

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: August 12, 2011
Subject: **Summary of the July 27, 2011 Meeting**

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM, September 28, 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: The CTF will forgo its August meeting. DOE and NYSERDA will host a Quarterly Public Meeting for the Phase 1 Studies Process on August 24, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Ashford Office Complex.

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Deb Aumick, Rob Dallas, Chris Gerwitz, Mike Hutchinson, Steve Kowalski, Paul Kranz, Lee James, Lee Lambert, Anthony Memmo, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Warren Schmidt, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Martin Krentz, Moira Maloney, Craig Rieman.

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

West Valley Environmental Services, LLC (WVES): John Chamberlain, Cindy Dayton, Joe Ebert, Dave Garber, KK Gupta, Brent Rankin.

CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWV): Bill Badger, Lynette Bennett, Dan Coyne, Ryan Dodd, Jean Gallimore, Ray Geimer, Heatherly Dukes, John Rendall, Bill Schaab (American DND), BP Shagula, Allen Upshaw.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Pat Concannon.

Observers: Diane D'Arrigo (via Telephone), Tuana Batchelos, Charles Davis, Terry Dunford, Gladys Gifford, Alvin Schuster, Barbara Warren (via Telephone).

Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting protocols and ground rules for the CTF. He noted that the CTF will forgo the August meeting in place of the Quarterly Public Meeting. The September meeting will be held as scheduled on September 28. The meeting documents were reviewed.¹

Activities During Continuation of Services & Contract Transition

Bryan Bower of DOE provided an update to the CTF concerning the transition to the new contractor, CH2M HILL B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWV), from WVES. WVES is continuing, under a provision of the existing contract, through a transition period from July 1 through August 28, 2011 performing work and preparing the facilities for the turnover to CHBWV. CHBWV will begin performing the Phase 1 decommissioning work beginning on August 29.

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

Ongoing work during the transition includes:

- Main Plant Process Building: Four vessels remain in Extraction Cell-1, 6 in the Off-Gas Cell, and approximately 150 feet of asbestos containing material.
- Waste Process and Shipping: With a shift in initial American Resource and Recovery Act (ARRA) funding waste shipping had been suspended, however, with savings under work funded by the ARRA available through September 30, 3-4 trucks of Low-Level Radioactive Waste (LLW) and mixed waste are being shipped weekly. Processing of Remote Handled (RHW) remaining Transuranic Waste (TRU) is ongoing. The new plasma cutting system is working well.
- Preparation for Contract Turnover: the facilities are being prepared for turnover, documents and procedures are being provided and facility walkthroughs conducted.

In response to a question Mr. Bower stated that the rail line was operable and in need of minor work. CHBWV under the new contract will determine the method of shipping. He also discussed that the rail line is routinely inspected to ensure its operability.

WVES Accomplishments During Contract

Mr. Bower introduced Brent Rankin, the WVES Project Manager during the transition. Mr. Rankin noted that WVES and its related companies have been involved at the site for 27 years. He expressed appreciation to the agencies, regulators and community and reviewed WVES's accomplishment during the last four years.

WVES assisted DOE in developing the phased decision-making plan and interim actions and supported DOE in preparing the Environmental Impact Statement and Phase 1 Decommissioning Plan. Mr. Rankin noted the importance and record of safety with no lost time injuries or illnesses. This is the best record in the DOE complex and has been recognized through a number of awards.

Mr. Rankin reviewed the MPPB activities. Over the four-year period, about 6 miles of piping and over 50 tons of vessels and equipment have been removed. This includes work in high hazard areas with completed work in the Miniature Cell, Acid Recovery Cell, Hot Acid Cell and Sample Cells and Pump Niches. Ongoing work includes the Off-Gas Cell and Extraction Cell. In the Head End Cells, decontamination was done remotely using Nitrocision®. Ancillary areas were prepared for demolition with asbestos removal and dismantlement and decontamination.

Mr. Rankin also reviewed other work. All legacy LLW has been processed and 95% of suspect TRU processed with 171,000 ft³ of LLW shipped. To mitigate the Strontium 90 groundwater plume the leading edge was characterized, zeolite was tested and the Permeable Treatment Wall installed. The wall is more than 800 feet long, 39 inches wide, and 19-30 feet deep. The Tank and Vault Drying System has been in operation for 6 months and has evaporated 50% of the liquid in the tanks. There is no new infiltration into the tanks and limited infiltration into the vaults which is being evaporated. Tank 8D-2 is assumed to be dry with semi-crystalline material left. Tank 8D-1 should be dry in about 3 months. The system operates 24/7. This work included removing old duct work and replacing it with new duct work and installing the rotary drier. To prevent water infiltration to the NRC-Licensed Disposal Area (NDA) a geomembrane cover and an up-gradient wall were installed. As a result, water collected from the NDA has been reduced by 80%. Through August, MPPB ongoing work will include the Off-Gas Cell, Extraction Cell-1, asbestos removal, waste processing and disposal, general cleanup and preparing for contract turnover.

Mr. Rankin discussed the level of community support from the company and its workers through food drives, donations, community service, participation in the Chambers of Commerce, and corporate challenges. In conclusion, he noted the legacy of associated companies back to 1981 including Westinghouse Electric, Washington Group International, URS, West Valley Nuclear Services and West Valley Environmental Services and thanked everyone for the opportunity to work on the project.

Introduction of CH2M HILL B&W West Valley, Inc. and Overview of Team & Transition Plan

Bryan Bower Introduced Ryan Dodd of CHBWV, the new contractor for the Phase 1 Decommissioning – Facility Disposition. Mr. Dodd will be the General Manager for the project and comes with 25 years experience at the Hanford site much of it addressing the HLW stream and 5 years in decontamination and decommissioning (D&D). He thanked everyone for the warm welcome and reception from the community and WVES for their cooperation. He then introduced the CHBWV management team for the contract. They are: B. P. Shagula, Vice President Environment, Safety, Health and Quality; Dan Coyne, Deputy General Manager Facility Disposition Manager; Ray Geimer, Waste Operations Manager; John Rendall, Regulatory Strategy Manager; Heatherly Dukes, Nuclear Operations & Storage Manager; Allen Upshaw, Chief Engineer; Jean Gallimore, Business Manager; Lynette Bennett, Director of Communications and External Affairs.

Mr. Dodd noted that almost every team member had connections to the area. He then described the history and experience of CH2M HILL and the companies teaming to form CHBWV (B&W Technical Services Group, ECC, and American DND). CH2MHILL is 65 years old, is owned by its 23,500 employees, and works in 140 countries. It has won awards for ethics and safety. The company has decommissioned 62% of the DOE Environmental Management footprint. B&W is a manager of high-hazard nuclear facility operations and owner of several NRC-licensed nuclear facilities. ECC has knowledge of the WVDP site and experience with closure, waste operations and D&D experience. American DND is a local business with site knowledge and has project experience with DOE, Department of Defense, US Army Corps of Engineers, and NRC. Mr. Dodd affirmed the "Target Zero" philosophy concerning safety, security related incidents, and adverse environmental impacts and the safety awards received by the company.

The scope of work for the contract includes HLW canister relocation, processing and shipping of all legacy waste, and demolition and removal of the MPPB and the Vitrification facility. Mr. Dodd noted the commitment to the workforce and DOE to benefit the environment through a safe work environment, policies to raise and address concerns, partnering of management and the workforce for planning and execution and proactive safety management. About \$138 million of the contract will be subcontracted with 55% of that to be awarded to small businesses. CHBWV will continue the tradition contributing to the local economy and charitable organizations and actively participating with the CTF.

Steve Kowalski encouraged support for the West Valley Central School District. In response to a question Bill Schaab of American DND noted the company was formed in 2004, is based in Ellicottville, NY, and is a small disabled veteran owned business. Mr. Dodd noted subcontracting opportunities will be disseminated through posting on the website, open houses and the Chamber of Commerce. The contact for subcontracting is Jean Gallimore. Mr. Dodd stated that senior leadership is about a dozen people and that the company would rely on the experienced workforce.

Phase 1 Studies Update

Lee Gordon of NYSERDA provided an update on the Phase I Studies Process. He clarified that the Phase 1 D&D contract was a different one from the Phase 1 Studies which is currently under negotiation and should be in place within about 60 days. Once the contract is in place that work will start. At the request of stakeholders, Dr. Kristin Shrader-Frechette of Notre Dame has been invited as a candidate to possibly serve as a member of the Independent Scientific Panel. Other candidate members have been identified as: Drs. James Clarke, John Garrick and Chris Whipple.

Budget Update

Bryan Bower reported that the Reed-Higgins amendment which adds \$41 million for the non-defense sites in the DOE complex passed the House. He noted that it is still early in the budget process and that officially DOE supports the President's budget. The remaining funds for 2011 were received several weeks ago and there is no indication at this time from headquarters that the debt ceiling issues will impact the site. John Pfeffer volunteered to draft a letter for consideration to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand encouraging them to introduce similar legislation in the Senate.

Site Visit to Miamisburg and Fernald

CTF member and Ashford Town Supervisor Chris Gerwitz reported on a tour of two closed DOE sites in Ohio, Fernald Preserve and Mound. Attendees included Bryan Bower, Paul Bembia and Ashford Councilman Charles Davis. The two sites took two different approaches one is a nature preserve the other an economic development incubator.

Fernald Preserve is a former uranium processing facility and is 1,050 acres. The \$4.4 billion remediation was completed in 2006 and the nature center has a visitor center with the site history and 7 miles of trails. A groundwater treatment facility continues to remediate a contaminated aquifer. Mr. Gerwitz noted that birds and wildlife are abundant in the area that once held more than 100 buildings. The site also contains an onsite disposal area that is 66 ft high, three-quarters of a mile long, and 800 ft wide.

The Mound Site was established in 1946 to support early atomic weapons programs and operated until 2003 with 116 building on 182 acres with and additional 124 acres that were never developed. The remediation was completed in 2010. About 60% of the site has been transferred to a local economic development agency. Fourteen businesses employing 310 people are located on the site. The remediation cost \$1 billion and DOE provided \$62million for the redevelopment. The efforts took three pieces of federal legislation. Mr. Bower committed to providing information about the legislation.

Paul Bembia pointed out that neither site was released for unrestricted use.

Mr. Gerwitz stated that the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future had released a preliminary report in May which proposed seeking voluntary sites for interim storage of nuclear waste. Although he is committed to a complete cleanup in West Valley, he suggested the CTF consider this as an option in their discussions. Several members stated that they were willing to entertain the discussion, however, they had serious reservations because ultimately removing the waste and ensuring that the promised benefits are received could be difficult. A member pointed out that the CTF is on record stating that the site is unsuitable for waste storage and suggested that this position would be contradictory. Bill

Logue committed to providing links to the CTF to two National Public Radio articles on waste storage and to the Blue Ribbon Commission Report.

Future Meeting Topics

Several topics were suggested for future meetings, including:

- The Blue Ribbon Commission Report
- The National Defense Reauthorization Act aspects concerning Energy Parks and whether it could be amended to include WVDP to compete in proposals.
- CHBWV Scope of Work and Plan (September)
- The NRC proposed rule for reprocessing. A Work Group of Ray Vaughan, Lee Lambert and Gladys Gifford was formed. (Report in September)
- Reorganization of DOE Environmental Management (September)
- Erdman Brook Erosion Control update (September or October) (Following the meeting Tom Attridge of NYSERDA gave an informal presentation on the proposed Erdman Brook work.)

Observer Comments

Barbara Warren noted that her organization had sent a letter to DOE and NYSERDA stating that in addition to the Phase 1 aspects, there needs to be a process for keeping the public informed about ongoing work. Mr. Bower replied that this would be done through CTF meetings and the Quarterly Public Meetings.

Terry Dunford complemented the agencies on their collaboration and encouraged the CTF to seriously consider the Blue Ribbon Commission option of being a voluntary interim storage facility pending a permanent disposal location.

Diane D'Arrigo noted that many people are opposed to the interim storage concept and cautioned against it, saying that there will not be a permanent storage location any time soon. She expressed concern about the use of canisters with a limited life expectancy to store the wastes on an interim basis.

Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Draft Letter to Senators Schumer & Gillibrand	Pfeffer; 8/10/2011
Mound Legislation	Bower; 8/10/2011
NRC Rule Making	Work Group; 9/28/2011
Links to Blue Ribbon Report and NPR News Articles	Logue; 8/2/2011

Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 7/27/2011
DOE Presentation – Continuity of Services Contract and Contract Transition	DOE; 7/27/2011
WVES Presentation – WVES Contract Accomplishments 2007-2011	WVES; 7/27/2011
CHBWV Presentation – Team Introduction	CTF; 7/7/2011
Fernald and Mound Site Visits Presentation	Gerwitz; 7/27/2011
Fact sheets: Mound Site, Fernald Site	DOE Legacy Management
Asset Revitalization Initiative	NYSERDA
Bios of Proposed Independent Scientific Panel	NYSERDA
Newspaper clippings distributed at the meeting	NYSERDA; 4/27/2011