

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: October 15, 2012  
Subject: **Summary of the September 26, 2012 Meeting**

## Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM, October 24, 2012**  
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](mailto:Bill@LogueGroup.com)) with questions or comments concerning this summary or future meetings.

## CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Chris Crawford, Judy Einach\*, Lee James, Paul Kranz, Lee Lambert\*, Joe Patti, Warren Schmidt, Ray Vaughan.

## Agency Participants and Observers

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

*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)*: Paul Bembia, Elizabeth Lowes, Andrea Mellon.

*CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWV)*: Lynette Bennett, Dan Coyne, Joe Ebert, John Rendall.

## Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting materials.<sup>1</sup>

## NYSERDA Update

Paul Bembia of NYSERDA informed the CTF that the construction of the Erdman Brook erosion control measures was complete. Associated plantings will be complete soon. This was a joint project with DOE with the contract managed by NYSERDA. Additional erosion control measures will be implemented for Frank's Creek in the 2013 construction season. The Western New York Nuclear Service Center Deer Hunt Program will begin when the season opens for bow hunting on October 1 and run through November 16 with shotgun season from November 17 through November 23. Mr. Bembia introduced Elizabeth Lowes as Program Manager for West Valley Demonstration Project End-State Planning. Ms. Lowes has 17 years experience with the project with both DOE and site contractors.

## Project Update

Dan Coyne President and General Manager of CHBWV reviewed the accomplishments of CHBWV during the first year of work at the WVDP.

**Safety.** More than 4.8 million safe work hours have been performed since the last lost work time accident. This includes work during the last year under CHBWV and prior work under the contract with WVES. There were 3 minor injuries in March/April with no lost time from work. Safety performance is measured on a 12

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<sup>1</sup> Each is listed at the end of this summary and may be found at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org) under 2012 Meeting Materials.

\*Participated by telephone.

month rolling calendar so the Total Recordable Case rate will drop from 1.03 after several months if there are no more incidents.

**Waste Shipping.** Shipping of legacy waste is ahead of schedule with 42,913 ft<sup>3</sup> shipped, which is approximately 8,000 ft<sup>3</sup> more than planned. 145 ft<sup>3</sup> of Remote Handled/Contact Handles waste was removed from the Chemical Process Cell. Industrial and hazardous waste is being repackaged and shipped. The Submerged Bed Scrubber (SBS) will be shipped once it is properly shielded.

**Preparations for Canister Move and Demolition of Facilities.** More than 18,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of buildings and slabs have been demolished and will be shipped for disposal at landfills in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio. This waste is not contaminated. The site laundry has been shut down and a local contractor selected for non-radiological laundry services. This will reduce by 1 million gallons per year the volume of water from entering the lagoons. The RCRA Hazardous Waste Storage lockers have been closed. NAC International was selected to perform High-Level Waste (HLW) Canister Relocation and Storage. (See the summary below.) Environmental Management System ISO 14001 Certification was received. All NESHAP requirements for in place open-air demolition have been met and 16 ambient air monitoring stations installed. Ray Vaughan requested the location of air monitoring and a map was provided<sup>2</sup>.

One million three hundred thousand gallons of sludge with slight mercury contamination were removed from the Sewage Treatment Plant and Equalization Basin.

**Remote Handled TRU Waste Processing – Vitrification Facility.** The SBS has been processed and packaged and the Vitrification Facility is being retrofitted for HLW Canister decontamination. EPA gave NESHAP approval for the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) supporting the planned plasma arc size reducing activities and remote handled TRU processing resumed operations for Container 3C-2. The Final WIR determination was issued for the Vitrification Melter. The Draft WIR for the Concentrated Feed Makeup Tank and Makeup Feed Hold Tank is under review.

**Main Plant Process Building (MPPB).** Pre-demolition activities are complete in the Upper Extraction Aisle, Process Chemical Room and Hot Acid Cell. Asbestos removal from piping is complete in 3 of 6 areas of the Analytical Lab. Asbestos removal is complete in the Off-Gas Aisle and emergency egress restored.

**Waste Tank Farm.** Tank 8D-4 characterization is complete with a report submitted in late August to DOE and NYSERDA. The worker proximity dose was lower than anticipated in performing the work. This was because ALARA guidelines were followed by reducing time, using distance and shielding to protect workers. The mock-up and practice was effective in helping achieve the low dose.

**Community Support.** West Valley Fire District received \$70,000 and Betrand Chaffee Hospital and Mercy Flight \$5,000. More than 93,000 pounds of food was collected for local food banks. Other programs were supported including: Home Town Hero, Boys and Girls Club, After School Reading, Chamber of Commerce and other non-profits.

**Upcoming Activities.** Continue safe, compliant implementation. Initiate 01-14 Building demolition. Demolish the Waste Tank Farm Training Test Tower, Hazardous Waste Lockers, Old Warehouse, Counting Laboratory, Vitrification Test Facility Waste Storage Pad, and Vehicle Repair Shop. Continue

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<sup>2</sup> The map may be viewed on slide 6 of the CHBWW Environmental Monitoring Program April Presentation.  
[http://www.westvalleyctf.org/2012\\_Materials/04/2012-04-25\\_CHBWW\\_Presentation\\_Env\\_Monitoring\\_Program.pdf](http://www.westvalleyctf.org/2012_Materials/04/2012-04-25_CHBWW_Presentation_Env_Monitoring_Program.pdf)

processing the dissolver located in the RHWF, package and ship hazardous and industrial waste, finalize canal dredging and dam repairs, complete packaging/removal of waste in the Chemical Process Cell/Equipment Decontamination Room.

A CTF member asked about the status of the railroad spur. Mr. Coyne and Mr. Bower stated that there was a section of track that had been repaired several times and other areas were being assessed. The track in the subsidence area will be moved to the east.

### **High Level Waste Canister Relocation and Storage Project**

Joe Ebert of CHBWV presented on the HLW Canister Relocation. He noted that the goal is to move the canisters from the MPPB to the storage pad so the MPPB can be demolished. There are 275 HLW canisters, 2 evacuated canisters and 1 non-routine HLW canister. The latter is similar to the others but was packed and processed differently at the end of the batch such that its volume is much lower, about 5%. The intent is to package the canisters in a currently NRC licensed Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) multi-purpose canister then in overpacks. There will be 5 HLW canisters per cask resulting in 55 casks. SNF debris will be packed in a separate cask. Mr. Bower noted that the federal repository requirements are stringent requiring that vitrified glass samples be provided; hence the one non-routine canister.

The process will involve moving the canisters in a shielded cask from the Chemical Process Cell in the MPPB to the Vitrification Facility for processing. The canisters will be decontaminated, 5 will be loaded into each multi-purpose canister and a lid will be remote welded on. They then will be placed in the Storage Casks and moved to the HLW Canister Interim Storage Facility. The latter will be a cement pad near the rail spur where they will await transfer to shipping containers and shipment to a final repository at some point in the future. The Storage Casks have an NRC licensed design life of 50 years.

The contractor selected for the project is NAC International. This decision was based on the licensed technology, high capacity production capability, value and small footprint. They will design, fabricate and deliver the 57 storage casks and overpacks and the storage pad. In addition, NAC will provide the lid welding, ancillary equipment and transport equipment to move the loaded casks from the Load Out/Load In facility to the pad and, through an addition to scope, may provide the in-facility transport. The contract will also include design calculations and necessary data and analysis, as well as training and mockup support. The NAC project plan is underway and the storage system design is due November 30. The casks will be fabricated on-site. Mr. Bower noted that the casks meet DOE regulations which are similar to the NRC license requirements. Once transferred to shipping the casks for transport in the future they will be subject to NRC licensing requirements.

CHBWV has viewed the NAC fabrication activities at Zion. The casks are a vertical storage system. CHBWV has issued an RFP for deconning the canisters. Additional preparation work such as crane repairs and Chemical Process Cell waste removal continues. In response to a question, Mr. Ebert stated that once the casks are removed from the overpacks the overpacks would be surveyed but are expected to be clean waste. Given funding issues is very likely that the fabrication and move to the interim storage pad is likely to happen in several stages as funds are available rather than continuously.

### **Phase 1 Studies Update**

Martin Krentz of DOE presented a brief update on the status of the Phase 1 Studies. The Climate Change Workshop was held on August 2 and a guidance report is expected in early November 2012. Three Potential Areas of Study (PAS) have been initiated. The Erosion Working Group developed and presented recommendations. Those recommendations and public comments were provided to the Independent Scientific Panel who will provide input to the agencies in October 2012. DOE and NYSERDA will then determine the path forward for the studies. Following that the Erosion Subject Matter Experts will develop a detailed work plan for each study area.

The Engineered Barriers Working Group will develop study recommendations by November 2012. The Exhumation Working Group anticipates a kickoff meeting in October 2012 with study recommendations within 90 days following that. In concluding Mr. Krentz noted that information is available on the Phase 1 Studies website (<http://www.westvalleyphaseonestudies.org/>). He encouraged the use of the auto-update feature.

### Other Business

The CTF discussed approaches for upcoming meetings and topics. They agreed that for some topics it would be useful to have a presentation at one meeting and time for discussion about the issue at the following meeting. Examples included the cask storage system: their likely duration of the casks on-site, their maintenance/protective measures, cost to switch casks in the future; and the Full Cost Accounting Study ([http://www.westvalleyctf.org/Full\\_Cost\\_Study.html](http://www.westvalleyctf.org/Full_Cost_Study.html)). Potential future meeting topics include the Annual Site Environmental Report and Erdman Brook erosion control measures. An Agenda Work Group call will be scheduled. Bill Logue will circulate the 1998 CTF Final Report and guiding principles extracted from the by Joe Patti.

### Observer Comments

There were no observer comments.

### Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Schedule Agenda Work Group Call	Logue; 10/5/2012
Circulate CTF 1998 Final Report and Guiding Principles	Logue; 10/3/2012

### Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 9/26/2012
Project Update Presentation	CHBWV; 9/26/2012
HLW Canister Relocation and Storage Project Presentation	CHBWV; 9/26/2012
Phase 1 Studies Update	DOE; 9/26/2012
September 7, 2012 CTF letter to DOE on Erosion Working Group Recommendations	CTF; 9/7/2012
News clippings distributed at the September 26, 2012 Meeting	NYSERDA; 9/26/2012