

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Task Force Facilitator
Date: July 18, 2022
Subject: **Summary of June 22, 2022 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: September 28, 2022

Location: Zoom

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Anna Carr, Charlie Davis, John Hood, Kimberly Krzemien, Tony Memmo, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Ray Raffel, Robert Ring, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan, Tim Zerfas. Facilitators: Bill Logue & Loraine Della Porta.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Stephen Bousquet, Bryan Bower, Patrick Hefflinger, Jocelin Nahigian, Audrey Seeley.

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

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC (CHBWV): Joe Pillittere, John Rendall, Robert Steiner, Kelly Wooley.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Marlayna Doell.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Pat Concannon, Lynn Winterberger.

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

Government Accountability Office: Janice Poling.

Neptune & Company: Katie Catlett, Sean McCandless.

SC&A: Charlotte Salmon.

Observers: Kevin B., Diane D'Arrigo, Charley Bowman, Ashley Clines, Joanne Hameister, Nancy Raca, Shannon Seneca, Kelsey Shank, Blossom Vance, Barbara Warren, Misa Yasumiishi, and unidentified phone in callers.

Introductions, Announcement, Administrative Business

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹. Lee Gordon of NYSERDA informed the CTF that the contract with Neptune & Company for the Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA) was in place with a new scope for the remaining work. One of the early tasks is to update the schedule for the PPA which will flow into the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The cause for the delay related to COVID, additional details on what needed to be modeled, consideration of SEIS scoping issues, and the complex joint state-federal contracting process. After Neptune resumes work, presentations on technical topics will be developed for future Quarterly Public Meetings.

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

CHBWV Project Update

Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

Safety. As of May 2022, the Total Recordable Case Rate is at 0.61 and Days, Away, Restricted are at .31. There was one injury when a worker struck their head on a roll bar when exiting a utility vehicle.

COVID-19 Controls. Cattaraugus County transmission rates are low and masking and testing for all employees are no longer required. Preventive maintenance and cleaning continue. Regional infection rates will continue to be monitored and additional controls implemented, if necessary, per any guidance.

Main Process Plant Building (MPPB) Deactivation. Nitrocision® is being performed for aggressive decontamination scabbling of the Product Purification Cell (PPC) areas below the mast climber platform. Recent decontamination phases are showing good results and additional monitoring and sampling will be performed. Once wall decontamination is complete the floor will be grouted, fixative applied to the walls and the cell will be made “cold and dark” with all utilities and services removed.

Demolition of Ancillary Support Structures. The demolition of the Load-In/Load-Out Facility is complete. Crews completed final removal and backfilling of the gas piping under the building and a French drain was installed to support future water management.

MPPB Demolition Preparation. The water management system is complete, as are Drum Cell modifications for preparing waste containers for MPPB demolition debris. The 10-Plex modifications that will support MPPB demolition are complete.

Balance of Site Facilities and Infrastructure and New Scope. Construction of the new guard house continues with the foundation in place. Workplans are being developed to repackage in High Integrity Containers and move the three remaining Chemical Process Cell degraded legacy waste SUREPAK containers to an interior location. Equipment design is underway for removing the Tank 8-D4 riser and performing waste sampling and characterization. A bench scale study is underway to support conceptual design of the re-route of Lagoons 4 and 5.

CTF Discussion

Energy Community Alliance Meeting and Ashford Update. John Pfeffer, CTF member and Ashford Supervisor, reported that he had attended the Energy Communities Alliance meeting which included information on the Biden Administration J40 initiative to promote environmental justice and economic opportunity in disadvantaged communities. He expressed disappointment that Ashford does not qualify under the draft guidance because the guidance does not address the impact of nuclear wastes. If Ashford qualified it would enhance access to significant funding streams for things like infrastructure. Mr. Pfeffer suggested that CTF members and the CTF as a whole submit comments on the guidance. He committed to sharing links to information about the J40 initiative, his draft comments and the site link to submit comments. The facilitator committed to circulating proposed comments for consideration. Another member questioned whether the funding would be available by the time Ashford might be included. Mr. Pfeffer noted that the program was in the early stages.

Mr. Pfeffer also reported that in May he visited the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and became convinced that a salt mine is a suitable radioactive waste disposal site. He said it is time for DOE to decide on identifying a disposal path for the WV TRU because it cannot stay at West Valley, particularly with climate change in mind. Mr. Pfeffer also noted will be speaking at a peer exchange on the DOE's Consent-Based Siting Initiative to create alignment among communities and, based on the West Valley experience, encourage them to think about the long-term consequences and end states of their site. As part of a future CTF discussion, Mr. Pfeffer noted that Neptune had worked with the Tennessee Department of Environment and the site-specific advisory board has access to data at that site.

GAO Report. CTF member Charlie Davis reminded the members about the findings of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on Waste Disposition that was required as part reauthorization of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act. He noted that DOE and NYSERDA disagree on the classification of West Valley High-Level Waste and TRU waste as defense or non-defense (commercial). The classification determines where the waste may be disposed of and the financial responsibility. The GAO report does not take a position but states that congressional action is needed to make the determination. He encouraged the CTF to reach out, particularly as the Draft SEIS is being completed. Mr. Bower stated that the GAO report provided a good summary and that WIPP is the disposal facility for defense Transuranic (TRU) waste. Mr. Bower also clarified that DOE has responsibility for identifying disposal facilities for Greater-Than-Class-C waste.

John Pfeffer stated that the most effective way to encourage action is for a group of CTF members to visit Washington and meet with congressional representatives and their staff. Others concurred and the facilitator committed to coordinating a site visit.

Update on Expert Study Resources. Ray Vaughan presented an update on the status of seeking expert assistance to prepare for the PPA and Draft SEIS. He had sent the structured invitation to several erosion specialists with limited responses to date. He is discussing with several others concerns he has with the type of modeling (landscape evolution or LEM) used in the 2010 EIS and by the Phase 1 Studies Erosion Working Group. In brief, the concerns center on the equation called Stream Power Incision Model (SPIM) that underlies the LEM and calculates how storms impact erosion. The Neptune and agency focus has been on gully growth with erosion through downcutting and widening. If the SPIM equation is defective it calls into question whether gully growth is the dominant erosion process. Mr. Vaughan feels this could explain some of the differences in the 2010 EIS and 1996 DEIS and demonstrates the need for dialogue on erosion and the capacity to test abstract models against reality. In response to a question, he noted that the SPIM model was widely in use by USDA.

A member asked if a 5-10 inch rainfall could cause upgradient dykes to fail and surge water on to the site. Mr. Vaughan commented that he believed this was unlikely based on geography upgradient of the site and there were culverts on Rock Springs Road. The reservoirs, which would be a source of significant volumes of water on the WNYNSC, are not upgradient. However, he noted the issue was worth exploring. The group also discussed the Route 219 slope collapse as an example of a mass wasting process. Mr. Gordon stated he had relatively new drone footage of the site from the spring prior to foliage coming out and that he could

share this footage to help orient group members to conditions in the field.

The group then discussed a potential site visit and resuming in-person meetings when protocols permit.

Observer Questions and Comments

An observer expressed an interest in a site visit on behalf of the Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

Follow Up

Description	Generated by; Date
Information of J40 initiative, explore potential CTF comments	Pfeffer & Logue
Explore CTF delegation to Washington	Logue
Plan CTF site visit with agencies	Logue

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 6/22/22
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 6/22/22
Update on Expert Study Resource	Vaughan; 6/22/22
News Clippings Since the Last Meeting	NYSERDA; 6/22/22