

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, Task Force Facilitator
Date: December 6, 2005
Subject: **Summary of the December 21, 2005, Citizen Task Force Meeting**

Next Meeting

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

Date: **Wednesday, January 25, 2005**
Time: 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.
Location: **Ashford Office Complex**
9030 Route 219
West Valley, NY

NOTE: All participants must be U. S. citizens and 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) 942-9960, ext. 2453.

CTF Attendees

Attending were: Paul Piciulo, Darwin John, Bryan Bauer (for T. J. Jackson), Eric Wohlers, Pete Scherer, Bill King, and Ray Vaughan.

CTF Members not attending (nor represented by an alternate) were: Gary Eppolito, Lee Lambert, Warren Schmidt, Stephen Kowalski, Tim Siepel, Bill Kay, Pete Cooney, Chris Pawenski (for Andrew Eszak), Joe Patti, Mike Hutchinson, Tom Buttarfarro (for New York State Assemblyman Giglio), and John Pfeffer.

Agency Attendees

Bob Prince and Chad Glenn, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Meeting Highlights

- ▶ Presentation and discussion on current West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) site work and regulatory activities;
- ▶ Presentation and discussion on the North Plateau Ground Water Plume;
- ▶ Discussion of the CTF's draft comments on the Site Utilization Management Plan (SUMP);
- ▶ Update on the proposed legislation;
- ▶ Discussion of the draft 2006 CTF Work Plan and 2005 CTF Process Evaluation; and
- ▶ Discussion of next steps, agenda topics, action items and observer comments.

Meeting Summary

Tom Attridge reviewed the documents provided for this meeting and Melinda Holland reviewed the agenda.

Status of Site Activities

John Chamberlain gave an overview of recent activities at the WVDP. There were no questions.

North Plateau Ground Water Plume

John Chamberlain gave a presentation on the North Plateau Ground Water Plume. In response to a CTF member's question, Mr. Chamberlain explained that the water seep which comes out through a bank ends up in Franks Creek. In response to another question, Project staff explained that the monitoring wells in the plume area range from 10 feet to 30 feet deep. The top of the till layer is approximately 30 feet from the surface.

A Task Force member asked if NRC has expressed concerns about the plume and its management. A NRC representative explained that the plume is important to the ultimate cleanup of the WVDP site and is being addressed in the Decommissioning Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He stated that NRC does not see any current health or safety threat from the plume. He noted that the plume probably resulted from fuel reprocessing activities but it is up to DOE and NYSERDA to resolve who is responsible for the plume. Another NRC representative stated that NRC will take a close look at the data and modeling used in the upcoming EIS, and that they want a high level of confidence that the analysis is sound and will protect the public. The CTF member stated that when NRC put the site's license in abeyance, it justified that decision by noting that DOE would have control and management responsibility for the site. Yet the contamination plume continues to spread which makes remediation increasingly difficult and costly.

A Task Force member who had previously worked as a site employee discussed the waste water lagoons and how only some had liners. He noted that ground water could enter the lagoons as well as seep out and questioned whether the liners break down over time. He also stated that the waste water interceptor overflowed two or three times while he was employed at the site. It was explained that native till was used to line lagoons #2 and #3, but lagoons #4 and #5 have plastic liners. Mr. Chamberlain further explained that lagoon #1 is contaminated and was closed. The CTF member also asked where the water went which entered the main plant through roof leaks - a WVNSCO representative said they would look into this and get back to the CTF.

In response to a CTF member's questions, Mr. Chamberlain explained that the plume was first discovered in 1993 when contaminated water surfaced in ditches, and that the leading edge of the plume has been leaving the site through the bank of the ravine for some time. Another Task Force member asked what the present radioactive concentrations are in the seeps. A WVNSCO representative stated that the levels in the seeps are currently approaching 100 pCi/l. A NYSERDA representative stated that the levels last summer were reported to be around 7,000 pico curies/liter (gross beta) in the ditch, but the level varies with the amount of rainfall.

In response to a question, Mr. Chamberlain explained the work which was done to identify the source of the plume, which included geoprobe borings in the building floor and the downgradient area. They concluded that the source came from a leak in a process line in the late 1960s which made its way through a gap in the concrete floor. Test results revealed high concentrations in the soil and groundwater under the plant. Sampling was done to characterize the lateral extent and depth of contamination. A Task Force member stated that the problem will not end until the source of the plume is contained. Mr. Chamberlain explained that DOE believes the decision on management of the plume should be made as part of the decision on Project completion.

In response to a Task Force member's question regarding the pump and treat wells, Mr. Chamberlain explained that the wells typically operate at around 8 - 10 gallons per minute. Mr. Chamberlain agreed to provide the CTF with information on the radioactivity levels at the beginning of the pump and treat process and the current levels. It was noted that as of September, 2005 that approximately six curies of Strontium 90 have been removed from the groundwater by the pump and treat process. In response to a question regarding the source of the leak, Mr. Chamberlain agreed to provide copies of the geoprobe testing report, which provides background on the history of the plume, to CTF members upon request. A CTF member asked if the cell used to chop up the fuel rods still had pieces of fuel stuck in the crevices of the floor. Mr. Chamberlain explained that contaminated equipment had been removed from this cell over the last several years.

CTF Comments on the Site Utilization Management Plan (SUMP)

A Task Force member explained the content of the draft comments on the SUMP which were circulated to the CTF prior to this meeting. The CTF members agreed that the CTF should submit comments on the SUMP, and Eric Wohlers and Ray Vaughan agreed to circulate a revised draft via email to the full CTF. Melinda Holland will assist the CTF in finalizing these comments.

Draft 2006 CTF Work Plan

Melinda Holland reviewed the draft 2006 CTF Work Plan. A Task Force member suggested that a future CTF meeting address the pros and cons of expanding the pump and treat operation to the other part of the plume. There were no additional new topics suggested for the work plan.

Several CTF members (including Darwin John, Ray Vaughan, John Pfeffer, Pete Scherer and Mike Hutchinson) had expressed an interest in visiting the Mound/Miamisburg site redevelopment projects. Paul Piciulo agreed to contact John Swailes, DOE, about how such a trip could be supported.

Ray Vaughan offered to work with Darwin John to give presentations to the full CTF on site background information, waste management areas, etc.

Legislation

Paul Piciulo noted that no activity on the legislation is expected until after the last of the year. Bill King contacted Bob VanWicklin who indicated that this is not a good time for CTF members to be writing letters to the House and Senate committee members regarding support for the legislation.

Observer Comments

An observer asked if DOE interprets Felton Bridge as a compliance point, a WVNSCO representative explained that Felton Bridge is the first point of public access off-site.

Next Steps

Melinda Holland distributed 2005 CTF Process Evaluation Forms and requested that CTF members fill them out and return as soon as possible.

Action Items

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
Provide the CTF with information on where the water went which entered the main plant through roof leaks	WVNSCO	1/20/06
Provide the CTF with information on the radioactivity levels at the beginning of the pump and treat process and the current levels.	WVNSCO	1/20/06
Provide the CTF with a copy of the geoprobe testing report.	WVNSCO	1/20/06

Circulate a revised draft of the comments on the SUMP via email to the full CTF	Eric Wohlers and Ray Vaughan	1/9/06
DOE and NYSERDA to consult on supporting a CTF delegation to visit the Mound site redevelopment area.	Piciulo/Swailes	1/20/06

Documents Distributed

Document Subject	Document Description	Date; Generated by (if applicable/known)
December 21, 2005 Meeting Agenda	Agenda	12/21/05; Holland
Presentation on "WVDP Work Status"	Presentation	12/21/05; Chamberlain
Presentation on "North Plateau Ground Water Background"	Presentation	12/21/05; Chamberlain
November 30, 2005 CTF Meeting Summary	Summary	12/6/05; Holland
News Article "West Valley Cleanup Plan Not Popular"	News Article	12/09/05; The Times Herald
December 16, 2005 CTF Agenda Work Group Conference Call Summary	Summary	12/19/05; Holland
Draft 2006 CTF Work Plan	Work Plan	12/19/05
2005 CTF Process Evaluation	Evaluation Form	12/21/05; Holland
Draft CTF Comments on the Site Utilization Management Plan	Comment Letter	12/17/05; Vaughan & Lambert