

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Task Force Facilitator
Date: April 15, 2022
Subject: **Summary of March 23, 2022 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: April 27, 2022
Location: Zoom

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Kevin Boyle, Anna Carr, Charlie Davis, John Eberth, Heidi Hartley, John Hood, Lee James, Kathy McGoldrick, Tony Memmo, Joe Patti, Ray Raffel, Bob Ring, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan.
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): Joe Pillittere, John Rendall, Robert Steiner, Kelly Wooley.

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

Neptune & Company: Sean McCandless.

SC&A: Charlotte Salmon.

Observers: Cynthia Costello, Diane D'Arrigo, Lynwood Guilliams, Rick Miller, Shannon Seneca, Kelsey Shank, Barbara Warren, Misa Yasumiishi.

Introductions, Announcement, Administrative Business

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹. He welcomed Ray Raffel and his alternate Kevin Boyle replacing Rob Dallas and representing the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers–Lodge 2401 and Bob Ring representing the Cattaraugus County Department of Environmental Health and replacing Eric Wohler who retired and was a member since the formation of the CTF. The new members introduced themselves.

Lee Gordon of NYSERDA informed the CTF that the contract with Neptune for the Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA) was in the procurement phase and should be executed soon so that Neptune can resume work. He also noted that the agencies had reviewed the December draft from the SEIS Issue Identification and Assessment Work Group (SEIS Work Group) and are taking a cautious approach so as not to be seen as attempting to influence or inserting themselves in CTF deliberations. He noted that the agencies and the relevant contractors were addressing some of the issues raised in the SEIS Work Group document concerning the

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

landscape evolution modeling and that after Neptune resumes work, an update on the analytical approaches that will be used in the Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA) would be provided.

CHBWV Project Update

Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

Safety. Mr. Wooley reviewed safety information. The monthly tracking statistics are improving. With two (2) recordable cases being more than a year old and being eliminated from the rolling average, the Total Recordable Case Rate and Days, Away, Restricted are at .33.

COVID-19 Controls. On March 9 new guidance allowed for lifting of masking protocols. COVID related preventive maintenance and cleaning activities continue with an emphasis on good hygiene.

Main Plant Deactivation. Decontamination scabbling of the Product Purification Cell (PPC) continues with 1,100 ft² completed out of 2,400 ft². Additional characterization has been done on all walls and the decontamination is effective. The space is relatively small but is about 60 ft tall and is a difficult space for workers. The workers wear “bubble” protective suits with external air supplied. In the Vent Wash Room significant progress continued with completion of 28 cuts of vent duct and 19 sections of duct removed. There is additional cleanup of loose material from the cutting and application of fixative to be completed. The Acid Recovery Cell/Off-Gas Aisle (OGA) curtain containment is installed, a second story curtain added and OGA wall opening installed.

In response to a question concerning PPC-S decontamination in cell corners, Mr. Wooley noted that the goal of 80% decontamination appeared to being met and additional characterization sampling would be undertaken in the corners to assess the contamination level where the Nitrocision® process does not reach. At this time, CHBWV does not believe there is much contamination in the corners.

Demolition of Ancillary Support Structures. The demolition of the Load-In/Load-Out Facility is complete with the last section of structural steel adjacent to the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) being left in place. Crews completing final removal of off gas piping under the building.

Main Plant Processing Building (MPPB) Demolition Preparation. The water management system is ready to turn over to operations. The 10-Plex Office Complex repurposed for use as the primary entry and exit location to the demolition area is complete. The Drum Cell modifications are complete except for emergency egress lighting which is on special order. Prepping of intermodals has begun in the space.

Balance of Site Facilities and Infrastructure. Soil, debris and containment structure removal from the installation of the Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW) is complete and the area has been regraded and is awaiting seeding in the spring. As of March 9, 300 inter-modals of soil and 131 of debris have been filled and characterized, 427 intermodals have been shipped on 73 railcars and 231 intermodals received and prepared. A culvert over Erdman Brook was replaced with six (6) precast concrete sections. The culvert is on the onsite roadway leading to the rail shipping area and the work is in anticipation of increased use and weight loads on the road

during MPPB demolition.

In response to a question later in the meeting about erosion around the culvert, Mr. Bower noted that the culvert was being replaced due to its age (50 years) and anticipated future weight loads from the MPPB demolition. Replacement of the culvert was not due to erosion.

New Scope. Under the new scope, the bid to replace the guard house was issued and a two-week extension granted; 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. Conceptual design is underway for the re-route of Lagoons 4 and 5 to allow Lagoon 3 to be taken out of service.

In response to a question, Mr. Bower noted that the liquid and sludge in tank 8D-4 is the result of flush water during Vitrification Facility deactivation.

CTF Discussion

New Member Orientation. At the outset of the CTF discussion the facilitator and original CTF members Ray Vaughan and Joe Patti briefly summarized the formation of the group and how it conducted it initially educated itself on the issues before issuing the [1998 Report](#). In addition to commenting on draft documents and other activities at the site, group members have periodically met with DOE leaders and Congressional representatives in Washington to advocate for work and funding at the site. The group has worked by consensus and both critiqued and worked cooperatively with the agencies.

SEIS Issue Identification & Assessment Work Group Discussion. Ray Vaughan gave a brief presentation highlighting the reasons the Work Group was suggesting that expert assistance be solicited through the draft Structured Invitation. He noted that the draft was a working document that would be edited as new information comes to light.

As part of his presentation Mr. Vaughan noted both the boundaries of the site and the impact on the tax rolls for the Town of Ashford and highlighted the different estimates of erosion in the draft Environmental Impact Statements and modeling through the Phase 1 Studies process. He showed images of water pathways from the site to Cattaraugus Creek through the Seneca Nation to Lake Erie and the Niagara River – the path or potential waterborne contamination from any release. A member noted that international borders should be considered.

Mr. Gordon of NYSERDA noted that in the past models have been used to predict the timing and location of impacts from erosion. With the Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA) a different approach is being taken where the modeling tries to identify appropriate distribution for ranges of rates of erosion impacts and different time intervals. He expressed hope that Neptune would be able to discuss this in the near term.

The question was raised as to whether experts would be willing to advise the CTF on a pro bono basis. Several members suggested that academics may be willing to assist on discrete aspects. A member noted that the draft Invitation articulates the key issues of concern to the CTF and acts to raise the awareness of others. They also noted that new technologies may have developed since the issuance of the CTF 1998 Report.

A member suggested that the group advocate for full clean-up of the high contamination areas and that low-level soils could be contained or left for later given that clean-up will take some time.

Following the discussion, the members agreed that the Draft Structured Invitation could be shared as a working document. If members have experts they would like to suggest they are encouraged to share them with the facilitator to coordinate with the SEIS Working Group.

Other Business. A member raised the issue of state support for Ashford due to the site being off the tax rolls. Mr. Bembia noted that this was a legislative appropriation. It was suggested that the group confer with representatives for Senator Borello and Representative Giglio.

The agencies are looking at revised guidance for the return to in person meetings. A member suggested that the Firemans Banquet Hall be considered as a location. The facilitator will explore options with John Pfeffer.

Observer Questions and Comments

An observer noted stakeholder desire for off-site air monitoring during demolition/MPPB building enclosure during demolition and asked about correspondence between DOE and NRC and the particle size assumed in dose modeling for exposure to the public during demolition. Mr. Rendall committed to obtaining the information on particle size and, referring to prior presentations, noted that most contamination was being removed prior to demolition which would occur over a 30-month period.

An observer asked about sealed rooms referred to in documents and the level of contamination in those rooms and how it would be addressed during demolition. Mr. Rendall stated that contamination was being removed or contained through grouting, fixatives and other measures. Mr. Bower stated that the reports being cited were older RCRA reports written during initial characterization and that since that time decontamination activities have been performed and cells have been entered and characterized.

In response to a question Mr. Rendall stated that MPPB demolition will start in July at the earliest.

Follow Up

Description	Generated by; Date
Contact John Pfeffer	Bill Logue, et al; TBD
Determine particle size used in demolition modeling	CHBWV; TBD

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 3/23/22
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 3/23/22
SEIS Work Group Draft Structured Invitation	Vaughan; 3/23/22
News Clippings Since the Last Meeting	NYSERDA; 3/23/22