

To: Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, Clean Sites
Subject: Summary of June 17, 1997, Meeting
Date: June 25, 1997

Next Meeting:

The next Citizen Task Force (CTF) meeting will be on:

Date: Wednesday, July 2, 1997
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY

If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact Melinda Holland at (864) 457-4202, or Tom Attridge at (716) 942-2453.

Task Force Attendees:

Attending were: Pete Scherer, Joe Patti, Larry Smith, Ray Vaughan, Nevella McNeil, Tim Sipel, John Pfeffer, Elaine Belt, Rich Tobe, Bill King, Blake Reeves, Eric Wohlers, Warren Schmidt, Pete Cooney. Not attending were: Lana Rosler and Dick Timm. Paul Piciulo and Tom Rowland did not attend as this was a CTF member-only caucus.

June 17th Meeting Summary:

As announced in the May 20th CTF meeting summary, the June 17th meeting was a caucus session with only CTF members attending. The Task Force members present at the meeting discussed a number of issues including the North Plateau groundwater plume. The CTF is still concerned about the status of the plume and drafted a memorandum to DOE and NYSERDA expressing their concerns and requesting additional information. They also spent time brainstorming about what values or decision factors regarding site cleanup are important to them as individuals. To keep the public informed about the Task Force's progress during this caucus, the CTF requested that this summary include the items listed during the brainstorming and a copy of the memorandum to DOE and NYSERDA.

Values and Potential Decision Factors

Note that the following list only represents the values and factors which were listed by individual CTF members during brainstorming; it does not represent consensus or agreement by the CTF on these values. The statements came from different individuals and may not be consistent.

- ◆ Wastes may remain on site for a long time; if so, stabilize the wastes in a manner suitable for the long term and employ on-going maintenance
- ◆ Referenced the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), supporting the wastes leaving here
- ◆ A high-level waste repository at Yucca Mountain (or elsewhere) is not likely to be operational for a long time; how to store wastes safely over the interim is key
- ◆ Economic impacts on the local community is important; site has had a negative impact on the community; now the community deserves some reward
- ◆ Health and safety
- ◆ If WVDP is downsized, how will jobs be replaced; need to make up for economic loss; could be via jobs created by slow clean up and long-term monitoring
- ◆ Health and safety of workers, community, and downwind areas is key; don't keep site just for economics
- ◆ Time frame for waste breakdown is so much longer than governments have lasted; worry about 100 year solutions; need long term solutions; how to contain wastes for thousands of years
- ◆ Don't clean up West Valley to just send problem somewhere else; Yucca Mountain in the long-term could be seismically unstable; volcanoes come and go
- ◆ Don't count on magic of science to deal with radioactive waste. Just because West Valley has only two percent of DOE's total radioactive waste doesn't mean it will all get sent elsewhere
- ◆ Whatever approach is selected, do it as safely as possible
- ◆ Want agencies to be more honest/straight; tell the whole picture; we can handle the truth
- ◆ Don't want site to try to manage CTF into saying what the site wants so the site can use it
- ◆ Want to see a health, safety, and environment compliant strawman for each Waste Management Area
- ◆ Human exposures to radiation must remain below acceptable levels, even if institutional controls fail
- ◆ Site (either here or elsewhere) must meet current NRC standards
- ◆ Effect on local employment, tax base, local services, etc.
- ◆ Effect on local and regional land-use planning
- ◆ Cost
- ◆ Implementation risk (short term)
 - ▶ Off site transport
 - ▶ Worker health and safety
 - ▶ Protection of local community
 - ▶ Exhumation risks

Values and Potential Decision Factors (continued)

- ◆ Cost per alternative compared with jobs created
- ◆ Impact of federal/state political processes
- ◆ Long-term reduction of risk
- ◆ Keep DOE at the site
- ◆ Stabilize in retrievable containers all unstable waste
- ◆ Compare long-term risks to short-term implementation risks
- ◆ Spend available money on clean up of the most unstable waste
- ◆ Provide a whole site inventory of volumes, nature of wastes, radioactivity levels isotopes
- on spreadsheet or other easy to use format
- ◆ In a future meeting, include agenda time to further discuss the CTF's concerns about the North Plateau groundwater plume
- ◆ Provide opportunity for discussion of the PEIS and the June 1997 document
"Accelerating Cleanup: Focus on 2005" at the July 2nd meeting
- ◆ Speed up presentation of information on remaining Waste Management Areas, if possible.

