

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Melinda Holland, Task Force Facilitator  
Date: July 11, 2005  
Subject: **Summary of the July 1, 2005 CTF Conference Call With Bob VanWicklin**

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

### **Attendees**

Attending were: Bob VanWicklin (for Congressman Randy Kuhl), Bill King, Ray Vaughan, Joe Patti, Eric Wohlers, Pete Scherer, Hal Brodie, Paul Piciulo, Tom Attridge, Colleen Gerwitz, Ted Sontag, John Chamberlain, and Tom Attridge.

### **Conference Call Summary**

The conference call began with CTF members congratulating Representative Kuhl and his staff on introduction of the West Valley legislation.

During the remainder of the conference call Mr. VanWicklin answered CTF member questions regarding the legislation introduced by Representative Kuhl. Mr. VanWicklin's answers are summarized briefly below:

- The Senate has not yet introduced similar legislation, the Senator's staff are still reviewing the bill. Having the Senate introduce an identical bill is viewed as advantageous;
- If the Senate does not introduce its own version of the bill, the House bill (after passing the House) will go to the Senate for action;
- CTF members and their constituents could communicate their support for the West Valley bill and urge its adoption;
- Possible "hostile" amendments to the bill are more of a problem in the Senate than the House because Senate amendments do not have to be germane to the subject of the bill (as is needed in the House). Any legislation is vulnerable to amendment - it is the risk you face in a democracy. However, hostile amendments to this legislation are not expected;
- A bill becomes the responsibility of the House leadership once it is introduced (not the sponsor), however, the leadership should be amenable if the sponsor requests that a bill be terminated;
- On average, 10,000 bills are introduced into each two year cycle of Congress but only approximately 10% pass;
- The West Valley bill will start in the Subcommittee on Energy then hopefully go onto the full Committee on Energy and Commerce, and to the floor of the House;
- The West Valley bill will be considered as expensive and as such will likely be reviewed by the Committee on Energy and Commerce. No price tag has yet been assigned to the bill by the House or the Administration. Representative Kuhl's staff is working with the Office of Management and Budget regarding how the cost of the bill is estimated;
- If the Committee on Energy and Commerce holds hearings on this bill, that would be a good time for CTF representatives to testify. OMB does not accept public input on issues such as cost estimates for legislation;
- DOE has not responded to the bill yet;
- House of Representatives attorneys are reviewing issues such as the need to include a reference in the bill to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Final Policy Statement on West Valley vs. only referencing the NRC License Termination Rule (LTR). This is an issue that the CTF may be able to have input on;
- The Washington state delegation is anticipated to be interested in this legislation as, if it passes, it may be viewed as precedent for issues related to the Hanford Site in Washington;

Mr. VanWicklin agreed to pass on the CTF's willingness to travel to Washington D.C. to help with the legislation. A CTF member mentioned that the counties have agreed to send letters supporting the West Valley legislation as introduced by Representative Kuhl. When asked about the best timing for a Task Force delegation to visit Washington D.C. Mr. VanWicklin responded that he would know more after Representative Kuhl has met with the Committee leadership and will keep the CTF informed of opportunities.

**Action Items**

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
Draft a letter for CTF review urging Senator's Schumer and Clinton to introduce the West Valley bill in the Senate	Eric Wohlers	7-20-05
Keep the Task Force posted on events/opportunities regarding the legislation	Bob VanWicklin	As appropriate