

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: August 28, 2019
Subject: **Summary of the July 24, 2019 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: **September 25, 2019 at 6:30 PM**
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219
West Valley, NY

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Charlie Davis, Clyde Drake, Barbara Frackiewicz, John Hood, Bonnie Lawrence, Kathy McGoldrick, Tony Memmo, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Mary Reid, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers.

Agency Participants and Observers

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

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Paul Bembia, Lee Gordon, Peter Vlad.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV): Scott Anderson, Joe Pillittere, John Rendall.

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

Neptune and Company: Leslie Germaine*, Dan Levitt*, Sean McCandless*.

SAIC: K. Catlett*, E. Orr*, Abe Zeitune*

Presenter: Alan Hutson, Roswell Park Cancer Institute

Public: Charles Bowman, Diane D'Arrigo*, Kelsey Shank, William Townsend, Barbara Warren*.

Introductions, Announcements, Administrative Business

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹. He noted that some members had participated in an ad hoc Work Group meeting with Dr. Hutson in the afternoon and that much of the same information would be addressed during the CTF meeting. He introduced John Hood who will replace Paul Kranz on behalf of Erie County. Bryan Bower informed the group that Ike White has replaced Ann White as Senior Advisor overseeing the Office of Environmental Management (EM) and that Todd Shrader will replace Mark Gilbertson as the Principal Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management. HR 1138, the West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act, was reported out of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources without amendment. Mr. Bower also noted that NRC had released the staff position on Greater Than Class-C Waste.

CHBWV Project Update

John Rendall of CHBWV presented a project update on contract Milestones 3 and 4.

Safety. The 12-month average for Total Recordable Cases (TRC) is now 1.42 down from 2.02. Days Away, Restrictions, Transfers is now at 0.71 because a recent knee injury required surgery. With a small workforce this will slowly go down if there are no additional injuries.

Deactivation Progress Under Milestone 3. MPPB deactivation is 98% complete. The 5 crews completed removing 56,000 pounds of asbestos-containing materials (ACM) (primarily wall plaster) and deactivating radiological areas in the Control Room west wall. Post-abatement cleanup is being performed in anticipation of obtaining final clearance samples. Preparations are complete for starting removal of ACM in the east stairwell and former women's locker room.

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

* Participated by telephone.

Mr. Rendall provided a brief reminder of the construction and operating timeframes between 1963 and 1972 and the size of the facility. He noted that one cell extends 27 feet below grade and that concrete wall thicknesses vary from 1 to 6 feet in thickness. Where work involved highly radioactive materials – hot cells – it will be more challenging to take the walls down. Source term removal is occurring in these locations. Work in below grade areas will occur first so that crews can finish an area and leave it undisturbed until demolition. Demolition of the MPPB is scheduled for the summer of 2020. Mr. Rendall showed graphics of the various areas where work has been completed and where work will be performed.

Several new areas have been added to the work scope and work initiated. These include:

- General Purpose Cell (GPC) Crane Room and Operating Aisle where wall penetrations have been foamed and remote video inspection conducted of the contents.
- Product Purification Cell-South (PPC-S) where the setup of mockups for training is complete for Nitrocision®
- Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) Facility where ACM removal piping in the south aisle has started.

Four of 7 ancillary support structures have been removed under Milestone 3. Upcoming demolitions include the Main Plant Office commencing in August, Load-In Facility in late September and Utility Room in January 2020.

Balance of Site Facilities – Milestone 4. Demolition is complete on the Liquid Pretreatment System building at the NRC-Licensed Disposal Area and installation started on a permanent protective cover. The Waste Tank Farm Equipment Shelter demolition has started. In total 38 of 47 facilities have been demolished and the areas restored. The new electrical substation Phase 2 will occur in the summer with connection to the new 34.5 kV feed line from National Grid.

Probabilistic Performance Assessment & Statistical Analysis

Alan Hutson from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics provided an overview of probabilistic performance assessment (PPA) and statistical analysis. Dr. Hutson began the presentation displaying a simple model function using time and rate as parameters and depicted it in graphs and showed how that might match with real life data. He noted that the function could be a “known” physical relationship or an approximation of a physical relationship.

Models are used to predict future states or events. He noted that with more data the amount of uncertainty or error in the model is reduced. Simulations can be used to quantify error level and refine the model. Dr. Hutson cautioned that poor predictions or incorrect assumptions could lead to fitting the wrong model. With complex models, simulations are useful in terms of predicting error and behavior. By running multiple simulations with different assumptions for model parameters one can determine what aspects of the model are most sensitive to change. This is known as a sensitivity analysis. Dr. Hutson commented on the GENII, LEDTAP II and RESRAD models. Agency staff noted that these were used for the Annual Site Environmental Review but will not be used for the PPA.

The models being developed for the West Valley site PPA are complex with many parameters and assumptions. Dr. Hutson noted the importance of finding the “best model fit.” He noted that there were two schools of thought, Bayesian and Frequentist for modeling assumptions. The former maps a person’s “belief” of what will happen and updates that with data. The frequentist starts with existing data and updates it with new information. Dr. Hutson noted that with more information both models should yield similar results in the probability distributions. Dr. Hutson noted that poor choice of model is not overcome by more data.

In dialogue with the CTF Dr. Hutson recommended that the group consider the following in reviewing the development and results of the PPA:

- Ask good questions about the assumptions in the model
- Ask about the level of data relied in developing the model components and, where the data is limited, what assumptions or expert elicitation was conducted to address the limited data
- Look for transparency

In response to questions, Lee Gordon of NYSERDA made the following points:

- Neptune and Company will provide regular updates and listen to questions, comments and feedback at the Quarterly Public Meetings where they will explain the components, assumptions and reasoning and consider any necessary adjustments to the model. Assumptions and reasoning will be documented for purposes of transparency.
- Model components, including those for erosion, groundwater transport and climate change are being developed in parallel.
 - A CTF member noted the importance of understanding if and how the differences between the Landscape Evolution Model from the Phase One Studies and subsequent work on Gully Advancement would be addressed or reconciled in the PPA. Mr. Gordon noted that the Landscape Evolution model is one line of evidence providing erosion rate predictions for the PPA. There are other lines of evidence, including LiDAR data and historical aerial photographs.
- Validation and verification are critical to modeling to ensure calculations are correct.
- The “Player” version of GoldSim will be available to the public with the release of the Draft SEIS which is anticipated to be in 2021
- The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will have a 180-day comment period.

Observer Comments

An observer online commented that the independent organizations had not been able to validate the ResRad model at a site in Sweden.

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 7/24/19
Project Update	CHBWV; 7/24/19
Probabilistic Performance Assessment – Quick Takes	Hutson; 7/24/19
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 7/24/19