

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: May 4, 2021  
Subject: **Summary of the April 21, 2021 Ad Hoc Advocacy Work Group Zoom Meeting**

## **CTF Members and Alternates Participating**

John Hood, Kathy McGoldrick, Mary Reid, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan. Work Group members not able to participate: John Pfeffer, Eric Wohlers.

**NYSERDA:** Lee Gordon

The Ad Hoc Work Group held a Zoom meeting to discuss opportunities to advocate for the site. They discussed the following:

**Community assessment.** At the outset, Mary Reid suggested that the CTF discuss supporting a community assessment for cancer risk in the area. She is participating, as part of her role at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center, in the New York Cancer Consortium. Such an assessment could be conducted by the New York State Department of Health. Other members felt this would make an assessment credible and agreed to bring the suggestion to the full CTF.

**Budget.** During the discussion the group noted that the president had not yet submitted a budget to congress and hypothesized that, with the administration's focus on energy, that it would include significant funding on energy issues and that nuclear energy and nuclear waste would likely be a part of that focus. They discussed the need to communicate with Congressman Reed and Higgins and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and request meetings with their staff and DOE EM managers. Zoom meetings may be more efficient initially and could be followed by a trip to Washington when Covid precautions are eased.

A member noted that the West Valley Reauthorization Act, which references funding at \$75 million per year, sunsets in 2026. With DOE working on budgets several years in advance, they suggested that the CTF anticipate this in the next several years as they advocate for funding.

John Hood and Kathy McGoldrick agreed to draft letters to the relevant House and Senate Appropriations Committees, the Western New York Congressional delegation and DOE.

**TRU Waste Discussion.** The group discussed the issue of long-term disposal options for the TRU waste from the site and the Government Accountability Office report recommendation that congressional action is necessary to resolve the issue. The group agreed that a letter emphasizing the need for congressional action should be addressed to the committees that received the GAO report. The CTF could follow this by asking Congressman Reed assist in scheduling one or more meetings with staff of those committees.

Pat Townsend and Ray Vaughan agreed to draft a letter.