

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Task Force Facilitator
Date: February 17, 2022
Subject: **Summary of January 26, 2022 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: March 23, 2022
Location: Zoom

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Anna Carr, John Eberth, Heidi Hartley, John Hood, Lee James, Kimberly Krzemien, Kathy McGoldrick, Tony Memmo, Joe Patti, Mary Reid, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers.
Facilitators: Bill Logue & Loraine Della Porta.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Patrick Hefflinger.

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

CH2M Hill BWXT West Valley, LLC (CHBWV): Elizabeth Lowes, Joe Pillittere, John Rendall.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Pat Concannon.

New York State Department of Health: Rachel Bratek, Cynthia Costello, David O’Hehir.

Neptune & Company: Sean McCandless.

Observers: Wayne Barber, Diane D’Arrigo, Rosalind Ground, Kathleen Kellogg, Charlotte Salmon, Kelsey Shank.

Introductions, Announcement, Administrative Business

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹. He welcomed Anna Carr as the alternate for Tony Memmo (representing the Seneca Nation) and Kimberly Krzemien who will replace Clyde Drake as the representative for the Town of Concord. He also noted that Rob Dallas had retired and that he had reached out to the union to discuss a representative.

Lee Gordon of NYSERDA informed the CTF that the contract with Neptune for the Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA) was in negotiations and that he hoped an update would be available at the February Quarterly Public Meeting (QPM).

CHBWV Project Update

John Rendall of CHBWV presented a project update.

2021 Accomplishments. Mr. Rendall started with the accomplishments for 2021. In brief these include: restoring rail shipment capabilities; preparing for Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) demolition with the new water treatment system and repurposing of the trailer office complex

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

to support demolition activities; completing deactivation of several additional areas of the MPPB; removing a portion of the west wall of the MPPB to gain access for deactivation of the Acid Recovery Cell; continuing decontamination of the Product Purification Cell; completion of removal of the last of the 46 “balance of site facilities” no longer needed for cleanup activities.

Safety. Mr. Rendall reviewed safety information with the monthly tracking statistics improving.

COVID-19 Controls. Mr. Rendall noted that the company was maintaining safety protocols and controls and the mandatory vaccination policy with a high compliance rate. Onsite infections have been lower than the surrounding community. Local transmission rates are falling.

Main Plant Deactivation. Decontamination scabbling of the Product Purification Cell (PPC) continues with 900 ft² completed out of 2,400 ft². He explained how high-pressure nitrogen is used to remove the contaminated surface of the concrete. A hood and vacuum system collect the removed material. In the Vent Wash Room significant progress continued with completion of 15 of 28 cuts of vent duct with a diamond wire saw and 8 of 19 sections of duct removed. The Acid Recovery Cell/Off-Gas Aisle (OGA) curtain containment is installed, a second story curtain added and OGA wall opening installed.

Demolition of Ancillary Support Structures. The demolition of the Load-In/Load-Out Facility continues with the primary support structural steel being removed.

Main Plant Processing Building (MPPB) Demolition Preparation. The water management system final testing and training will be complete by the end of the month. The final items are being completed to repurpose the 10-Plex Office Complex. The new roll up door is installed in the Drum Cell and a new concrete floor was poured. During MPPB demolition the empty intermodal containers will be brought into the Drum Cell and prepared to receive demolition debris while the workers are protected from the elements.

Balance of Site Facilities and Infrastructure. Mr. Rendall reviewed the process for installation of the Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW) to remove Strontium-90 from the groundwater plume. A structure was built to contain the soil and debris from the installation of the PTW. CHBWV is now removing the soil and the debris created from the demolition of the soil containment structure. As of early January, 294 inter-modals of soil spoils have been shipped, with about 30-40 more anticipated, and 93 inter-modals of debris shipped. The process has been a good test of the rail shipping process to be used during MPPB demolition.

New Scope. Under the new scope CHBWV is working with DOE to prepare a new bid to replace the guard house; a drawing from a vendor was received for shielded overpacks for the Chemical Process Cell degraded legacy waste containers and delivery is expected in the third quarter of the year; plans for Tank 8-D4 waste sampling and characterization continue. A contract was awarded to design the re-route of Lagoons 4 and 5 to allow Lagoon 3 to be taken out of service.

Community Support in 2021. West Valley Fire District #1 received \$70,000; Bertrand Chaffe Hospital \$5,000, Mercy Flight \$5,000, annual community donations of about \$12,000 and United Way contributions of \$15,945. The annual food drive collected and distributed to local food banks 119,467 pounds of food.

Fiscal Year 2022 Goals: continue performance of safe work; complete deactivation in Product

Purification Cell and waste disposition; complete MPPB demolition preparation; begin demolition of MPPB and ship 4 million pounds of debris; begin rail shipments of waste; complete PTW soil disposal and restore area; process and overpack legacy waste containers; and complete demolition of Load-In/Load-Out Facility.

CTF Discussion – Annual Organizational Meeting

Work Group. The facilitator and Ray Vaughan noted that the ad hoc work group had met and named itself the SEIS Issue Identification & Assessment Working Group. Ray Vaughan noted the length of the draft document, asked if any had questions and stated it was still in draft form. He expressed appreciation for the way work at the site has been performed to date and indicated that the working group was focused on the Phase 2 decision, not the ongoing Phase 1 work.

In the coming weeks the work group will circulate a revised draft and, if the CTF concurs, begin contacting experts. The members agreed to review and comment and consider approving the next draft via email prior to the March meeting.

Work group member John Hood reminded the group of his background, expressed appreciation to the agencies and site workers for the quality and the safety of the work being performed. He then noted the key issues/subject areas the group felt the CTF could use assistance with leading up to and during review of the Draft SEIS. Those are: 1) remaining waste after closure and the associated the radiation dose; 2) uncertainties concerning studies and modeling; 3) site erosion and vulnerability; and 4) sufficiency of evaluation of community impacts and the worst-case scenario impacts. For the last item an SEIS typically looks at exposure to an onsite resident farmer. The work group feels that a leak into the waterways would have far larger community impacts and should be considered as closer to a realistic worst case. Mr. Hood is writing a brief context summary to include in the draft proposal.

Members then discussed the type of expertise that might be sought through the proposal. This might include those with expertise in erosion, hydrogeology, human health impacts, dose exposure calculations, etc. Members will send suggestions for areas of expertise and potential experts to the work group. Ms. Townsend suggested that, in addition to pro bono help, the CTF might explore grants similar to those like Technical Assistance Grants (TAG) that the US EPA has for Superfund sites. Mr. Patti raised questions about the timing and if it would be better to wait until the Preferred Alternative in the DSEIS is known. At this time Mr. Patti also expressed appreciation for the work being performed safely at the site. Others expressed concern that, with a 6-month comment period, lead time preparing to comment is important.

Annual Organizational Meeting. The group then reviewed the results of their annual self-evaluation survey. The results have been relatively consistent over time with high satisfaction on addressing the ground rules and mission and more diverse opinion on public engagement and outreach. Members are eager to meet in person when COVID protocols ease. The facilitator committed to contacting each member to discuss ideas for improvements. A revision to the survey will be considered for 2022. As part of the discussion, the CTF reviewed how the regulatory agencies have been involved over time. Mr. Bower noted that when the agencies were trying to reach consensus for the Phase 1 EIS, the Core Team process was created to involve the regulators and they participated in several CTF meetings. Mr. Bembia noted that

representatives of the regulatory agencies regularly attend CTF meetings.

Solar Farm. Mr. Bembia noted that the construction of the 10 megawatt solar farm on 52 acres with more than 20,000 panels was complete and that National Grid would be connecting it to the electric grid in the near future.

Future Meeting Topics. In addition to regular project updates, potential meeting topics during the year may include: Annual Site Environmental Report; LiDAR Update, Trench 14/SDA Update; roles of regulatory agencies; and drone videos showing the stream in and around the site.

Observer Questions and Comments

An observer noted that many stakeholders, including organizations, municipalities and other government entities had called for full cleanup at the time of the 2010 EIS.

Follow Up

Description	Generated by; Date
Call each CTF member to discuss adjustments and improvements	Bill Logue; TBD

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 1/26/22
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 1/26/22
News Clippings Since the Last Meeting	NYSERDA; 1/26/22