

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: February 21, 2011
Subject: **Summary of the January 26, 2011 Meeting**

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM, March 23, 2011**
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219
West Valley, NY

Note: Participants must be U.S. citizens and have photo identification. Please contact Bill Logue (860-521-9122, Bill@LogueGroup.com) with questions or comments concerning this summary or future meetings.

NOTE: DOE and NYSERDA will sponsor the first public meeting of the Phase 1 Studies Process on February 23, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Ashford Office Complex as part of the Quarterly Public Meeting.

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Rob Dallas, Chris Gerwitz, Mike Hutchinson, Steve Kowalski, Paul Kranz, Lee Lambert, Kathy McGoldrick, Anthony Memmo, Warren Schmidt, Joe Sempolinski, Ray Vaughan.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower.

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

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

Observers: Lynette Bennet, Chuck Bernard, Alan Dobson, Shannon Farrell, Don Giardini, Joanne Hameister, Richard Kacich, Justin Karter, Elizabeth Lewes, Matt Sergeant, Bill Schaab.

Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed the group and Tom Attridge of NYSERDA reviewed the meeting documents.¹ The CTF welcomed Joe Sempolinski, Communications Director for Congressman Tom Reed, as a member. Mr. Sempolinski introduced himself and noted that at some point in the future he would become an alternate and a staff member from Congressman Reed's Olean office will serve as the CTF representative. Mr. Sempolinski informed the CTF that the West Valley Demonstration Project was a priority for the Congressman. Warren Schmidt reported on his calls to the offices of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand concerning possible representation on the CTF. He informed the group that the senators would have a staff member attend CTF meetings as an observer on their behalf. He then introduced Justin Karter from Senator Schumer's office.

Phase 1 Studies Process

Paul Bembia of NYSERDA reported that DOE and NYSERDA have come to agreement on the process for the Phase 1 studies and are now ready to move forward on the Second Supplemental Agreement. The agreement was authorized by the NYSERDA Board of Directors on January 24. It will set in place the mechanisms for contracting for the facilitator, the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and the Independent

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

Scientific Panel. The agreement provides for 50/50 cost sharing and joint contract management. The first public meeting will be held on February 23 as part of the Quarterly Public Meeting in lieu of the February CTF meeting.

After discussion, the CTF agreed that they would participate in these meetings as members of the public and forgo their regular meeting in February, May, August and November. This will encourage greater public participation. The CTF may ask for additional information or presentations from DOE and NYSERDA on a particular issue and/or schedule a meeting following the public meeting.

Citizen Task Force – Annual Organization Meeting

Annual Survey. Bill Logue reviewed the annual survey noting that for the first time staff at DOE, NYSERDA and WVES received a parallel survey. The results were consistent with prior years and generally showed high levels of satisfaction with the exception of public outreach by the CTF. Methods of improving public outreach were discussed later in the meeting.

Attendance. The CTF reviewed attendance for the year. The Ground Rules call for assessing the desire and commitment of members who make less than 50% of the meetings. After discussion, and with knowledge that they wish to continue serving, the CTF agreed to ask two members with low attendance to continue to serve.

Objectives. The group reviewed the existing Objectives in the Ground Rules Section 1 listed below:

“The Citizen Task Force process is being conducted in addition to the public comment process required by the National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Quality Review Act. The Task Force will discuss the following specific topics and provide comments or recommendations to the agencies for consideration:

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Decontamination and Waste Management;
- DEIS for Decommissioning including the development of the preferred alternative;
- NRC Policy Statement for Decontamination and Decommissioning;
- Long-Term Stewardship; and
- Future Land Use Options.

Either the site managers or the CTF may propose additional topics, as amendments to the CTF Mission and Ground Rules (in accordance with Section IV. H).”

After discussion the Objectives were revised as follows:

“The Citizen Task Force process is being conducted in addition to the public comment process required by the National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Quality Review Act. The Task Force will discuss the following specific topics and provide comments or recommendations to the agencies for consideration:

- Phase 1 Studies identification, implementation, results, impacts and applicability to decisionmaking;
- EIS process for Decommissioning including the development of the preferred alternative;
- NRC Decommissioning Plan process;
- Long-Term Stewardship;

- Future land use options and long-term impacts; and
- The continued communication with, and significant engagement of, the general public, interested environmental organizations and local and regional governments.

Either the site managers or the CTF may propose additional topics, as amendments to the CTF Mission and Ground Rules (in accordance with Section IV. H)."

Topics for Future Meetings and Approach to Work. The CTF discussed possible topics and approaches for upcoming meetings. The group agreed that many of the meeting topics would be determined by the reactions of the CTF to the proposed Phase I Studies process and what the SMEs initially focused on for the Phase 1 Studies. Paul Bembia suggested that an early topic was likely to be erosion. Therefore, the group decided not to set out a specific schedule until after the initial public meeting in February.

Bryan Bower reminded the CTF of a discussion from a prior meeting that there were multiple aspects to making decisions including technical, political and budgetary. He noted that decisions had different implications. For example, close in place would raise questions of long-term performance assessment and institutional controls and full clean up through exhumation would raise questions of worker dose, transportation and cost (approximately \$8 billion). Much of this is discussed in the NYSERDA view. He also encouraged the CTF to discuss other options such as a partial site cleanup and the associated risks and costs.

Based on the discussion the CTF agreed to the following:

- March meeting topics: Phase 1 studies, briefing on President's Budget
- April: Project update and topics as determined at the March meeting
- An Agenda Work Group was formed to include the following CTF members: Lee Lambert, Steve Kowalski and Ray Vaughan

Options to improve community outreach were discussed. Bill Logue committed to looking into the number of visitors to the CTF website. The option of webcasting CTF meetings was raised. After discussion and input from observers it was agreed that the meetings are generally too dry or technical to warrant this approach. Several members suggested that it might be worth trying for the Quarterly Public Meetings. The CTF agreed that having a CTF "corner" in the quarterly newsletter published by WVES as an initial outreach effort. Bill Logue committed to track topics for this and present them to the CTF in time for editing and inclusion in the next newsletter in mid-April.

The CTF discussed ongoing budget concerns and the desire to ensure that the West Valley Demonstration Project receives sufficient funding to complete the Phase 1 work in a timely manner. This evolved into a discussion of visits to the Congressional delegation. The preferred goal is to meet with Congressman Reed and Senators Gillibrand and Schumer; however, the CTF recognized that meetings with staff are likely. Joe Sempolinski indicated he could coordinate with the Congressman's Washington office concerning a visit. He encouraged the CTF to look at the congressional session calendar. He also noted that a meeting with the Congressman was more likely in the district, given other demands and time limitations when the Congressman is in Washington. Justin Karter indicated he would pass along any proposal to the

Washington offices of the Senators. A member recalled a Washington meeting with both Senators and the Congressman about 10 years ago which was well received. Other committees with oversight who might be contacted include: Energy and Water Committee, Budget Committee, and the Appropriations Committee. Warren Schmidt was asked to be the point of contact to coordinate on the issue for the CTF.

Observer Comments

Joanne Hameister of the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes made several points. She reminded all attendees that the next decision would likely be a Supplemental Analysis not another Draft Environmental Impact Statement. A Supplemental Analysis, does not require, but in this instance she emphasized should have the benefit of a full public participation process. She strongly encouraged the CTF to address this issue. Ms. Hameister also reminded the CTF of how technical the discussions can become and the need to make them understandable to the average person.

Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Follow up with Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Representative Reed offices on visits	Schmidt; ongoing
Schedule Agenda Work Group Call for after February 23 Meeting	Logue; 2/15/2011
Track topics for CTF insert in WVES newsletter	Logue; ongoing
Determine number of website visits	Logue; 2/11/2011

Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 1/26/2011
Summary of 2010 CTF Activities and Surveys	Logue; 1/26/2010
Newspaper clippings distributed at the meeting	NYSERDA; 1/26/2011