

West Valley Citizen Task Force

Summary of Accomplishments – 2013

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the accomplishments, activities, attendance and 2013 year-end survey results for the West Valley Citizen Task Force. This summary is intended to be an aid to discussion and decision-making for 2014. Listed first are the accomplishments for the year. Following that is an analysis of attendance for the year.

Meetings, Presentations and Other Accomplishments

During 2013 the CTF accomplished the following:

- Seven CTF meetings were held. The CTF continued to forgo four meetings in favor of the Quarterly Public Meetings being scheduled on the days the CTF meeting would traditionally have been held. A number of CTF members attended the Quarterly Public Meetings and these are factored into CTF attendance.
- Conducted outreach to the Congressional representatives, primarily concerning funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), this included a small delegation of CTF members traveling to Washington DC to meet with Congressman Tom Reed, New York and House Appropriation Committee Congressional Staff and senior leadership at the Department of Energy. This was following up several months later with an informal dinner meeting with Mr. David Huizenga, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management at DOE.
- Topics of presentations and discussions at CTF meetings included:
 - Phase 1 Studies Process. (Multiple updates and presentations.)
 - DOE/CHBWV Project updates. (Multiple updates and presentations.)
 - DOE Budget updates. (Multiple updates and presentations.)
 - Reports on attendance by DOE, NYSERDA and the Town of Ashford at the Energy Communities Alliance/Environmental Council of the State conference.
 - State-Licensed Disposal Area – Leachate Levels.
 - Cattaraugus County replacement of Thomas Corners Road Bridge.
 - Tank and Vault Drying System operation and results.
 - NYSERDA update on Frank's Creek erosion control measures.
 - High Level Waste Canister Relocation and Storage Project. (Multiple updates and presentations.)
 - Permeable Treatment Wall performance update.
 - Air Monitoring Program Update.
 - Discussions of CTF outreach process.
 - Utilization of Supplemental FY 2013 Funding.
- One Agenda Work Group Conference call was held.
- An ad hoc work group on outreach was formed to begin development of an outreach presentation.
- Website maintenance and updates continued throughout the year and a new site will be ready in 2014.

Correspondence Sent & Received

The following correspondence was sent by the CTF in 2013:

- February 10, 2013 CTF comment letter on Draft DOE/EA-1919 Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Recycle of Scrap Metal Originating from Radiological Areas.
- April 16, 2013 Letter to congressional Staff thanking them for February meeting.
- April 16 Letter to Congressman Reed thanking him for February Meeting.
- April 16, 2013 Letter the DOE Senior Advisor of Environmental Management David Huizenga thanking him for February meeting.
- July 17, 2013 letter to Congressmen Reed and Higgins for efforts in restoring funding to Non-Defense Environmental Management.

The following correspondence was received by the CTF in 2013:

- Copy of February 11, 2013 West Valley Central School Resolution on Funding.
- Copy of Erie County Legislature March 7, 2013 Resolution on WVDP Funding.

All correspondence is available on the CTF website at www.westvalleyctf.org on the 2013 meeting materials page.

Press Coverage

Numerous press articles and coverage directly and/or indirectly mentioned the West Valley Demonstration Project and the CTF. These articles are available with the materials for each meeting on the website at www.westvalleyctf.org.

Membership and Attendance

Long time CTF member Warren Schmidt passed away during the year. Steve Kowalski stepped down as the representative for the West Valley Central School and was replaced by Superintendent Eric Lawton. Late in the year Dr. Mary Reid of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute accepted the invitation to join the CTF and will begin attending meetings in 2014. Tom Attridge, Project Manager for NYSERDA and liaison for the CTF with NYSERDA since the group was formed, retired.

The CTF reviewed the attendance for the year and asked the Facilitator to reach out to members with low attendance to assess their interest in continuing to serve.

Year-end Survey

An online survey was distributed to members and alternates as of the end of the year. The survey was completed by 13 of the 15 members and alternates who received it. (The survey was sent to members or their alternate when the alternate is the regular/de facto attendee for the member.) The survey was replicated from the prior year's survey. A parallel survey was completed by 10 representatives of DOE, NYSERDA and CHBWV. Answers were based on a scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree with an opportunity for open responses. Prior year survey summaries indicated the number of responses, the average score of those responses and a standard deviation representing the range of variation among answers. Due to time constraints with responses, this year the answers are depicted in simple column charts. The survey results are attached.

West Valley CTF 2013 Evaluation

Analysis of Responses

Multiple Choice

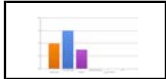
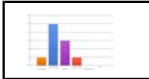
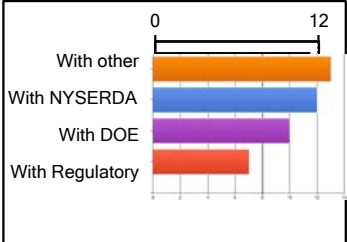
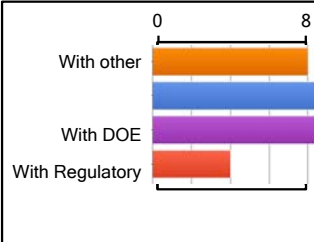
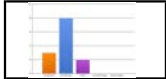
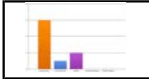

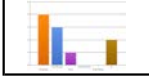
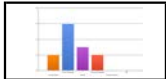
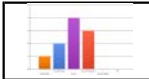
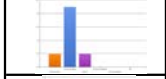
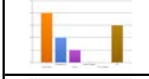
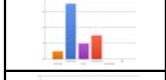
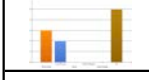
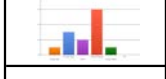
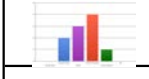


Section / Question	Members Responses	Agencies Responses
CTF PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION		
1 I am comfortable asking questions and speaking candidly about issues in the CTF process.	13	10
2 I am comfortable working with other CTF participants and discussing issues of concern with them.	13	10
The CTF is appropriately addressing its objectives as specified in the Ground Rules by:		
3 Providing a forum for open discussion of related issues by community representatives.	13	10
4 Identifying and understanding the various interests of the community and other interested parties.	13	10
5 Increasing the flow of information between DOE, NYSDERDA and the Task Force Members (and their constituencies).	13	10
6 Expanding areas of agreement, clarifying differences, and exploring ways to establish mutually agreed upon recommendations among the Task Force Members.	13	10
7 Enhancing public involvement in the decision-making process.	13	10
8 Coordinating with regulators.	12	10
9 Other comments on process and participation:	2 See Attached	0

Members

Agencies

Section / Question		Responses	Responses
CTF FACILITATOR			
10	The facilitator helps the CTF participants engage in the process.	13	10
11	The facilitator helps the CTF manage time well.	13	10
12	The facilitator has reached out to understand my interests, issues and concerns.	13	10
13	The facilitator is open to feedback and suggestions.	13	10
14	The facilitator understands the key issues and is prepared for meetings.	13	10
15	The facilitator upholds the ground rules and works in an impartial manner.	13	10
16	The facilitator helps the CTF deal with difficult issues in a constructive manner.	13	10
17	Other comments or suggestions for the CTF facilitator:	4	0
CTF MEETINGS			
18	The presentations provided by agency staff meet the information needs of the CTF participants.	13	10
19	The format of the CTF meetings provides for open discussion of the key issues.	13	10
20	Other comments or suggestions on CTF meetings:	2	0

Section / Question	Members	Agencies																
	Responses	Responses																
CTF EFFECTIVENESS																		
21 The CTF is an effective voice for the surrounding community.	13 	10 																
22 The CTF process provides a full and balanced exchange of views, information and advice: (Check all that apply)	 <table border="1"> <tr><td>With other</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>With NYSERDA</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>With DOE</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>With Regulatory</td><td>5</td></tr> </table>	With other	12	With NYSERDA	11	With DOE	9	With Regulatory	5	 <table border="1"> <tr><td>With other</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>With NYSERDA</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>With DOE</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>With Regulatory</td><td>4</td></tr> </table>	With other	8	With NYSERDA	8	With DOE	8	With Regulatory	4
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With NYSERDA	8																	
With DOE	8																	
With Regulatory	4																	
23 I am able to provide input on significant issues in a timely manner.	13 	9 																
24 I have developed positive relationships with the other CTF participants.	13 	10 																
CTF OUTREACH																		
25 The CTF is effective at sharing information with members' constituents and the community.	13 	10 																
26 I keep my constituents informed of the CTF developments and issues.	13 	10 																
27 I participate in the WVDP Quarterly Public Meetings to keep current on the issues.	13 	10 																
28 The local community understands the issues being addressed by the CTF.	13 	10 																
29 Other comments or suggestions concerning CTF outreach:	3 See Attached	0																
GENERAL																		
30 General comments and thoughts:	1 See Attached	0																

Open Ended Questions

- Q 9 Other comments on process and participation:**
- 1 The core CTF group works well together and addressing any concerns or issues as they may arise.
 - 2 I am not sure we are getting the whole picture, which makes a difference in the questions we might ask.
- Q 17 Other comments or suggestions for the CTF facilitator:**
- 1 Overall great job.
 - 2 Bill does a wonderful job of keeping the conversation and discussions going in the appropriate direction. He is good at steering back to the topic and holding it to another meeting if the topic warrants additional time.
 - 3 He needs to be sure to pick up the threads of questions, get answers and relate them to all a.s.a.p.
 - 4 Excellent job Bill
- Q 20 Other comments or suggestions on CTF meetings:**
- 1 re # 18, I often wonder if we are hearing all we need to hear in order to understand the complexity and make valid comments and/or suggestions.
 - 2 some topics need more time for discussion
- Q 29 Other comments or suggestions concerning CTF outreach:**
- 1 Outreach continues to be an important role and challenge. We can and should do more, and we need to keep finding ways to keep the public informed on issues that tend to be long-lived and slow-moving.
 - 2 Don't have an answer for this, the biggest problem: how to reach out adequately to our constituents and the community as a whole.
 - 3 Outreach is difficult, discussing issues at public meetings through the municipality that I represent helps. Holding special public meetings with agency presenters helps (although they are usually poorly attended). Keeping local elected officials informed helps. I still feel like we . . . I need to do more outreach since many people still have a general lack of knowledge surrounding this area.
- Q 30 General comments and thoughts:**
- 1 It's been an interesting experience, but needs fine-tuning to reach out to all the people who need to know about the site, and take part in decision-making.

Please note: response number does not correlate from to same responder from one question to another.