

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, Task Force Facilitator
Date: March 9, 2007
Subject: **Summary of the February 28, 2007, Citizen Task Force Meeting**

Next Meeting

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

Date: **Wednesday, March 28, 2007**
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, Bryan Bower, Lee Lambert, Pete Scherer, Bill Snyder, Chris Pawenski (for Andrew Eszak), Pete Cooney, Tim Siepel, Ray Vaughan, and Julie Siranni (for New York State Senator Young).

CTF Members not attending (nor represented by an alternate) were: Stephen Kowalski, Joe Patti, Mike Brisky (for New York State Assemblyman Giglio), Darwin John, Bill King, Eric Wohlers Mike Hutchinson, and John Pfeffer.

Agency and Other Attendees

Pat Concannon, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Meeting Highlights

- ▶ DOE Project Update Presentation;
- ▶ NYSERDA Update;
- ▶ CTF Press Release Development Process;
- ▶ 2007 CTF Work Plan and Goal Implementation; and
- ▶ Discussion of next steps, agenda topics, action items and observer comments.

Meeting Summary

Tom Attridge reviewed the documents¹ provided for this meeting and Melinda Holland reviewed the agenda.

DOE Project Update

Bryan Bower, DOE, gave a project update presentation. A Task Force member inquired about the scope

¹ The documents distributed at this CTF meeting may be found on the "Meeting Materials" page of the CTF web site at www.westvalleyctf.org

of the planned groundwater plume evaluation. Mr. Bower explained that two things are being evaluated. First, under the Draft Decommissioning and Long-Term Stewardship Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), SAIC is looking at whether there are other actions that could be taken for long-term remediation of the plume. Second, WVNSCO is investigating short-term actions that could be taken to mitigate the spread of the plume. Both evaluations are looking at cost-benefit and effectiveness of the options. In response to another question, Mr. Bower explained that the source concentration of the Cesium portion of the plume is still under the Process Building, but the highest concentration of Strontium has moved closer to the Fuel Receiving and Storage facility. The current studies are focusing on the Strontium portion of the plume, its rate of decay and extent of migration.

Mr. Bower responded to another CTF member explaining that they do not have plans to remove the Process Building or move the high-level waste canisters during the last six month of the current site contract.

Regarding proposed shipments of the Drum Cell waste, Mr. Bower explained that the waste drums will be placed in a containment bag, transferred to a pallet, then loaded into un-lined gondola rail car for shipping. In response to another question, he explained that if the rail cars are not contaminated during use, that they will be returned into commercial use after radiation surveys have been performed. Mr. Bower further explained that shipping the waste by railroad is projected to cost \$3.9 million less than truck shipment.

In response to DOE's proposed cut in the 2008 WVDP budget, a CTF member suggested that the Task Force take action as soon as possible to encourage that the budget be restored to the prior year's amount. He suggested that the CTF try to set up a face-to-face meeting with the Congressional delegation either in Washington D.C. or locally. A member suggested that the CTF meet with Representatives Kuhl, Reynolds, Higgins, Slaughter and Senators' Clinton and Schumer. It was suggested that an e-mail be sent to the full Task Force asking if anyone would take the lead on this issue. In response to a CTF member's question, Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA, explained that there are New York State Representatives on the House Committee on Appropriations, but they are not part of the local delegation.

A CTF member asked if local government resolutions would be helpful regarding the budget issue. Another Task Force member responded that he thought that resolutions are useful if you receive enough of them. A CTF member noted that several years ago the CTF wrote its own resolution then sent it to local government entities with a request for supporting resolutions.

Chris Pawinski offered to e-mail the full CTF with some recommendations on possible actions the CTF could take in response to the proposed 2008 WVDP budget cut.

NYSERDA Report

Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA, stated that the new governor's staff are reviewing the proposed legislation and NYSERDA is waiting for their recommendations. Regarding the litigation, he noted that the United States, represented by the U.S. Department of Justice, has requested an extension of time until April 13th. Dr. Piciulo stated that he believes the federal government has two courses of action available: they can answer the New York State complaint and prepare to litigate, or they ~~may~~ ask that the case be dismissed. The case has been assigned to the United States District Court, Western District of New York.

Two CTF members reminded NYSERDA representatives that they still have concerns regarding some provisions of the proposed legislation and await an opportunity to discuss these issues further with Hal Brodie and the CTF.

CTF Press Release Development Process

Next, Melinda Holland summarized the press release development process recommendations made by various CTF members prior to this meeting. She also discussed possible interpretations of Section IV.D - Media Relations, of the CTF Mission and Ground Rules. Ray Vaughan mentioned that his alternate, Judy Einach, was willing to work on the Press Relations Work Group and help develop draft guidelines for press releases.

During the discussion that followed, some CTF members stated that they would not favor a pre-approved work group having the authority to draft and issue press releases without it being reviewed by the full Task Force. A member suggested developing a set of press release guidelines to be followed by whomever develops the press release. Next, CTF members discussed the purposes of issuing press releases and what topics might be addressed in a release. CTF members agreed on the need to make the public more aware of what is happening regarding the site and the Task Force, noting that press releases should be reserved for things the press might find to be newsworthy.

A modified press release development approach was suggested by several CTF members which would involve a Press Relations Work Group, made up of CTF members and alternates, which would draft a press release for review by the full CTF. All Task Force members would receive the draft press release, and their review would be limited to a very short time. If CTF members did not respond within the specified review time, they would be deemed to have been in agreement with the draft press release. Fleshing out the concepts discussed during this session was referred to the newly created Press Relations Work Group. Bill Snyder, Lee Lambert and Judy Einach volunteered to be on the work group and to hold a conference call on March 5th.

CTF 2007 Work Plan and Implementation of CTF Goals

Melinda Holland reviewed the results of the February 15th CTF Agenda Work Group conference call. Work Group participants recommended sorting the 2007 CTF draft goal statements, which were developed by break out groups at the January 24th CTF meeting, under four topics (which are shown below) and having the entire CTF prioritize the goals by "dot voting." Ms. Holland also reviewed the draft 2007 CTF Work Plan noting that the Seneca Nation of Indians plans to give a presentation to the CTF on March 28th, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will give a presentation on April 25th. Ms. Holland asked CTF members to review the draft list of questions for NRC and to suggest any additional questions they have. The list of questions will be given to Chad Glenn, NRC, to help him prepare for the April 25th meeting.

At this meeting, CTF members "dot voted" to prioritize the 2007 CTF draft goal statements. The results of this prioritization exercise are shown below.

Outreach to Community/Constituents:

- 10 dots Alert and educate the public about site issues such as the plume;
- 3 dots Develop press release process with prior consensus from full CTF (streamline press release process); and
- 1 dot Seek/continue to receive letters of support from municipal boards.

Meet/work with Agencies, Congressional delegation:

- 9 dots Push for EPA's Region II's recent proposal for cleanup of the North Plateau facilities, and set up a meeting with EPA on goals for North Plateau closure;
- 8 dots Have federal (Congressional) officials attend a CTF meeting;
- 6 dots Meet with new state and federal leaders and elected officials, bring them up-to-speed on site issues, use "in the face" lobbying approach like what has been used for the

- Mound/Miamisburg site, discuss redevelopment, and request funding for CTF travel for this effort;
- 5 dots Set up a meeting with NRC on its position/role for protection of the public; and
- 3 dots More face-to-face meetings with DOE officials..

Information Desired from Agencies:

- 7 dots Presentation to CTF by expert on erosion modeling (Greg Tucker was suggested);
- 2 dots Review dependability of High-Level Waste Tank grouting;
- 1 dot Learn about DOE's Core Team process vs. NYSERDA's EIS process; and
- 0 dots Receive timely information from DOE and NYSERDA on Interim Measures.

Develop CTF Agreement and Recommendations.

- 3 dots Revisit Remediation Act legislation;
- 3 dots Possible CTF support for NYSERDA lawsuit;
- 3 dots Get the site at least to "brownfields" status;
- 5 dots Focus on getting NDA and SDA cleaned up;
- 0 dots Explore/re-evaluate CTF effectiveness and how to improve it; and
- 6 dots Future land use - stay on focus

After reviewing the results of the prioritization exercise, CTF members suggested the following as topics for future CTF meetings.

- Ask EPA Region II to make a presentation to the CTF on their proposal for remediation of the North Plateau facilities (Dr. Piciulo offered to contact EPA on this request);
- Presentation to CTF by expert on erosion modeling(Mr. Bower to follow up with Greg Tucker); and
- Have DOE, state and Congressional officials attend CTF meetings.

Next Steps

Melinda Holland noted that further work is needed to develop the 2007 CTF Work Plan and develop approaches to implementing the CTF's 2007 goals. Ms. Holland stated that Bill Snyder has been appointed as the official CTF member for the Town of Concord. Ms. Holland also told the CTF that she has interviewed another candidate for CTF membership, but that individual has declined. Additional candidates are being sought for the one vacancy on the Task Force.

Observer Comments

An observer mentioned that a Buffalo News reporter had called her mentioning proposals he had heard about from DOE regarding future actions at the WVDP. She wanted to know if these are clear proposals or just developments under discussion. Mr. Bower responded that at this point they are just developments under discussion.

Action Items

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
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Hold Press Relations Work Group call to draft CTF press release guidelines and share with the CTF	Holland & W.G.	03/05/07
Schedule a presentation to CTF by expert on erosion modeling (Greg Tucker was suggested)	DOE	03/28/07
Ask EPA Region II to make a presentation to the CTF on their proposal for remediation of the North Plateau facilities	NYSERDA	03/28/07
Ask U. S. Representative Kuhl (or staff) to attend a CTF meeting	J. Sirianni	03/28/07
Schedule Cynthia Anderson, DOE Headquarters, to attend a CTF meeting	DOE	03/28/07

Documents Distributed

Document Subject	Document Description	Date; Generated by (if applicable/known)
02/28/07 Agenda	Agenda	Holland; 02/7/07
January 24, 2006 CTF Meeting Summary	Summary	Holland; 01/06/07
Mission and Ground Rules - Proposed Revision	Ground Rules	Holland; 02/28/07
Presentation "Project Update"	Presentation	Bower; 02/28/07
Memo "CTF Press Release Process & Media Relations Plan"	Memo	Holland; 02/27/08
2007 CTF Draft Work Plan	Work Plan	Holland; 02/28/07
Memo "List of CTF Draft Questions for NRC"	Memo	Holland; 02/27/07
Compilation of News Articles	News Articles	Press; Feb. 07
Agenda Work Group Conference Call Summary	Summary	Holland; 02/29/07
Report "The Politics of Cleanup" (for a copy see: http://www.energyca.org/PDF/ECACleanupforPosting.pdf)	Report	Energy Communities Alliance; 2007