

To: Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, Clean Sites
Subject: Summary of July 29, 1998, Task Force Meeting - **Revised**
Date: ~~August 4, 1998~~ **September 17, 1998**

Next Meeting:

The next Citizen Task Force (CTF) meeting is scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 1998
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY

A draft agenda for the September 16, 1998, meeting will be circulated prior to that meeting. 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:

Attending were: Ray Vaughan, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Barbara Mazurowski, Nevella McNeil, Larry Smith, Eric Wohlers, Paul Piciulo, Warren Schmidt, Rich Tobe, Bill King, Lana Redeye, Murray Regan, and Tim Siepel. Not attending were: Blake Reeves, Bridget Wilson, Pete Cooney, and Pete Scherer.

Regulatory Agency Attendees:

Jack Krajewski, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

Attendees via video conference:

Jack Parrott and Mike Weber, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

Tim Rice - NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

July 29, 1998, Meeting Summary:

Melinda Holland opened the meeting by reviewing administrative issues and the agenda.

On July 29, 1998, the West Valley CTF met, primarily to video conference with U. S. Representative Amo Houghton and discuss their recommendations submitted to DOE and NYSERDA regarding preferences for Project completion and site closure. Congressman Houghton

began the video conference by praising the CTF for an excellent report. He also summarized key points that he focused on from the CTF's recommendations report, noting that safety is the most important issue; second is timing and who does what between the Federal and State government; and third, the issue of future economic impacts is important, in terms of what happens after the clean up is completed. He also noted the importance of resolving the issues of responsibility between DOE and the state of New York and offered to work with the CTF to help resolve these issues. He agreed to help set up a meeting with high level DOE and elected officials as requested by the CTF. He suggested waiting until Bill Richardson is confirmed as Secretary of Energy. Congressman Houghton cautioned that it might be some time after Richardson is confirmed before he could make time to visit West Valley. He suggested that a meeting in Washington, D.C. or a video conference might be easier to arrange. CTF members indicated willingness to consider that option.

CTF members accepted his offer regarding a meeting with Richardson and indicated they understood that it may take time for such a meeting to be arranged and that DOE and NYSERDA may need time to develop their response to the CTF recommendations. They also thanked the Congressman for meeting with them, as well as for his support of the Project in assisting the progress that has been made thus far.

The CTF indicated they would expect the following to occur in such a meeting with high-level officials: 1) a presentation by the CTF summarizing their recommendations; 2) a response by DOE and NYSERDA regarding a time table for development of a preferred alternative; 3) a firm understanding of the commitment on the part of DOE and NYSERDA to implement a preferred alternative, incorporating the CTF recommendations; and 4) commitment from the agencies to secure funding needed to implement the preferred alternative. After the agencies have responded to the CTF's recommendations, the Task Force can determine if it needs the Congressman's assistance on particular issues or recommendations.

A DOE representative responded that DOE and NYSERDA are already working towards development of the preferred alternative and DOE has a time-line for that process. She agreed to share the time-line with Congressman Houghton and the CTF.

The CTF then discussed issues regarding future funding and budget support. The Congressman made it clear that because West Valley is not a line item, but included in the overall DOE budget, he can only do so much to ensure funding support. How the budget is apportioned among the sites is primarily within DOE's control. He indicated he would continue to support the budget for West Valley to the greatest possible extent. Some discussion followed regarding funding profiles from the DEIS for the various closure alternative being evaluated and Congressman Houghton indicated he was interested in receiving a summary of this information. The CTF suggested they had forwarded it previously and would do so again. Houghton indicated that prior to setting up a meeting with Richardson, he would try to arrange a meeting between himself and Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Jim Owendoff, to discuss these issues.

After the Congressman signed off there was some discussion among the CTF members. Rich Tobe, as CTF spokesperson, offered to contact Congressman Houghton's staff and New York

officials to provide them with additional information. The CTF also indicated they are interested in a New York State reaction to their recommendation. They indicated this could occur in the same meeting (with Richardson) or prior to the DOE meeting, if it is delayed substantially due to the availability of the Secretary.

Seneca Nation of Indians (SNI) Discussion Regarding Their Resolution

Lana Redeye of the Seneca Nation of Indians provided a brief summary of their resolution which authorizes her to sign the CTF recommendations report. The resolution is attached to the CTF Recommendations Report. The resolution authorized Ms. Redeye to sign the report if it was modified to add a phrase to Section III paragraph 2. ¹ The CTF unanimously agreed to add the additional phrase to this paragraph. The Task Force also asked the facilitator to contact the four CTF members who were not present at this meeting and ask them if they agree to the addition of the new phrase. (Ms. Holland contacted these CTF members by telephone and they all supported the addition of the language requested by the Seneca Nation.) Ms. Redeye signed the report which makes the report a consensus document signed by all members of the Task Force.

Results of San Diego Meeting

Various CTF member attendees, along with Dan Sullivan of DOE, summarized the League of Women Voters National workshop regarding DOE waste management issues that took place in San Diego in June. The general consensus was that West Valley was extremely well represented and stood alone among the other sites who were there, in terms of the cooperation among the site and the citizens. All felt the workshop was beneficial in that it facilitated discussion regarding difficult waste management decisions, transportation, and equity issues. The CTF requested that Tom Attridge of NYSERDA draft a thank you letter to the organizers of the conference on behalf of the CTF attendees.

Technical Information Update

Dan Westcott of WVNS provided the CTF with an update of the technical reports being prepared and indicated that refinements to the EIS analysis continues, therefore continued updates can be expected in future public meetings. All updates are available to the CTF on request. A copy of the list of new technical reports is attached to this summary. A CTF member asked what time frame is being used to do the revised performance assessment. Mr. Westcott responded that it will be beyond 1,000 years to the point where erosion is predicted to have a major impact on the North Plateau. In response to another question, Mr. Westcott stated that the population within a 50-mile radius of the site is being considered. The CTF member also suggested that Lake Ontario is a large sink for contaminants which needs to also be modeled.

¹The modified paragraph would read “The Seneca nation is an indigenous, distinct, sovereign Nation of People whose past and future existence is dependent upon, among other things, the protection and preservation of its natural resources. Closure options that may contaminate these resources to any extent (i.e., animal and fish life, herbs, plants, forest areas, water, air, and soil, including viable land for home sites) are of overwhelming concern to the nation and its people. The CTF recognizes this concern.”

Barbara Mazurowski suggested to the CTF that the Project would not only update the general public on progress in our quarterly public meetings, but also would send written updates quarterly to the CTF.

Observer Comments

An observer asked what was happening regarding abandonment of the local rail road line. A DOE representative responded that DOE has filed opposition to the railroad's petition for exemption and is working with the local counties on ways to preserve the rail road line south of the Project and to develop necessary funding.

Next Steps

At the request of the CTF the next meeting was scheduled for September 16, 1998. Ms. Holland reminded the CTF that conference calls or other means of communication can be set up in the interim to discuss issues of importance to CTF members. She requested that CTF members contact her with requests for any type of support between now and the September 16, 1998, meeting.