

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: October 10, 2018
Subject: **Summary of the September 12, 2018 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: **October 24, 2018 at 6:30 PM**
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219
West Valley, NY

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Deb Aumick, Rob Dallas, Clyde Drake, Barbara Frackiewicz, Heidi Hartley, Lee James*, Paul Kranz, Kathy McGoldrick, Tony Memmo, Joe Patti, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers, Tim Zerfas.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Marty Krentz, Moira Maloney, Audrey Seeley.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Paul Bembia, Janice Dean*, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon, Noah Shaw*.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV): Joe Pillittere.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC): Mark Roberts, Katherine Warner.

Neptune and Company: Sean McCandless*.

Public: Bonnie Lawrence (Erie County), Joanna Panasiewicz (Erie County), Barbara Warren*. **Facilitator:** Loraine Della Porta*.

Introductions, Announcements, Administrative Business

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹. Mr. Bembia distributed a letter from Janice Dean of NYSERDA to NRC concerning discussions clarifying NYSERDA authority under the site license. Congressman Reed's office informed the CTF that the Conference Report of the FY19 Energy and Water, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Legislative Branch Appropriations Bills has been finalized. The West Valley Demonstration Project is funded at \$75M, level funding from FY18 despite the President requesting a \$15M cut. Mr. Bower noted that, in addition to this, there is approximately \$3M of funding for Safeguards and Security. Scott Anderson has been promoted to President and General Manager of CHBWV. Tom Dogal is the acting Deputy General Manager.

During the afternoon, CTF members visited the site and heard information concerning the landslide and dam spillway areas and erosion control measures for Erdman Brook. They then visited and received brief presentations at the High-Level Waste (HLW) Storage Pad, Main Plant Process Building (MPPB), Waste Tank Farm, Remote-Handled Waste Facility and demolition area for the Vitrification Facility.

CHBWV Project Update

Joe Pillittere of CHBWV presented a project update.

Safety. The 12-month average for Total Recordable Cases for August is 1.32 and Days Away, Restrictions, Transfers is 0.00.

Milestone 1. Relocation of the High-Level Waste (HLW) canisters to long-term interim storage is complete. (This will no longer be addressed in the meeting summaries.)

Milestone 2 - Legacy Waste. Legacy Waste shipment was completed on September 6 and included: more than 200 shipments to offsite disposal facilities or 1,750 containers/180,000 cubic feet of waste; more than 100

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

* Participated by telephone.

containers or 32,620 cubic feet of waste removed from an onsite storage facility that is scheduled to be demolished; 246 remote-handled waste drums removed from the MPPB, which is scheduled for demolition, and placed into long-term storage; safe loading and offsite disposal of 195-ton Vitrification Facility Melter, 167-ton Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank, and 150-ton Melter Feed Hold Tank; and successful processing and repackaging of several large pieces of Main Plant equipment (2 Dissolvers, Separator, and Reboiler) and over 125 smaller Transuranic waste containers.

Deactivation Progress Under Milestone 3. The Vitrification Facility demolition continues and is 90% complete. Phase 3 is ongoing with removal of the Crane Maintenance Room (CMR) Shield Door, Transfer Tunnel Door (complete) and three transfer cranes and equipment complete. Work is ongoing on the Secondary Filter Room roof and Transfer Tunnel walls and roof. Remaining work should be complete in September. It is anticipated that approximately 377 intermodals of waste will be shipped rather than the 450 planned. Generally, two are shipped per day. As of the meeting date 272 intermodals had been loaded and 255 shipped. Mr. Pillittere displayed pictures showing the various phases of Vit demolition between September 2017 and September 2018.

The MPPB deactivation is 92% complete. Six crews continue to remove asbestos containing material and deactivate radiological areas. The Vent Exhaust Cell the temporary filters were removed and fixative applied. Process Mechanical Cell Room fixative application is complete. Conducted Vent Washroom initial entry to remove large excess tools and equipment and obtain radiological dose surveys of the area and scrubber unit. Completed waste removal and packaging of loose tools, equipment and supplies from the Chemical Process Cell and crane room. Planned completion is November 2018.

Balance of Site Facilities – Milestone 4. Twenty-two of 47 other facilities on the site have been demolished and the areas restored, including the former Administration Building. Site infrastructure reconfiguration continues. CHBWV is working with the manufacturer on the transformer for the new electrical substation. Installation of a new natural gas distribution system is underway. Onsite Rail Spur upgrade was completed on September 7.

NYSERDA Update on Waste Classification

Noah Shaw, NYSERDA General Counsel, made a brief presentation and provide an opportunity for questions by phone as a follow-up on information he had communicated previously. He noted that the Task Force, public and other stakeholders had a variety of ways to keep apprised of the studies and decision-making processes regarding the site. One of the central issues will be the ultimate disposal of High-Level Waste (HLW) from the site and he wanted to ensure that stakeholders understand how NYSERDA is approaching the issue as NYSERDA and DOE engage in discussions concerning classification of waste.

In response to a question about his congressional testimony concerning the waste reclassification bill was received by members of Congress, Mr. Shaw indicated that he could not speak for the members, but stated that opinions varied on how the waste should be classified but that it would need to be addressed at some point. One of NYSERDA's goals is to have the classification issue addressed sooner because it has significant financial and other implications that could impact decisions at the Demonstration Project. The proposed West Valley Reauthorization Bill has been amended to include a General Accounting Office analysis of commercial v. defense classification, the origins of the waste and options for disposal. The bill is likely to come to a vote in the current congressional session.

A CTF member made several comments concerning the license clarification and amendment. He emphasized that any changes should not weaken the decommissioning criteria found in the West Valley Final Policy Statement / License Termination Rule (LTR) and thereby reduce protections for public safety. Further, in considering any changes, careful analysis should be conducted to ensure there were no unintended outcomes. Mr. Shaw stated that NYSERDA did not intend to affect the decommissioning criteria, and was paying attention to the issue and encouraged others to do so as well. Lastly, the CTF member reiterated an outstanding concern about how the LTR dose limits would be applied, i.e. 25 mrem/year for unrestricted release over the entire site or 25 mrem/year for the WVDP and 25/year mrem for the WNYNSC for a total dose limit of 50 mrem/year. Mr. Bembia stated that the agencies need to engage in discussion with the regulators for clarity on this issue.

CTF Discussion

The CTF reflected on and expressed appreciation for the site visit

Mr. Vaughan stated that Mary Reid had emailed him to say that one of her colleagues who is expert in probabilistic modeling has volunteered to provide an overview of how it performed. All agreed this independent perspective would be helpful and that perhaps a representative of Neptune could attend to answer questions and add more specific information about the modeling for the site. Mr. Gordon stated that Neptune and Company would likely present at the November Quarterly Public Meeting and the agencies would be able to confirm that in the coming weeks. Mr. Vaughan committed to following-up with Mary Reid.

With respect to the Erosion Working Group modeling, a member raised several questions. First, if there are problems in the model runs, could the runs be repeated? Second, if there were not problems, how would the information be passed on to Neptune for incorporation into the Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA)?

Observer Comments

An observer supported the comment concerning the Erosion Working Group modeling and the PPA.

Action Items

Action	Who; When
Agency responses on permit/license actions and Neptune presentation at QPM	DOE/NYSERDA

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 9/12/18
Project Update	CHBWV; 9/12/18
NYSERDA Letter to NRC	NYSERDA; 9/12/18
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 9/12/18