



THE WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

April 20, 2015

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
2437 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: **West Valley Demonstration Project FY 2016 and FY 2017 Funding**

Dear Congressman Reed and Congressman Higgins,

The West Valley Citizen Task Force appreciates your tireless efforts each year to provide adequate funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). Once again we hope that we can count on your support in the House to increase the level of funding as the House and Senate consider the FY 2016 budget bills. Recently Senator Schumer wrote to President Obama seeking his support for FY 2016 funding of the WVDP in the amount of \$75 million.

In the coming weeks the Department of Energy will be submitting its proposed budget to President Obama and the Office of Management and Budget. We hope that you, in conjunction with Senator Schumer and Senator Gillibrand will encourage the Department to request FY 2017 funding of \$75 million for WVDP.

We understand from the Department of Energy (DOE) that at \$60 million per year they will be able to meet all regulatory and contract commitments at West Valley Demonstration Project.

Should WVDP be funded at the \$75 million level, investment opportunities include the following:

- Lagoon 3 Stabilization
 - Presently Lagoon 3 can only be operated at 60% capacity.
 - The area near the eastern edge of the Lagoon 3 embankment has been impacted by groundwater discharge from a “SmartDitch.”
- Utilities Reconfiguration
 - Electrical
 - Current electric substation that services the site was built in 1957.
 - WVDP is unique in that the substation is “customer-owned.”
 - Reliability of this system is increasingly of concern.
 - Natural Gas
 - Natural gas supply line servicing the WVDP is very old and needs attention.
 - The rail line is in need of maintenance and repair efforts.

- Agency studies show that rail shipment of large amounts of waste is more cost-effective than truck shipment, so use of the rail line for the shipment of the Main Plant Process Building demolition debris appears to be a prudent investment, and is also needed for the Phase 2 decision.
- Accelerate the pace of work at the site by hiring additional employees to support the deactivation and demolition activities, allowing earlier removal of the Main Plant Process Building and supporting the local economy.

With appreciation for all of your efforts and support,

West Valley Citizen Task Force

Copy:

Bryan Bower, Director, West Valley Demonstration Project, U.S. DOE
 Paul Bemba, Director, West Valley Site Management Program, NYSERDA