

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Cindy Cook and Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitators
Date: December 14, 2007
Subject: **Summary of the November 28, 2007 Meeting (Amended 1/23/08)**

Next Meeting

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

Time & Date: **7:00 – 9:30 PM, January 23, 2008**
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219
West Valley, NY

Note: All participants must be United States citizens and must bring photo identification.

If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact Bill Logue (860-521-9122, bill@loguegroup.com) or Cindy Cook (802-223-1330, ccook@adamantaccord.com).

CTF Attendees

CTF members attending: Joe Atkinson, Mike Brisky, Judy Einach, Mike Hutchinson, Bill King, Steve Kowalski, Lee Lambert, Anthony Memmo, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Pete Scherer, Tim Siepel, Julie Sirianni, Bill Snyder, Ray Vaughan, and Eric Wohlers.

CTF Members not attending (nor represented by an alternate): Rob Dallas

CTF Alternates Attending

CTF alternates attending: Chris Pawenski and Warren Schmidt.

Agency and Other Attendees

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Moira Maloney, Ben Underwood.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Tom Attridge, Paul Bembia, and Ted Sonntag.

West Valley Environmental Services, LLC (WVES): Sonja Allen and John Chamberlain.

New York Office of the Attorney General: Linda White.

Observers: Christian Eshelman, Diane Eshelman, Gladys Gifford, and Chris Gerwitz.

Meeting Summary

Cindy Cook and Bill Logue welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting documents and the meeting agenda.¹ The group welcomed new members Dr. Joseph Atkinson of the New York State University at Buffalo, Anthony Memmo, representative for the Seneca Nation of Indians, and former alternate Judy Einach.

¹ The documents are listed at the end of this summary and may be found at www.westvalleyctf.org

DOE Update

Bryan Bower of DOE provided an update.

- **Safety.** There have been no lost time or work injuries in six months. Workers have received a Radiation Worker Refresher Course because upcoming work will be occurring in high hazard areas of the plant.
- **Drum Shipment.** The off-site shipment, and acceptance for disposal, of 19,692 drums is complete. The drum cell is clean and future potential uses are being considered.
- **Other Recent Accomplishments.**
 - **South Plateau cleanup.** The South Plateau cleanup is underway. A surplus non-radioactive use fiberglass tank was transferred to the town of Angelica. Two stainless tanks have been recycled and a lead glass window returned to the manufacturer.
 - The **Bulk Storage Warehouse** is empty. Paul Bembia noted that the warehouse could be available for reuse and that licensing paperwork will need to be examined to confirm its status.
 - **NDA Cap.** The NRC-Licensed Disposal Area (NDA) Cap design has been approved, test borings for the wall are complete and the barrier wall and cap installation is scheduled for the spring of 2008. Mr. Bower reiterated the goal is to prevent water from infiltrating into the contaminated waste.
 - **Waste shipment.** Processing and preparation of waste for off-site shipment has been performed in the Remote Handled Waste Facility.
- **Near-Term Work.** Low-level waste will be processed and shipped for off-site disposal. Transuranic (TRU) wastes will be processed and staged for shipment, though an off-site disposal pathway does not currently exist. Higher activity waste will be processed in the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) and Vitrification Facility. Preparation will begin for decontamination work in the Main Plant Processing Building (MPPB) and a demolition plan for the MPPB will be drafted and discussed with EPA. Mr. Bower noted that foreseeable alternatives for decommissioning will be explored. For example, analyses will look at the high level waste tanks, and whether they would need to be removed for this area to be available for unrestricted use, and, if so, how removal might be accomplished. The EIS will address this at the level of an engineered concept. A CTF member commented that the removal of the large underground storage tanks is a very complex undertaking because of their size and contamination. He encouraged DOE to begin the work of analyzing options for cutting up and removing the tanks.
- **Issues Raised by Members.** A member requested any licensing information for the Western New York Nuclear Service Center that shows the borders of the licensed areas and the levels of control. CTF members asked questions about the extent of environmental monitoring given the NDA cap installation, cleanup of other areas and movement of material around the site. Mr.

Bower explained that for some areas, where long-term environmental monitoring had demonstrated no changes over time, the frequency of monitoring might be decreased. For other areas, where increased cleanup activity might be taking place, a monitoring plan appropriate to the work will be adopted. A monitoring plan may be developed for work that may extend into the Lavery Till or involve the Kent Recessional Sequence. CTF members expressed concern that building footings, pilings and other elements extend into the till which may create avenues through which contamination might spread and therefore monitoring of the till layer in this area is important. Discussion of environmental monitoring was suggested as a future CTF meeting agenda item². Paul Bembia noted that the environmental impact statement (EIS) contractor, SAIC, is developing a comprehensive groundwater computer model for the north and south plateaus, including the Lavery Till and the Kent Recessional Sequence. In response to a CTF member's question regarding groundwater modeling at the site, Mr. Bembia noted that a 3-D model was developed a number of years ago, and that a comprehensive, 3-D groundwater model will be included in the EIS. A CTF member noted that approximately 5 years ago DOE performed 1-D groundwater modeling and the usefulness of this limited modeling was questioned by the CTF and NYSERDA so the 3-D modeling was undertaken.

NYSERDA Update

Paul Bembia of NYSERDA noted that the mediation process regarding the litigation between NYSERDA and DOE is underway, with future meetings planned. Due to a confidentiality order, no details are available. Tom Attridge reported NYSERDA's deer hunting program was successful; 42 deer were taken on the site.

CTF Letter to NRC

The CTF's letter to NRC was approved and signed by the members. (Copy available on the website.)

Core Team Update

Bryan Bower of DOE noted that the Core Team met on November 8 and 9. The Team is reviewing recommendations on the preferred alternative for the EIS and finishing the designation of alternatives for evaluation. Technical issues under discussion, or to be discussed, include: receptor locations and scenarios, long-term erosion modeling, long-term performance assessment, and uncertainty analysis. In response to a question, Mr. Bower noted that NRC's Policy Statement for West Valley requires that evaluation would be less than 25 millirems/year exposure to various groups by activity (e.g., fishing, farming, etc.). Bryan Bower indicated that they are also taking into consideration tribal fish consumption patterns of members of the Seneca Nation of Indians. A CTF member noted that some assumptions had changed dramatically since the 1996 draft EIS and he wanted to ensure that the risk assessment will be defensible. A CTF member suggested using the balanced approach of a probabilistic risk assessment model. Paul Bembia noted that the assessment would likely be deterministic, and based

² Mr. Bower noted that information regarding the scope of work for groundwater monitoring at the site is included in the Annual Environmental Site Report, which is available on the DOE website.

on specific receptor locations. NRC has provided general screening scenario guidance and has essentially said that for site specific alternatives that DOE and NYSERDA must “state the case and then defend it.”

DOE Overview of Draft Environmental Impact Statement Schedule

Bryan Bower reviewed a high level schedule for the Draft EIS (DEIS). The goal is to release a draft for cooperating agency review in 2008, followed by a six-month public review in 2009, and a Record of Decision (ROD) in 2010. This schedule is designed so work to implement the EIS can be contracted without an interruption to work at the site. These EIS actions include the lagoons, RHWF, Vitrification Facility, MPPB, Waste Tank Farm, HLW canisters, NDA and State- licensed Disposal Area (SDA).

In discussion of the schedule, Mr. Bower noted that moving the high-level waste canisters would likely be part of the EIS. Although it might be possible to do an Environmental Assessment (EA) or obtain a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), it is possible an EIS might be necessary and, therefore, including the canister move as part of the EIS seems to make the most sense. Several members expressed the desire that an underlying goal in decision making be that actions and decisions not be undertaken that could result in delay to work at the end of the current contract.

With respect to erosion and the computer modeling, Mr. Bower noted that preliminary data runs were being conducted and that runs will be conducted for the EIS in February and March. The “natural experiment” from what is known about geologic history is being correlated with the current model and preliminary results look promising. Mr. Bembia noted that at the erosion workshop NYSERDA requested the parameters that will be used in the erosion modeling work, and was told by DOE the parameters will not be available until February 2008. The parameters and long-term results of the model will be reviewed by the three experts hired by NYSERDA. Ray Vaughan noted that he will provide comments regarding the erosion modeling.

Review and Discussion of CTF 1998 Report

The CTF reviewed the key elements of their 1998 Final Report. Several members noted that they feel that the Report still addresses the important issues and that they expect the agencies will directly address the policies and guidelines the CTF developed for the Preferred Alternative in its 1998 Report. The CTF asked the facilitators to send a copy of the 1998 Report to the Core Team so Core Team members are aware of the CTF’s recommendations. A CTF member noted that he appreciates DOE’s and NYSERDA’s continued participation and responsiveness to the CTF.

Observer Comments

A member of the public asked that DOE and NYSERDA impress upon the Core Team the importance of responding to the recommendations of the CTF regarding the preferred alternative.

Other Business and Adjournment

The CTF and all present gave heartfelt thanks to Bill King for his role in forming the CTF and his 11 years of service as a member of the group.

The CTF determined that the planned December meeting would be cancelled and the meeting was adjourned.

Action Items

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
Send 1998 CTF Final Report to Core Team	Cook/Logue	11/30/07
Send information relating to licenses, licensed areas and levels of control or restriction associated with those areas to Ray Vaughan.	NYSERDA	1/23/08
Schedule a "Radiation 101" workshop for CTF members and the interested public issues and a site tour for new and interested CTF members.	Cook/Logue, NYSERDA, DOE	1/23/08

Documents Distributed

Document Description	Date; Generated by (if applicable /known)
Agenda	Cook/Logue; 11/28/07
WVDP Update	DOE; 11/28/07
DOE Draft Decommissioning EIS Schedule	DOE; 11/28/07
CTF Letter to NRC	CTF; 11/28/07
Review: Ground Rule Objectives and 1998 Final Report	Logue/Cook; 11/28/07
CTF Final Report	CTF; 1998
Revised CTF Mission and Ground Rules	10/24/07
Letter from Paul Giardina of EPA to CTF	EPA; 11/13/07
Compilation of News Articles	NYSERDA