



# THE WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

November 8, 2012

Mr. David Huizenga, Senior Advisor for Environmental Management  
US Department of Energy  
EM-1/Forrestal Building  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585

Ms. Alice Williams, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Office of Environmental Management  
US Department of Energy  
EM-1/Forrestal Building  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585

RE: **West Valley Demonstration Project**

Dear Mr. Huizenga and Ms. Williams,

The West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) has been meeting continuously since 1997. In 1998 we issued a "Final Report" articulating our concerns relating to the cleanup, closure and/or long term management of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) site. Although recent developments, primarily funding decisions, call into question the appropriateness of the report title, the Final Report and Guiding Principles extracted from it remain pertinent to this day. The CTF Final Report and Guiding Principles are enclosed.

The CTF has written to the Department of Energy (DOE) and to the New York Congressional Delegation in recent years to express dismay and dissatisfaction with the level of funding for WVDP remediation efforts. We write now to request a meeting in Washington before the end of the year to discuss the 2013 – 2015 budget requests. We understand that all facets of the federal government are facing unprecedented budget pressures and that West Valley must share in alleviating those pressures. However, that sacrifice must be equitable and funding decisions should make economic sense in both the short and the longterm.

**West Valley Citizen Task Force**  
c/o The Logue Group  
PO Box 270270 – West Hartford, CT 06127  
860-521-9122

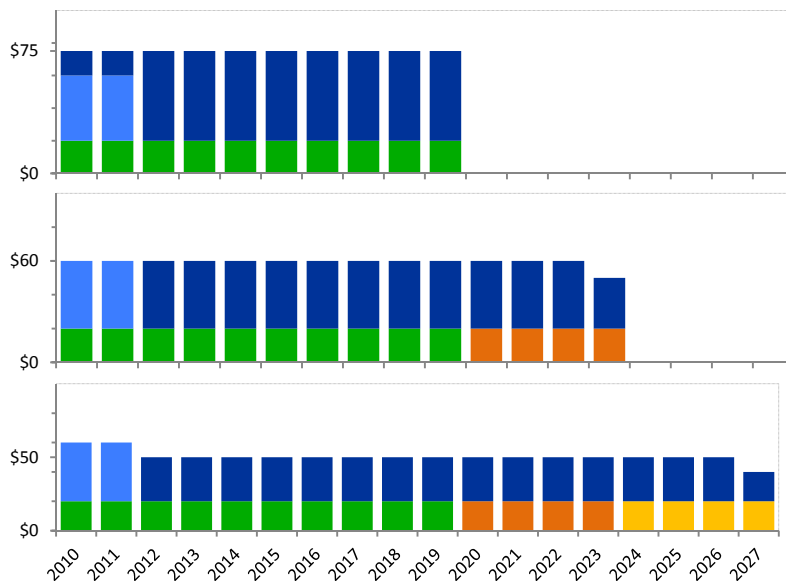
A few brief points to note:

- The EIS for West Valley took almost **30 years** (from the 1980 passage of the WVDP Act to the 2010 ROD) to result in a *Phased Decision Making FEIS* which delays crucial decisions up to an additional 10 years.
- The FEIS projected that Phase 1 work would be complete within ten years at an even funding level of \$75 million per year for a total cost of \$750 million. The Decontamination and Decommissioning Work was projected to cost \$550 million with Min-Safe costs of \$200 million at the rate of \$20 million annually.
- The Phase 1 Decommissioning and Facility Disposition Contract with CHBWV for 7 years was executed on the basis of \$60 million per year in funding.

The 2012 funding for the WVDP was set at \$66.3 million, \$9 million below FEIS estimated needs. DOE reduced its WVDP funding request for 2013 to \$49.9 million. This is a 25% reduction in funding that, with the exception of BNL, *no other* EM non-defense small site has suffered. At either the \$60 or the \$50 million level, the FEIS Phase 1 Decommissioning timetable will be unattainable, the project will drag on and significant avoidable and unnecessary cost will be incurred that the government can ill afford. These funding levels could add ten years and \$80-160 million in Min-Safe costs, not including likely increases in labor and disposal costs. Saving money now clearly costs much more in the longterm. The graphic depicts these increased costs with regards to your current approach.

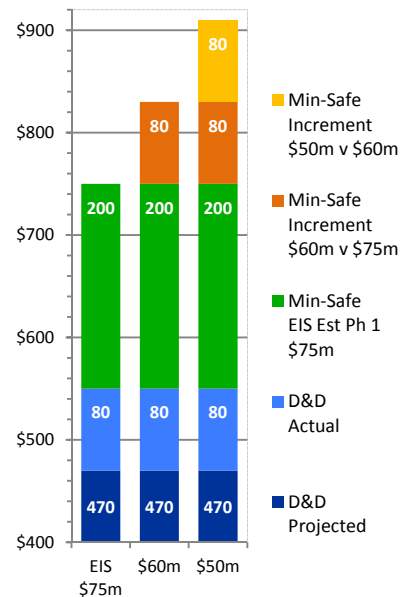
### Annual Expenditures

\$ in millions



### Total Expenditures

\$ in millions

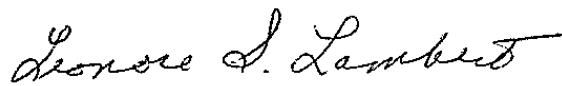
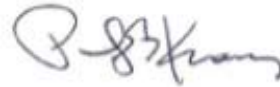


Decisions at West Valley have taken, and will continue to take, far too long given fluctuating DOE budgetary decisions and priorities. Singling out the WVDP for a 25% funding reduction in 2013 is unfair

to our communities. Delaying the decommissioning work in a way that will incur additional Min-Safe Operations cost makes no sense.

The CTF will be in contact to schedule a meeting with you to discuss our concerns. We will also be scheduling meetings with the New York Congressional Delegation.

Sincerely,



On behalf of the West Valley Citizen Task Force

Members:

***Deb Aumick***

Office of NYS Senator Catharine Young

***Rob Dallas***

Int'l Assoc. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

***Judy Einach***

Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes

***Chris Gerwitz***

Supervisor, Town of Ashford

***Mike Hutchinson***

Cattaraugus Creek Basin Task Force

***Lee James***

Constituent Services Specialist  
Western Regional Director  
Office of Congressman Tom Reed

***Stephen Kowalski***

West Valley Central School  
School Board

***Leonore Lambert***

League of Women Voters of  
Buffalo/Niagara

***Anthony Memmo***

Director, Environmental Protection  
Department  
Seneca Nation of Indians

***Joe Patti***

West Valley Hose Company  
West Valley Hardware

***John Pfeffer***

Councilman, Town of Ashford

***Warren Schmidt***

Office of NYS Assemblyman Joe Giglio

***Bill Snyder***

Councilman, Town of Concord

***Raymond C. Vaughan,***

Ph.D.  
Environmentalist

***Paul Kranz, P.E.***

(for Commissioner Maria Whyte)  
Erie County Department of  
Environment & Planning

***Eric Wohlers***

Director, Department of  
Environmental Health  
Cattaraugus County Health  
Department

Enclosure: CTF Guiding Principles and 1998 Final Report

Copy w/ CTF Guiding Principles:

Senator Charles Schumer

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Congressman Tom Reed

Congressman Brian Higgins

Governor Andrew Cuomo

Francis J. Murray, Jr., President, NYSERDA

Bryan Bower, Director, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project

Paul Bembia, Director, NYSERDA West Valley Site Management Program