



WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

July 17, 2006

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

RE: West Valley Demonstration Project Decommissioning Environmental Impact Statement
Preferred Alternative

Dear Mr. Steinberg:

The members of the West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) were recently made aware of the Regulators' meeting which was held in New York City on June 15, 2006 concerning important issues such as the Decommissioning Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and resolution of differences over future State/Federal responsibilities at the West Valley Site. It was with great interest that we also read about the new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal for a Preferred Alternative for the West Valley Demonstration Project Decommissioning EIS which would result in removal of the High-Level Waste Tanks (HLW) and Main Process Building, remediation of the source of the Sr-90 groundwater plume, and clean closure of the North Plateau.

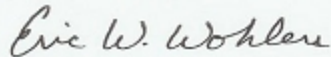
As you are likely aware, the CTF has consistently (and unanimously) opposed the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposals to grout the HLW tanks in place and their attempts to reclassify the tank residue as Waste Incidental to Reprocessing. We are not aware of any stakeholders who supported this approach to decommissioning of the Site. We applaud your further proposal calling for establishment of a new Pilot Demonstration Tank Removal Project which would obviously provide a mechanism for achieving the goals which you have outlined for clean closure of the North Plateau.

The purpose of this letter is simply to express our sincere appreciation to you and your staff for developing this welcome initiative, and for assuming what appears to be a much-needed leadership role in guiding the necessary EIS through to an acceptable conclusion. We are confident that the basic elements in your suggestions for a Preferred Alternative at the West Valley site will have wide support at the state and local level. Hopefully, responsible officials at the Federal level will also view this as a possible win-win situation for everyone involved and will agree to pursue this goal.

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We look forward to future reports on the progress of your proposal. Thank you for your continued efforts in this regard.

Yours truly,



Eric Wohlers
On Behalf of the West Valley Citizen Task Force

cc: Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary of the U.S. DOE
James A. Rispoli, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management at DOE
Bryan C. Bower, DOE Director/West Valley Demonstration Project
U.S. Senator Hillary R. Clinton
U.S. Senator Charles Schumer
U.S. Representative Brian M. Higgins
U.S. Representative John R. Kuhl, Jr.
U.S. Representative Thomas M. Reynolds
U.S. Representative Louise M. Slaughter
New York State Governor George E. Pataki
Peter R. Smith, President, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Paul L. Piciulo, Ph.D., Director/West Valley Site Management Program, NYSERDA
Catharine M. Young, New York State Senate
Joseph Giglio, New York State Assembly
Paul Giardina, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Jeanette Eng, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Chad Glenn, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Tim Rice, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Pat Concannon, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
CTF Members