

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: January 27, 2016  
Subject: **Summary of the December 21, 2015 Conference Call of the ad hoc Funding Working Group**

## **CTF Members and Alternates Participating**

Todd Gates, Joe Patti, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers.

## **Agency Participants and Observers**

*Department of Energy (DOE):* Bryan Bower.

*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA):* Paul Bembia, Brad Frank, Lee Gordon.

## **SUMMARY**

Mr. Bower reviewed the budget cycles and their status. He stated that the FY '16 had passed in mid-December with an increase of about \$600,000 over 2015 with \$300,000 in the defense line item for safeguards and the remainder in non-defense. The FY '17 budget is under discussion between DOE and OMB and therefore Mr. Bower was not permitted to discuss any details. He did note that it will be a challenging year for DOE Environmental Management funding and, due to elections, continuing resolutions are likely. The FY '18 budget is being planned internally at DOE and may be discussed with stakeholders. Lastly, he noted that Assistant Secretaries Whitney and Regalbutto were now planning budgets with more detail in the 5-year plans. However, this time period extends beyond the 2020 Phase 2 decision.

A CTF member inquired as to whether NYSERDA could pay for cleanup work in challenging budget times and be reimbursed by DOE at a later time, or if NYSERDA could accelerate its clean-up actions. Mr. Bower said this was not possible, in part because of federal appropriations law, the WDVP Act and the associated DOE/NRC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and New York State's limitation as the NRC licensee. He and Mr. Bembia said they would explore whether, under the integrated priority list, some of the clean up work that is cost shared 50/50 could be accelerated. Mr. Bembia noted that NYSERDA had increased its planned funding in 2016- 2018 by \$2 million for the Probabilistic Performance Assessment and Supplemental EIS contracts.

Mr. Gates of the Seneca Nation noted that the Nation makes several trips per year to meet with congress in government to government meetings and has a positive relationship with congressional staff. The Nation has concerns about leaks and he stated that the aerial radiation survey had increased awareness. The group then discussed how the CTF and Seneca Nation could coordinate more effectively in seeking funding, including a joint visit to Washington.

The group then reviewed the history of funding since the Phase 1 decision. Mr. Bower committed to sending the group several scenarios that are part of the standard budget forecasting. These include work that could be completed with over target funding by 5% and 10% and a decrement scenario.

The group agreed that coordinating a trip of the Seneca Nation and CTF to visit with congressional delegation and/or staff members and with senior staff at DOE Environmental Management would be helpful. The focus of the DOE meeting will be the FY '18 budget in preparation. Bill Logue will coordinate with the Seneca Nation, CTF members and the agencies about potential dates. Eric Wohlers will request travel authorization that might include a van for transportation.