

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: October 25, 2021
Subject: **Summary of the September 22, 2021 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: October 27, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Location: Zoom

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

John Hood, Tony Memmo, Mary Reid, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan. Facilitators: Bill Logue & Loraine Della Porta.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Bethany MacNeill.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Paul Bembia, Janice Dean, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon, Peter Vlad, Brad Frank.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV): Elizabeth Lowes, Joe Pillittere, John Rendall, John Rizzo, Alison Steiner, Kelly Wooley.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Pat Concannon

New York State Department of Health: Cynthia Costello, Conor VanDemark.

Neptune & Company: Sean McCandless.

Public: Anna Carr, Diane D'Arrigo, Rosalind Ground, Kelsey Shank, Barbara Warren. (Other dial-in only callers not identified.)

Introductions, Announcements, Administrative Business

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹. He expressed condolences on the sudden passing of Tim Rice, Chief of the NYSDEC Radiological Materials Management Section. Lee Gordon of NYSERDA provided a brief update on the status of the Neptune contract to complete the Probabilistic Performance Assessment. The Scope of Work is complete and the procurement process is underway and on track to resume work before the end of the year. Later in the meeting Mr. Gordon indicated that it may be possible for Neptune to present next at the February Quarterly Public Meeting and could have updates on such topics as erosion, climate change and groundwater. An update should be provided early in 2022 on the schedule for the Draft Supplement Environmental Impact Statement release.

CHBWV Project Update

Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

Safety. Mr. Wooley reviewed safety information. There have been three recordable injuries – the most recent a worker suffering from dehydration on August 27. The total recordable Case Rate is 1.10 and Days Away Restricted or Transferred at 0.37

COVID-19 and Impacts on Work. At the June meeting the rate of COVID-19 spread in Western New York was trending down. Considerable progress has occurred on work since then. Masking protocols have been reimplemented for all indoor activities. Testing for unvaccinated workers was implemented in August – about 100/week. An onsite nurse administers tests and results are available in 15-20 minutes. DOE in-person meetings are restricted to no more than 50 people with testing and vaccination protocols. CHBWV is working with DOE and awaiting federal guidance on protocols and information on the President's executive order mandating vaccinations for federal contractors.

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

Deactivation and Demolition Progress – Performance-Based Incentive 1. Floor grouting is complete for the General Purpose Cell (GPC) and GCR Extension and General Operating Aisle. Decontamination continues in the Product Purification Cell. An access opening was cut in the Vent Wash Room east wall and protective tents and supplied breathing air set up and pipe cutting commenced. The improved access increases worker safety in the high dose area. Fixative is being applied in the Chemical Process Cell (CPC) and pipes and motors drained of fluids. Decontamination in the CPC is complete. Vent ducting to the Portable Ventilation Unit is complete in the Acid Recovery Cell and the west wall removed. Final deactivation is complete for the Equipment Decontamination Room and fixative applied, fluids from equipment drained and electrical waste removed.

Sealant has been applied to the water management system berm control joints and berm base. Hydrotesting for leaks is 98% complete and the ion exchange skid tested. Major modifications are complete to the 10-plex office complex in the showers, locker rooms and other areas. Plumbing installation to the showers continues and should be complete in October.

Demolition of the Main Plant Process Building will begin, likely in early 2022 after the full readiness assessment.

Balance of Site Facilities (BOSF). All 46 BOSF have been removed and areas restored. Soil shipments from the Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW) soil containment structure is 50% complete and should finish in early 2022. Shipments are by rail to Energy Solutions. Drum Cell modifications to support waste shipping continue and are 50% complete with crane modifications. Preparation for concrete floor pouring is ongoing and the intermodal staging area is being evaluated.

New Additions to Contract Scope. CHBWV is working on the layout of a new guard house. Plans are being developed for repackaging of 12 containers of over-size debris from deactivation legacy waste. Plans are being prepared for sampling and characterization of Tank 8D-4 wastes. A sampler is being designed. The tank has approximately 1,100 gallons of sludge waste and additional amounts of liquid above the sludge. The waste and sludge contain radionuclides and hazardous metals. Since 2012 1,500 gallons have evaporated with the Tank and Vault Drying System. Mr. Bower noted that Tank 8D-4 was used during vitrification and when vitrification was complete the area floor and other equipment was flushed and this resulted in additional liquids and wastes that are not fully characterized being placed in the tank.

Upcoming Public Meetings. Another open house for discussion of the MPPB demolition will be held September 29 at the West Valley Hose Company. It will be the same as the August open house. The next Quarterly Public Meeting will be November 17.

In response to questions, Mr. Bower explained how performance-based incentive contracts function. The contracts emphasize safe and compliant completion of work and contract management over cost and schedule². In response to another question, Mr. Wooley committed to sharing information concerning the constituents and levels addressed by the water treatment filtration system.

NYSERDA Part 50 License Amendment Update

Paul Bembia of NYSERDA provided an update on the Part 50 License Amendment request. The purpose of the request is to clarify NYSERDA's responsibility for health and safety on the retained premises and a radiation protection program for NYSERDA. The license amendment applies to the retained premises of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center and does not include the West Valley Demonstration Project. The request was submitted in February 2020 and resubmitted in March 2020 with additional required certification language in the transmittal letter. From March 2020 until recently NRC has been asking NYSERDA for additional information – requests and responses are on NRC ADAMS management system and can be obtained from NYSERDA via a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request. The Federal Register shows two sets of comments in response to the Federal Register Notice. Next steps: NRC will complete technical and legal review and prepare an Environmental Assessment then NRC will then issue the amendment and NYSERDA will have 60 days to implement.

² For an early explanation of the contract process see http://westvalleyctf.org/2010_summaries/2010-09-22_Meeting_Summary.pdf

In response to questions, Mr. Bembia stated that the plan is crafted to meet current dose limits and achieve As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) standards. Mr. Vaughan noted that there had been changes in the dose limits over time. The amendment will clarify NYSERDA’s ability to do work compliantly such as a tree removal from a stream and brush trimming adjacent to a road.

CTF Discussion

The CTF discussed some of the points raised in their July caucus meeting. An issue they are considering is how to prepare themselves to assess and respond to information coming out of the Probabilistic Performance Assessment and Draft Supplemental environmental Impact Statement by finding experts to review the studies particularly with respect to climate impacts and landscape evolution. The group discussed whether some experts might be willing to donate their time or if the CTF would need to seek funding and what types of organizations might act as financial intermediaries. The group discussed what other entities or organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, Erie or Cattaraugus County and the Seneca Nation, might co-sponsor any reports to give the reports additional credibility. Tony Memmo and John Hood noted that they could bring questions back to their decision-making entities but could not commit to any action or proposal at this time. Ray Vaughan stated he would begin seeking out potential experts and if they might work on a pro bono basis. The group will continue exploring options. Pat Townsend shared that she was reviewing a report: “The West Valley High-Level Liquid Waste Immobilization Project: Public Scoping: What It Revealed December 1979-February 1980” sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Mr. Vaughan will prepare a short summary of the concept concerning expert assistance for the counties and Seneca Nation.

Mr. Vaughan informed the CTF that he had been contacted by an intern from the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning about climate resilience. Mr. Hood noted that this was part of the County’s climate action plan process. Mr. Vaughan stated that one aspect of this was the potential for CTF members to become climate ambassadors and have a prepared presentation that could be made to groups about the issues and West Valley.

The CTF agreed to continue discussing both of these issues at future meetings.

Observer Comments

Observer comments have been included in the above summary.

Follow Up

Description	Generated by; Date
Summary of Expert Assistance Concepts	Ray Vaughan; TBD
Constituent level criteria for water management system	CHBWV; TBD

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 9/22/21
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 9/22/21
News Clippings Since the Last Meeting	NYSERDA; 9/22/21