



THE WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

January 22, 2014

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Higgins
United States House of Representatives
2459 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Thomas Reed
United States House of Representatives
1037 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Collins
United States House of Representatives
1117 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: West Valley Demonstration Project Fiscal Year 2015 Funding

Dear Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressmen Reed, Higgins and Collins,

We want to thank you for your vigilance and attempts over the years to preserve and protect adequate funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). The West Valley Citizen Task Force understands the fiscal issues the country and DOE face. West Valley is an example of efficient and productive use of federal government funding and we have attempted to convey that in the enclosed letters to DOE and the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

In the last fiscal year WVDP benefited from a confluence of events as explained in the letters. The result was that \$9.93 million in supplemental funding became available last spring. Between May and November of last year, these funds were used to accelerate work on facility decommissioning preparation and demolition, to prepare and ship more waste off-site and to purchase equipment and materials. The Citizen Task Force received a presentation on the utilization of these supplemental funds at a recent meeting. Two clear examples stood out that highlight that spending wisely now saves money in the long-term, namely:

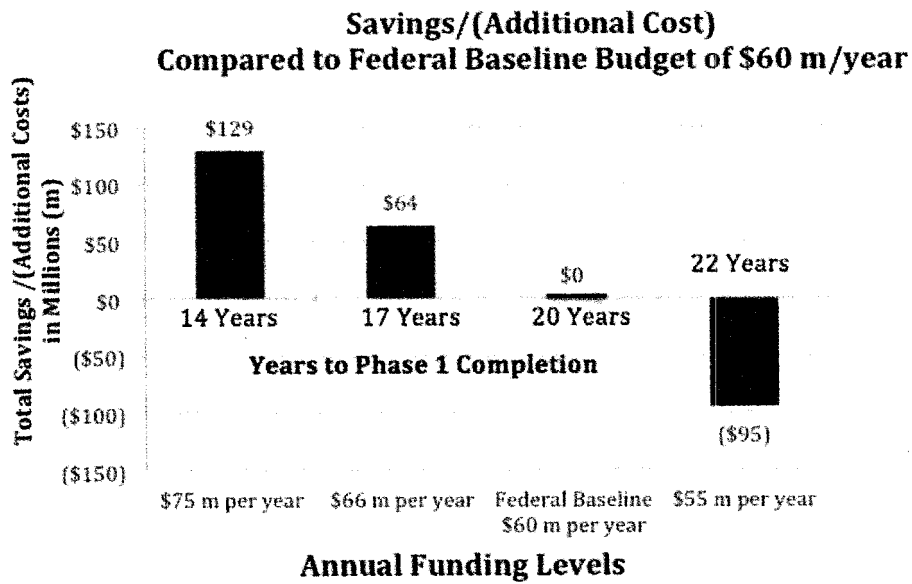
- The replacement and demolition of the Environmental Lab, costing \$800,000, will result in a 15% savings in energy costs annually.
- The site contractor was able to purchase a trackhoe for facility demolition. The equipment cost \$710,000 and will save about \$1 million compared to the planned five-year lease.

West Valley Citizen Task Force

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Last year in particular WVDP demonstrated that it should be considered a wise investment. It demonstrated that it can use funds to accomplish work that will yield long-term benefits including reduced risk to human and environmental health and reduced costs that will allow the long-term wise use of funds for clean up rather than maintenance and monitoring.

The recent baseline budget of \$60 million is inadequate. A simple comparison, based on information provided by DOE, clearly demonstrates that funding at the \$75 million level anticipated in the EIS is the most fiscally prudent and environmentally responsible course of action. **Annual funding at the \$75 million level for Phase 1 will save the taxpayers \$129 million.**



We hope we can rely on you to be sure the story of the wise use of funds is heard in the halls of Congress and corridors at DOE and that adequate funds going forward will clean up the site and protect the waters of the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

Copy:

Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor

Honorable Louise M. Slaughter, NY 25th Congressional District, Rochester Office

Honorable Dan Maffei, NY 24th Congressional District, Syracuse Office

**David Huizenga, Senior Advisor, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management,
U.S. DOE**

Bryan Bower, Director, West Valley Demonstration Project, U.S. DOE

John B. Rhodes, President and CEO, NYSERDA

Paul Bembia, Director, West Valley Site Management Program, NYSERDA