

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Melinda Holland, Task Force Facilitator  
Date: May 6, 2005  
Subject: **Summary of the April 27, 2005, Meeting**

### **Next Meeting**

The next Citizen Task Force meeting will be held as follows:

Date: **Wednesday, May 25, 2005**  
Time: 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

**NOTE Location Change:** **Ashford Office Complex**  
9030 Route 219  
West Valley, NY

**NOTE:** Future CTF meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Ashford Office Complex, unless otherwise noted. All participants must bring photo identification.

If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact Melinda Holland at (828) 894-5963, or Tom Attridge at (716) 942-2453.

### **CTF Attendees**

Attending were: Ray Vaughan, Gayla Gray, John Pfeffer, Lee Lambert, Paul Piciulo, John Swailes, T. J. Jackson, Pete Scherer, Pete Cooney, Warren Schmidt, Bill King, Tim Siepel, Chris Pawenski (for Larry Rubin), Gary Eppolito, Rev. Bill Kay, and Eric Wohlers.

CTF Members not attending (nor represented by an alternate) were: Joe Patti and Mike Hutchinson.

### **Agency Attendees**

Pat Concannon, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ( NYSDEC).

### **Meeting Highlights**

- ▶ Presentation and discussion on current West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) site work and regulatory activities;
- ▶ Presentation on the proposed munitions recycling facility;
- ▶ Finalization of the CTF's written comments on the Southern Tier West Draft Redevelopment Study;
- ▶ Recent activities regarding the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) revised draft legislation; and
- ▶ Discussion of next steps, action items and observer comments.

### **Meeting Summary**

Tom Attridge reviewed the documents provided for this meeting and Melinda Holland reviewed the agenda. Warren Schmidt led a moment of silence in memory of New York State Senator Pat McGee who passed away recently. John Swailes, the new U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Director at West Valley, introduced himself to the CTF.

### *Status of Site Activities*

Russ Mellor, President of West Valley Nuclear Services Corporation (WVNSCO), gave a presentation on the status of site activities, including the voluntary separation program for staff reduction and the relocation of 150 to 200 people to the Ashford Office Complex. A Task Force member asked, given the proposed reduction in staffing, if adequate technical staff will be retained to oversee the Decommissioning Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and subsequent closure of the High-Level Waste (HLW) Tanks and other decommissioning tasks. Mr. Mellor explained that the development of the Decommissioning EIS would continue to be managed by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), with assistance from Washington Safety Management Solutions (WSMS). The CTF member noted that a deficiency of the 1996 EIS was the lack of real technical expertise/data on exhumation of the HLW tanks which made it difficult to accurately estimate the risks, costs, and exposure scenarios for this activity. WVNSCO and DOE representatives explained that over the last ten years the commercial sector and DOE have gained significant experience with cleanup and exhumation of tanks. They also explained that the site will retain essential science and engineering staff to oversee the work to be done and that technical consultants such as SAIC are preparing the Decommissioning EIS. In response to a CTF member's question, Mr. Mellor explained that Washington Group International has opened an office in Orchard Park for WSMS, and that some of its employees will be located at the AOC.

In response to a question from last month's meeting, Mr. Mellor explained that the current rate of shipping low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) off site for disposal (three truck loads of waste per week) will increase to about 15 loads a week for the remainder of the calendar year, with the potential for up to 500 total truck shipments. He also responded that they hope to transition to shipping more waste by rail which would reduce the total number of truck shipments.

The shipments will be Class A LLRW until after the Waste Management EIS (WMEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) are finalized, then some Class B and C LLRW may also be shipped. He noted that they hope to see that ROD finalized by the end of May. In response to a question from NYSERDA, Mr. Mellor explained that they plan to ship the melter and the two tanks removed from the vitrification facility to the Nevada Test Site (NTS), but must wait for the WMEIS and ROD to be finalized. A CTF member requested a copy of the determination that the melter is not High-Level Waste. Mr. Swailes agreed to provide that document once it is final and before the melter is shipped for disposal.

### *Proposed Munitions Recycling Facility*

Mr. David Kautz of the Wyvern Group, gave a presentation on his firm's proposal to construct a demonstration plant for the recycling of military munitions on the NYSERDA West Valley property. In response to a CTF member question on how a bullet can be recycled, Mr. Kautz explained that the bullets would be heated in a rotary furnace under controlled conditions to separate the brass and lead and burn off the nitrocellulose gas. The furnace will have air scrubbers to control air pollution such as nitrogen oxide (NOX). He added that they hope to develop a process to also recycle the combustible gunpowder into a industrial-grade #6 fuel oil. A Task Force member mentioned that he had met with the Wyvern Group previously and reminded them that he would still like to receive answers to the following questions regarding recycling the TNT into fuel oil:

- Is the TNT/energetic fully acceptable to regulatory agencies for inclusion into #6 commercial fuel oil;
- What is the risk of TNT settling out in the piping;
- Is there any risk of terrorist access to explosive material.

Mr. Kautz responded that they will go through a research and development phase to perform tests, develop data, demonstrate compliance with the American Society for Materials and Testing (ASTM) standards and answer the questions about the technology. They have a verbal agreement with the University of Buffalo's Center for Industrial Effectiveness to be the third-party testing facility.

In response to an additional question, Mr. Kautz explained that they have not yet demonstrated this technology on ammunition. Mr. Kautz answered another question explaining that they will obtain all necessary state and federal permits for the facility, if it is built. The only waste streams that he anticipates from the process would be solvents and greases - not hazardous wastes. He explained that their proposal for the West Valley site would be to build and operate a demonstration facility which would recycle small caliber ammunition using a rotary furnace. He noted that they are interested in the NYSERDA West Valley property because it is large enough to provide them with the necessary one mile buffer area.

In response to a question about their proposed schedule for this project, Mr. Kautz explained that they hope that Congress will approved an appropriation in 2006 to fund construction of the test facility. He anticipates it will take 18 months after receipt of funding to start the demonstration facility, and another six months before it is licensed and fully operational. Thus, in approximately two years they hope to have an operational facility and to hire 400 to 500 people to operate it. He answered another question by explaining that they expect to process up to 500 truck shipments a year when the facility is fully operational. A Task Force member questioned whether this proposed reuse of the NYSERDA property was discussed in the draft Reuse Study prepared by Souther Tier West's consultant. A NYSERDA representative explained that there was a small mention of the proposal in that report. Mr. Kautz noted that he had hoped that the report would have a more complete description of the proposed facility as a potential reuse for the site.

Mr. Kautz invited CTF members to contact him with additional questions or requests for information.

David Kautz may be contacted at:

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#### *Discussion of the Southern Tier West Draft Reuse Study*

Next, Tom Attridge reviewed NYSERDA's comments on the Southern Tier West (STW) draft Reuse Study prepared by Economics Research Associates (ERA). NYSERDA's 10 pages of comments were sent to STW on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Then Gayla Gray reviewed the draft comment letter she had prepared for the CTF on the Southern Tier West draft Reuse Study. The Task Force discussed and incorporated edits into the comment letter and Gayla agreed to be the signatory on behalf of the CTF. WVNSCO and NYSERDA agreed to handle production and mailing of the final letter.

#### *NYSERDA Draft Legislation*

Dr. Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA, explained that NYSERDA representatives have spoken with Congressman Kuhl's Deputy Chief of Staff, Bob Van Wicklin, about the next steps for the legislation. Mr. Van Wicklin explained that the draft legislation has been sent to the Congressional legislative counsel to be put into proper legislative format and will return the revised draft legislation to Congressman Kuhl when their review is complete. Mr. Van Wicklin did not offer an opinion on the timeline for introducing the legislation. A CTF member mentioned that he had also spoken with Representative Kuhl's staff people who related that the language of the draft legislation was excellent. Another Task Force member reiterated his desire to speak with Congressman Kuhl and Congressman Reynolds regarding their ability to control or stop the bill if it is amended to an unacceptable degree. Another CTF member noted that Senator Clinton and Senator Schumer could stop the bill in the Senate, if necessary.

#### *Action Items & Next Steps*

The May 25, 2005 CTF meeting will be held at the Ashford Office Complex. The agenda will include presentation and discussion with representatives of two national and two regional environmental organizations regarding the draft legislation. During the second portion of the meeting, the CTF's Technical Work Group will give a presentation on their review of the RCRA Part B Permit Application.

**Observer Comments**

There were no observer comments.

**Action Items**

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
Provide a copy of the determination that the melter is not High-Level Waste.	DOE	When finalized
Finalize and mail the CTF's comments on the STW draft Reuse Study.	S. Allen & T. Attridge	When final comments are received

**Documents Distributed**

Document Subject	Document Description	Generated by Date (if applicable/known)
April 27, 2005 Meeting Agenda	Agenda	M. Holland; 4/27/05
Notice to CTF Mailing List	Notice	M. Holland; 4/27/05
Summary of the 2/24/05 CTF meeting	Summary	M. Holland; 3/7/05
Summary of the 3/24/05 CTF meeting	Summary	M. Holland; 4/5/05
"WVDP Work Status"	Presenation	R. Mellor, WVNSCO; 4/27/05
Draft comment letter on the STW Reuse Study	Comment Letter	Gayla Gray; 4/27/05
Congressional Districts Map	Map & description	WVNSCO; 2/05
CTF 2005 Work Plan	Work Plan	M. Holland; 4/27/05
CTF letter to environmental groups	Letter	CTF; 4/21/05
CTF letter to WNY Congressional Delegation transmitting Resolutions	Letter	CTF; 4/09/05
Buffalo News Article	Article	Buffalo News; 4/27/05
NYSERDA Comment Letter on the STW Reuse Study	Letter	4/27/05

<b>Document Subject</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Generated by Date (if applicable/known)</b>
"Draft Report: West Valley, NY - Redevelopment of the Nuclear Service Center Site"	Report	Economics Research Associates; 2/05