

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: May 22, 2009  
Subject: **Summary of the May 6, 2009 Meeting**

## Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **7:00 – 9:30 PM, May 27, 2009**  
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](mailto:bill@loguegroup.com)).

## CTF Participants

**CTF Members and Alternates attending:** Robert Engel, Paul Kranz, Lee Lambert, Kathy McGoldrick, Anthony Memmo, John Pfeffer, Pete Scherer, Warren Schmidt, Tim Siepel, Bill Snyder, Ray Vaughan.

## Agency Participants and Observers

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

*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA):* Tom Attridge, John Kelly, Paul Piciulo.

*West Valley Environmental Services, LLC (WVES):* Sonja Allen, Charles Biedermann, Steve Warren.

*Observers:* Ann Ploetz, David Ploetz, Phil Quinlan.

## Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting documents.<sup>1</sup> He noted that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission had acknowledged receipt of the CTF's comments on the Decommissioning Plan.

## DOE Update

Bryan Bower informed the CTF that a Quarterly Public meeting was held on May 5 and that on May 6 DOE presented an overview of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to the Cattaraugus County Legislature. He also announced that, if the Phased Decision Making Alternative is selected, DOE will commit to future public involvement processes for the Phase 2 decision.

Mr. Bower presented a brief status on the funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). He noted that the DOE Office of Environmental Management receive an additional \$6 billion in ARRA funds, including \$500 million for non-defense work, covering near-term environmental cleanup with lasting economic benefit and footprint reduction. Priorities are soil and water remediation, radioactive waste disposition and facility decommissioning. West Valley will receive \$74 million under the ARRA. Planned work includes acceleration of the Main Process Plant Building (MPPB) deactivation and decontamination; acceleration of processing of legacy low-level waste, mixed waste and transuranic waste; evaluation of a storage option for the high-level waste (HLW) canisters; installation and

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<sup>1</sup> The documents are listed at the end of this summary and may be found at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org)

operation of systems for drying the HLW tanks and vault; MPPB liquid solidification; North Plateau Ground Water Plume mitigation; demolition of the 01-14 Building and Vitrification Facility; isolation of the lagoons; and removing foundation and facilities ear marked for demolition and re-vegetation of the areas. Projects and funding can be tracked though [www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery](http://www.em.doe.gov/emrecovery). Seventy to one hundred jobs will be created. Most will be field and engineering positions.

In response to questions from CTF members, Mr. Bower noted that there was consultation with state executive branch agencies. Letters of support were received from the US EPA and the CTF. The Office of Environmental Management then recommended projects based on identified selection criteria. The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) will be able to re-establish several priorities that were shifted in 2008 and it is anticipated that the HLW canister storage issue will be addressed by 2011. Liquids in the MPPB will be solidified with grout.

## Comments on DEIS

The CTF reviewed the reformatted comment letter on the DEIS. Specific language changes were reviewed and are noted in the edited document which may be found with the meeting materials at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org). Those edits are not noted here. The CTF did engage in several broad discussions concerning approaches to the comments on the DEIS or statements to be made in the comments. These include:

- Several members urged the CTF to be clearer in its support for the Phase 1 *work* and a full cleanup of the site. The group agreed that they should reiterate their support for the conclusions in the 1998 CTF Final Report.
- Several members stated their conclusion that, because significant decisions are being deferred, the document is not complete and should be regarded as an interim remedial measure. The CTF discussed the issue of segmentation of decisions through multiple environmental impact statements. Segmentation is problematic because multiple minor impacts may mask a significant cumulative impact. Phrasing of comments in terms of interim remedial actions could avoid an inference that the CTF is supporting segmentation by supporting both the Phase 1 work and a robust public participation or NEPA process for any deferred decisions.
- Paul Kranz stated that the default for the Phase 2 decision is the No-Action Alternative and he is concerned that the impacts from this action fall outside the upper bound (complete removal) and the lower bound (close-in-place) Phase 2 decision.
- Ray Vaughan stated that he supported the Phased-Decision Making Alternative because it allows important work to move forward without delay or a drop in employment. However, he had several caveats in his support:
  - Additional studies and analyses must correct defects in the existing DEIS with respect to such things as transportation, erosion modeling, and containment structures. As those studies currently stand they support the close in place alternative due to risk and cost.
  - The additional studies be completed within 10 years, not 30 years as described in the DEIS.

- Meaningful public participation should occur during this 10 year time frame.
- The studies should focus on the complete removal of waste.
- Several members felt comfortable framing the CTF stance as support for phased clean up, rather than phased decision making.
- Throughout comments members felt that the CTF comments should be clear and declarative and avoid terminology such as “encourages” or “believes”.

## Other Business

The CTF asked Kathy McGoldrick and John Pfeffer to coordinate with Phil Quinlan of Congressman Massa’s office concerning the congressman’s support and actions for the continuation of enhanced public participation through such things as the Quarterly Public Meetings, the CTF process, CTF participation in the Core Team process and additional NEPA processes. Mr. Bower noted that the Core Team process was an internal agency deliberative process and that it would be difficult to allow participation by one public representative, but not others. Mr. Attridge noted that NYSERDA has not opposed CTF participation in the Core Team meetings. Several CTF members noted that at some point DOE and the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes may differ on when the requirements of the Stipulation of Compromise have been met.

## Upcoming Meetings

The CTF confirmed that it will meet on May 27. The CTF agreed to review and confirm detailed comments via email prior to the meeting.

## Observer Comments

An observer commented that the CTF’s comments could be clearer for the following items:

1. The opening paragraph concerning the preferred alternative and its status,
2. Reference to the WVDP suitability as a place to develop pilot technologies because of its “size and special circumstances” should include a reference to the diversity of environmental insults at West Valley, and
3. Reference to temporary storage of waste awaiting a final disposal location state that the storage be located inside a safe containment structure.

## Action Items

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
Edit comments in light of discussion	CTF/Logue	5/9/2009

## Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
CTF individual member draft comments – general, revised chapter 1 and 2, chapter 4. Reformatted comments	Various CTF members; 5/5/2009
Newspaper clippings distributed at the meeting	NYSERDA; 5/6/2009