



THE WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

April 20, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: West Valley Demonstration Project FY 2017 Funding

Dear Mr. President,

The West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) is a citizen advisory group that has been meeting continuously since 1997 to address issues at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) in Western New York. The WVDP was created by a special act of Congress in 1980. The site hosts the *only* commercial nuclear waste reprocessing facility to operate in the United States.

The Citizen Task Force fully understands that all facets of the federal government are facing unprecedented budget pressures. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for West Valley took almost **30 years** 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.

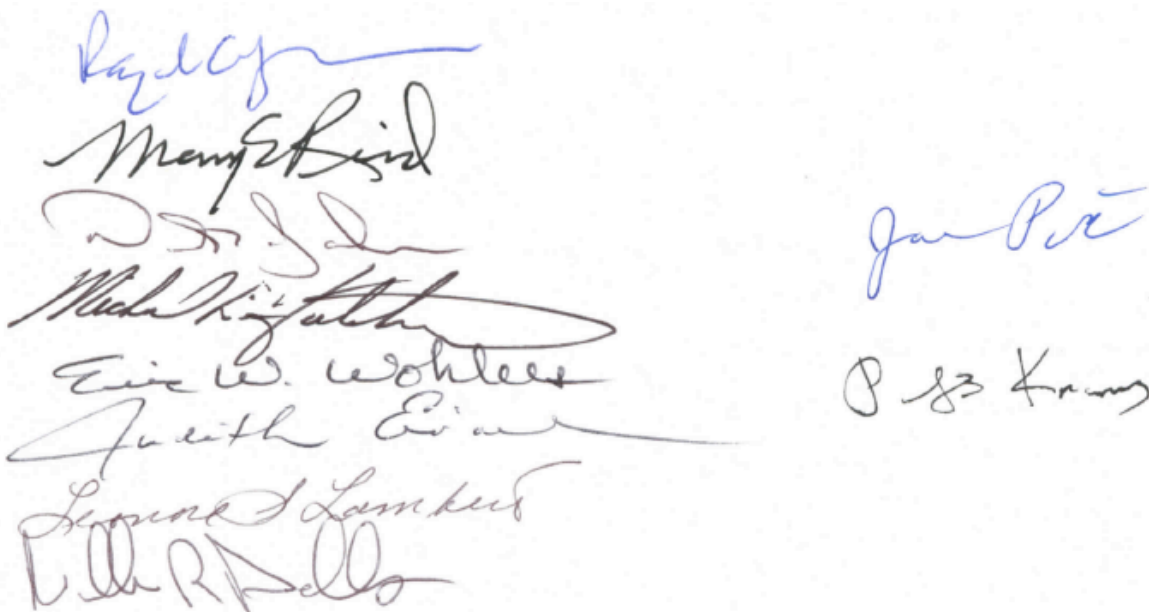
In recent years WVDP has proven that it can use the cleanup funding it receives in an effective and efficient manner, accomplishing work safely and modeling processes that benefit the entire DOE complex. WVDP is unique in many respects but notably of late is the degree of consensus among DOE, New York State, regulators, the Citizen Task Force and others about the Phase 1 work.

Of late, annual funding requests have varied from \$50 million to \$60 million. These reduced funding levels have added significant additional costs and years to completion of the Phase 1 cleanup. Through budget amendments in recent years Congressmen Reed and Higgins have initiated funding increases for WVDP. Those increase were very helpful yet still fell well short of the levels projected in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Phase 1. In December Senator Schumer wrote to you seeking his support for FY 2016 funding of the WVDP in the amount of \$75 million.

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

An evaluation of the work and funding levels clearly indicate that the most fiscally prudent and environmentally responsible course of action is that committed to in the FEIS. We respectfully request *annual funding at the \$75 million level going forward.*

Sincerely,



A collection of handwritten signatures in blue and black ink. The signatures are arranged in two columns. The left column contains seven signatures, and the right column contains two. The signatures are: (left column) a blue signature, 'Mary E. Reid', 'D. J. De...', 'Mick King', 'Eric W. Wohlers', 'Janith E.', 'Lionel J. Lambert', and 'Bill R. De...'; (right column) 'Jan P...' and 'P. J. King'.

West Valley Citizen Task Force

Copy:

Secretary Ernest Moniz, U.S. Department of Energy
Director Shaun Donovan, Office of Management and Budget
Honorable Charles Schumer, U.S. Senate
Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senate
Honorable Tom Reed, NY 23rd Congressional District, Olean Office
Honorable Brian Higgins, NY 26th Congressional District, Buffalo Office
John B. Rhodes, President and CEO, NYSERDA
Bryan Bower, Director, West Valley Demonstration Project, U.S. DOE
Paul Bembia, Director, West Valley Site Management Program, NYSERDA