

To: Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, Clean Sites
Subject: Summary of June 3, 1998, Meeting
Date: June 8, 1998

Next Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 1998
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.

CTF Attendees:

Bill King, Rich Tobe, Pete Scherer, Warren Schmidt, Joe Patti, Larry Smith, Eric Wohlers, Ray Vaughan, Paul Piciulo, Barbara Mazurowski, Murray Regan, Tim Siepel and John Pfeffer.

Absent: Nevella McNeil, Pete Cooney, Blake Reeves, Lana Rosler, and Bridget Wilson.

Regulatory Agency Attendees:

Jack Krajewski, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

Attendees by Video Conference:

Jack Parrot and Tim Johnson, NRC

June 3, 1998, Meeting Summary:

Tom Attridge began the meeting by reviewing administrative issues.

John Chamberlain, WVNS Public and Employee Communications manager, announced that Phase I of the vitrification process will be complete next week. Approximately 85 percent of the high-level waste in the tank will have been removed. Other remote-handling technologies will be deployed to manage the remainder of the waste left in the bottom of the tank.

First, the subcommittee reviewed changes made to the May 20, 1998, draft report regarding the use of the word "Center" to describe the entire 3300 acre Western New York Nuclear Services Center as compared to use of the term "Site" to refer only to the West Valley Demonstration Project premises and the State-licensed Disposal Area (SDA). The group reviewed all places where the term "Center" had been inserted to replace "site" and agreed to change some of them back to "Site" (these changes are highlighted on the draft dated 6/3/98 which was mailed on 6/4/98). They also agreed to capitalize the word site when it referred to the WVDP premises and SDA, but not to do so when the term appears in other contexts.

The group also agreed to change Section IV, paragraph 9 by adding "pending appropriate environmental review" after the work relocation in the last line.

The drafting subcommittee next decided to work through the four remaining parking lot issues in the order in which they appear on the attached list. They began by discussing the issue of adding language on the use of incineration and other technologies not discussed in the DEIS. The CTF member who proposed this change explained that he did not believe that incineration should be allowed unless it is proven safe. An NRC representative responded that incineration has been allowed for low-level waste under a 10CFR20 license at a site in Texas and that it is working successfully. After discussion of possible approaches, the group agreed to add language to Section IV, paragraph 6, which states, "The Preferred Alternative shall not use incineration at the Center."

The next two parking lot issues addressed by the subcommittee dealt with Section III, paragraph 11. After brief discussion, the group agreed that the revised language already included in paragraph 11 satisfactorily addressed previous concerns about the issue of delaying excavation to allow decay of radioisotopes to levels which allow safe handling. They also felt that the existing language of paragraph 11 adequately addressed the third parking lot item dealing with planning for future waste excavation and storage options. No changes were made to this paragraph.

The last parking lot item suggested adding language on protection of local residents. After discussion, the group agreed to add a new sentence in Section III, paragraph 1, "Because proximity to the Center increases potential risk, the CTF believes that special attention should be paid to the long-term health and safety of people residing in the adjacent towns."

The subcommittee agreed that Section V - Concerns Regarding Particular Waste Management Areas, would be very difficult and time consuming to develop and was not needed given the guidance provided in the rest of the report.

The drafting subcommittee then agreed that they had completed their task of preparing a draft report for the full CTF to review. (The draft report was mailed to all CTF members and the CTF mailing list on June 4th with a cover memorandum explaining the proposed process for developing consensus on the report.) The process of developing consensus will begin at the June 16, 1998, CTF meeting.

A CTF member requested that the Site Managers respond to the CTF's report with a schedule of what happens next for developing the preferred alternative and tell the CTF if the Site Managers can work with the recommendations contained in the report. The Site Managers agreed. The

CTF member also suggested that the CTF continue to meet on a quarterly basis to review progress at the site and that the CTF would like to continue to receive information about progress and events at the site. The facilitator suggested that the topic of future CTF activities be discussed further at the June 16, 1998, meeting.

Observer Comments:

An observer suggested changing Section III, paragraph 1, by adding the “Seneca Nation” at the end of the new sentence. A representative of the Seneca Nation explained that the language already contained in Section III, paragraph 2 is considered sufficient and recommended leaving the report as it is. Another observer congratulated the group on its success. An observer stated that he concurs with the letter from the Town of Ashford to DOE supporting the West Valley Nuclear Services, Co., Inc. contract renewal. He stated that to bring a new contractor in at this point in time would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Parking Lot Issues:

- ◆ A CTF member reserved the right to suggest additional changes to the language added to deal with the issue of incineration.

Next Steps

- ◆ At the June 16, 1998, meeting, begin developing consensus of the full CTF on the draft report.
- ◆ At the June 16, 1998, meeting, discuss the CTF’s future activities and schedule.
- ◆ At a future meeting, Site Managers provide a reaction to the recommendations and a schedule of what happens next.