the VF or the CPC, surface contamination will be removed from the HLW canister, and 5 HLW canisters will loaded into each MPC within a VSC, a lid remotely welded on and the MPC/VSC transported to the pad for storage until they are shipped for disposal. The MPC/VSCs will be transported with specialized tuggers that only lift them 6” off the ground reducing risk. The tuggers are operated remotely with a spotter.

When ready for shipment, the MPC would be removed from the VSC and the MPC would be placed into a Shipping Cask. CHBWV and DOE are obtaining an NRC HLW Certificate of Compliance (CoC) for the MPC/Shipping Cask configuration thereby making them ready for shipping to a national repository once one is licensed. Mr. Bower noted that the CoC approach would be beneficial not only for WVDP but also for the entire DOE complex and could result in significant costs savings. The CoC would be issued in approximately November 2014.

Ms. Dukes noted that it may be possible to allow a lower level of decontamination of the canisters prior to placement within an MPC because the MPC would be licensed and would not need to be reopened. The concept is called "operational decontamination". The vitrified glass form meets the 23" drop requirement for licensure but that leak rate and Quality Assurance/Quality Control aspects need to be documented. Ms. Dukes also noted that the canister decontamination was not for shipping purposes but for ALARA handling purposes. Canister dose rates requirements are currently 2,200 DPM gross alpha and 22,000/cm² for beta and gamma. Decontamination methods being analyzed are CO₂, serum nitrate, water, air, degreasers and vacuum. The most appropriate method is determined by the level of decontamination prescribed by DOE orders on waste acceptance specifications.

NAC International (NAC) has designed the HLW storage system. Their scope of work includes the pad design and storage cask design, fabrication and delivery of the MPCs and 56 storage casks. NAC will provide the equipment for in-facility transport, MPC lid welding and fixture lifting, and equipment for and transport of the loaded storage casks to the storage pad. NAC will also provide data and analysis to support the design and safety analysis as well as training and mock-up support. Butler Construction Co. - a local company - is building the pad.

Ms. Dukes reviewed two options being evaluated for moving the canisters through the MPPB. The options differ with regard to the location (Vitrification Facility or Chemical Process Cell (CPC)) and method (e.g. water, steam, vacuum) for remote decontamination. There are advantages, disadvantages and differences in costs associated with each option. The option with decontamination in the CPC is most likely to be selected. In response to a question, Mr. Bower noted that canisters in Savannah River and Hanford were moved to clean storage so those sites do not have this issue.

Ongoing activities: the miscellaneous waste in the CPC has been cleaned out and waste is being moved out of the Equipment Decontamination Room (EDR). In the CPC 44 of 80 waste drums have been removed and 16-20 have been moved from the racks for preparation for removal. Methods for canister decontamination were tested and contractor proposals have been evaluated. DOE and CHBWV may enter future discussions about whether aspects of the decontamination are within the scope of the existing contract or an addition.

The North Parking Lot area is being readied for fabrication of the VSCs. Eight should be constructed in the next three months. The EDR design and modification is 90% complete and includes floor loading upgrades in the soaking pit area. The procurement awards are complete for the eight MPCs and eight VSC liners.

The design of the storage pad has been completed. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan was submitted to NYSDEC. Geotechnical sampling was completed to learn the weight requirements of the roadway from the MPPB to the pad area. Subsurface soil characterization, hydrologic and hydraulic testing for the pad is

complete.

Ms. Dukes reviewed the Storage Pad features. The excavation is up to 15 feet deep which will be backfilled and the concrete pad 3' thick and 144'x110' plus approach pads poured with construction complete by November. Each loaded MPC will weigh ~175,000 lbs. and the pad has a 50-year design life. Ms. Dukes reiterated the points made by Mr. Coyne concerning the contaminated asphalt noting that the CHBWW, DOE and the independent SEC radiation teams verified that the pit was at background levels prior to beginning fill. NYSDEC, EPA and NRC were notified.

In response to a question Ms. Dukes stated that Butler Construction was selected based on best value to the government from multiple qualified and two competitive bidders. Approximately 800 trucks will bring ~11,700 yds³ of fill to the site over a 7-10 day period. They will enter at the South Gate and leave through the Construction gate next to the Main Gate. When concrete is poured trucks will arrive every 3-6 minutes.

Ms. Dukes provided a project look ahead and project schedule for major tasks: Evaluate and award procurement for the design and fabrication of the decontamination system, automatic welding system for the MPCs, engineering and construction for the MPPB structural floor modifications; cask fabrication start-up; characterization/grouting of the soaking pit; submittal of the waste compliance plan; EDR floor core borings; haul road upgrades; and deliveries of the eight cask liners (Oct 2013), materials for the eight MPCs (Dec 2013), the TL220 transporter (Apr 2014), and the transport of the A-frame and tugger (Apr 2014). Major tasks projected schedules included the construction of the storage pad (Nov 2013); obtaining of Documented Safety Analysis approval- DOE Safety Evaluation Report (Dec 2013); obtaining NRC Certificate of Compliance for shipping HLW (Nov 2014); Approved start of transfers – operations (Sep 2016); and completion of the relocation of canisters/SNF Debris/etc. (Jun 2018)

CTF DISCUSSION

At a previous meeting the CTF asked Bill Logue to conduct outreach concerning membership. Eric Lawton, Superintendent of the West Valley Central School introduced himself and joined the CTF at the table. He stated that he would be asking a member of the School Board to serve as its representative to the CTF. If no one is able, he will serve. Bill Logue reported that he had met with Mary Reid, PhD., an epidemiologist specializing in cancers of the lung, head and neck, on the faculty in the Department of Medicine at Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Dr. Reid is willing to serve but cannot make the October meeting due to prior commitments. The CTF agreed that she be added as a member.

Bill Logue reported on a conversation regarding CTF advocacy for funding he had with Drew Wayne, Congressman Tom Reed's legislative staff person in Washington, DC. Mr. Wayne noted that Congressman Reed recognizes the good work being accomplished at WVDP. Continuing budget resolutions with implementation of sequestration are likely for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014. In brief, Mr. Wayne encouraged the CTF to continue working productively with DOE as they develop the budget. Within Congress he suggested that the CTF focus on outreach to leadership and members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water and to other House members, such as Congressman Ed Whitfield of Kentucky and the Washington delegation who have DOE sites in their district and sit on other relevant committees. To the extent sites can work together to improve the top line funding for DOE Environmental Management cleanup funding it will help. He emphasized the need to have the CTF make the case for WVDP funding on the

merits of good work accomplishing the cleanup and increasing safety and saving long-term costs. He cautioned against any advocacy that would denigrate the work at other DOE cleanup sites. Lastly, he offered to coordinate Congressional meeting with appropriations subcommittee staff.

Mr. Bower reminded the CTF that DOE is always working on three budgets: the current fiscal year (FY '13), the passage of the upcoming fiscal year (FY '14) and the planning for the fiscal year following that (FY '15).

Various CTF members noted the need for continued funding advocacy and the linkage to accomplishing work in a timely fashion. Mr. Bower stated that, if the CTF made a specific request, DOE could run scenarios of work that could be performed at various funding levels. Lee Lambert and Joe Patti committed to work on a funding letter. Bill Logue will assist them.

Other Business. Ray Vaughan noted that the New York Geological Association had met at Fredonia College and Paul Bemba, Lee Gordon and Chris Andrzejewski of NYSERDA hosted a field trip to the site. Mr. Bower informed the CTF that Alice Williams, a former WVDP Director, is retiring from DOE.

Future Meeting Topics. The following topics were suggested for future meetings: an explanation of probabilistic and deterministic risk assessment; an overview of remaining waste areas and issues involved in each; CTF outreach presentation; railroad overview; CHBWV Scope of Work.

OBSERVER COMMENTS

An observer inquired if NYSERDA was going to submit testimony on the Proposed NRC Waste Confidence Rule. Mr. Bemba stated that NYSERDA was reviewing this and would determine whether or not to submit comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Action	Who; Date
Letters to Attridge and Kowalski	Lambert/Logue; TBD
Letters re funding	Lambert/Patti/Logue; TBD

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 9/25/2013
WVDP Project Update	CHBWV; 9/25/2013
HLW Canister Relocation Update	CHBWV; 9/25/2013
HLW Canister Relocation and HLW Storage Pad Fact Sheets	CHBWV
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 9/25/2013