

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue and Loraine Della Porta\*, Citizen Task Force Facilitators  
Date: March 9, 2016  
Subject: **Summary of the January 27, 2016 Meeting**

## **Next Meeting**

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be: March 23, 2016

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM**  
Location: Ashford Office Complex  
9030 Route 219  
West Valley, NY

## **CTF Members and Alternates Attending**

Deb Aumick\*, Clyde Drake, Todd Gates, Paul Kranz\*, Eric Lawton, Kathy McGoldrick, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Mary Reid, Ray Vaughan, Deleen White, Eric Wohlers. Alternates: Barbara Frackiewicz.

## **Agency Participants and Observers**

*Department of Energy (DOE):* Tom Aug\*, Craig Rieman, Sandra Szalinski.

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

*CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV):* Scott Anderson, Lynette Bennett, Charles Biedermann, John Rendall.

*New York Department of Environmental Conservation:* Pat Concannon, Ken Martin.

*Observers:* Ken Grumski, Rodney Keyes, Maria Maybee, Rick Miller, Paul Siepierski, Stephen Smith, Barbara Warren\*.

## **INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials<sup>1</sup>. He noted that Charlie Davis, is the new Supervisor of the Town of Ashford, replacing Chris Gerwitz.

## **CHBWV PROJECT UPDATE**

John Rendall of CHBWV stated that CHBWV and its subcontractors had worked about 1.8 million hours without a lost-time work accident or illness. He noted that substantial construction related work occurred during that timeframe. He then provided a project update tied to the four project milestones.

**Milestone 1: High-Level Waste.** (HLW) HLW waste relocation activities began in early November and the first Vertical Storage Cask (VSC) loaded with five canisters of HLW was safely relocated to the HLW Interim Storage Pad on November 10, 2015. Lessons learned were incorporated and three additional VSCs were moved by December 22 before the campaign was suspended for the winter. The goal is to complete relocation of the remaining canisters of HLW in 2016, which will be accomplished by adding a second shift. Additional employees will be hired to accomplish the work.

**Milestone 2: Waste Operations.** Asbestos debris was shipped to Ohio and a degraded container was over-packed and shipped to the Nevada National Security Site. NRC granted Special Package Authorization to ship the Melter. The WVDP plans to ship the Melter to Waste Control Specialists in Texas in October.

**Milestone 3: Facility Disposition.** Main Process Plant Building (MPPB) deactivation continues. In the Liquid Waste Cell eight of nine tanks were decontaminated, remnant piping behind the shield wall was removed and setup

---

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

\*Participated by telephone.

complete for manned entry to remove additional pipes. In Extraction Cell 3 the embedded pipes have been stabilized and tank supports removed from the walls and floor. Elsewhere in the MPPB a variety of pipe stabilization and/or grouting was accomplished in the Off-Gas Cell, Off-Gas Blower Room, and Acid Recovery Cell and Acid Recovery Pump Room. In the Uranium Process Cell utilities were reconnected and pumps returned to service for processing waste water in tanks. Waste water samples were collected for analysis. In the Vitrification Cell equipment was removed and transferred to waste storage. Vitrification Cell deactivation will be completed in 2016.

**Milestone 4: Site Operations.** A new water line was installed to the locker rooms. Twenty-two intermodals of soil which resulted from construction activities during the S-09 Stormwater Outfall Relocation Project were shipped for disposal. The NRC-licensed Disposal Area biennial inspection and repairs were completed. Storm debris was removed from Buttermilk Creek and erosion markers were installed in the dam spillway. A number of DOE, NYSERDA and CHBWV personnel were relocated from the Administrative Office Building to modular office space on the site.

**2016 Scope of Work.** The FY 2016 approved budget is \$60 million with \$19 million allocated for overhead expenses. Ten million in funds will be devoted to: shipment of the Melter and components; completing HLW transfer to Interim Storage; completing Vitrification Facility deactivation; and hiring additional workers to complete Milestone 1 and accelerate Milestone 3 activities. The remaining \$31 million will go toward continued work on the four Milestones.

A CTF member noted wasted funds when additional staff had been hired and trained with Recovery Act funds then laid off. Mr. Rendall responded that the hope was to retain the new hires as long as funding is available.

#### **NYSERDA AERIAL RADIATION SURVEY UPDATE**

Paul Bembia of NYSERDA reminded the CTF of the 2014 Aerial Radiation Survey of the Western New York Nuclear Service Center and Cattaraugus Creek to Lake Erie, a total of 92 square miles. The survey found five areas that were slightly above background radiation levels. Three areas are near the Center (and had been identified in previous aerial surveys) and two are on the Cattaraugus Territory of the Seneca Nation of Indians. Soil sampling activities were completed in December. Almost 600 soil samples were gathered at 200 hundred locations. About half were sent for analysis and the remainder archived pending analysis results. A dose assessment will be performed to allow a comparison of the soil conditions with public health and safety standards. The results will be reported to regulatory agencies and at future CTF and Quarterly Public meetings in the late spring.

#### **NYSERDA EROSION CONTROL MEASURE UPDATE**

Lee Gordon of NYSERDA gave an update of the erosion control repairs to Franks Creek and Erdman Brook due to damage from the July 2015 storm. The damage was largely superficial and the erosion control features performed as expected with movement of a capstone and stream bank armoring. There was no upstream advancement of the knickpoints or significant streambed erosion. During repairs the stream flow was diverted through a pipe to allow equipment to be placed in and around the plunge pools. Concrete was added to the pools and additional larger armoring was placed along the banks. Revegetation has not yet taken hold because work was completed after the growing season. Retaining wall features in Erdman Brook were temporarily braced and a design to address the wall issue is being finalized. That design is likely to be a large culvert.

#### **PROBABILISTIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

Craig Rieman of DOE informed the CTF that Neptune and Company, Inc. has been retained to perform the PPA. They are currently preparing the programmatic work documents such as a quality assurance plan. They are also preparing a Work Plan and the Project Management Plan for the first task, which is a near term sensitivity analysis. In response to a question, Mr. Gordon stated that Neptune will be developing a Stakeholder Involvement Plan.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL EIS UPDATE**

Craig Rieman stated that in December 2015 a sources sought request was issued for the SEIS. The replies are being reviewed in order to address small business capabilities. In response to a question, Mr. Rieman stated that the Stipulation of Compromise would remain in effect given the SEIS and SEQRA process were moving forward.

## **PHASE 1 STUDIES UPDATE**

Lee Gordon provided an update on the Phase 1 Studies. He noted that ECS, the Phase 1 Studies contractor, would provide an update at the February QPM. The necessary programmatic documents have been submitted and approved to allow the studies to begin.

**Erosion Studies.** The three erosion studies have begun. For Study 1 (terrain analysis, age dating and paleoclimate) reconnaissance and digital mapping is in process; contracts for ground penetrating radar (GPR), excavations and optically stimulated luminescence testing are in place; GPR was conducted at one location and preliminary results will be discussed at the February QPM; and trenching for age dating at the same location has begun. The work will help with understanding the evolution of landforms over the last 14,000 years. Preliminary results from fieldwork to date will be reviewed at the February QPM.

For Study 2 (recent erosion processes) digital mapping and site prioritization is in progress; site reconnaissance will be completed when the weather permits; and over the winter preparations are under way for field instrumentation and other data collection. The LiDAR data is being used to prioritize locations.

For Study 3 (preliminary erosion modeling) the descriptive statistics are being calculated for existing model runs to evaluate uncertainty and coding of the model framework and the model terrain grid is being developed. Mr. Gordon stated he would provide additional information about the modeling software and coding language used.

A CTF member encouraged the agencies to examine the impact of the lowering of the Springville Dam and the potential for upstream erosion based on the nature of the creek bed materials. Mr. Gordon stated that the Army Corp of Engineers had performed some modeling of the area. Mr. Gordon indicated he would pass the issue of consideration of the Springville Dam lowering on to the Erosion Working Group.

**Exhumation Studies.** Work has been authorized on all three studies. For Study 1 (inventory analysis) a preliminary comparison of existing studies is being reviewed by the agencies. At a later date, estimates will be calculated of inventory radioactive decay to the current date and over time. For Study 2 (field correlation study) contracting is underway for geophysics support with a technology prove-out study of a portion of the State-license Disposal Area as a first step. This will assess the lateral extent and depth of the trenches. Evaluation of instrument response calculations are in progress. For Study 3 (review of precedent projects) draft reviews of Maxey Flats and Oak Ridge are in progress and the study team is working on reviews on Hanford and Savannah River.

## **CTF DISCUSSION**

CTF member John Pfeffer provided a brief recap of his attendance at the Intergovernmental meeting with the U.S, Department of Energy in November. He noted that due to travel delays he missed the start of the conference and that the level of engagement seemed lower than in the past. At the conference key topics of discussion included commingling of wastes, including pressure on DOE to make a decision regarding this, and reclassification of waste because the WIPP site is looking to accept tank wastes. West Valley was mentioned positively. Other topics covered were consent based siting, tank grouting, site redevelopment (a topic of interest to the Town of Ashford), transportation and climate modeling. In closing, Mr. Pfeffer informed the CTF that Ashford had received a grant to cover \$2 million of the \$3 million for creation of a municipal water district.

CTF members Todd Gates and Deleen White of the Seneca Nation of Indians provided information about an EPA grant the Nation was applying for. Mr. Gates noted that the Aerial Survey and sampling had raised awareness and

concern and that the Nation would welcome support from the CTF and, given the interest and experience in wind and solar energy production, could reciprocate on future site use. Ms. Reid noted that some of her colleagues at Roswell Park had collaborated on projects with the Nation. Mr. Lawton stated that the School District might be able to lend support. After discussion the CTF agreed to support the grant. Mr. Gates committed to sending draft language for inclusion in a letter.

Mr. Gates informed the CTF that he and other members of the Nation have scheduled two trips to Washington, D.C. to participate in tribal functions. The trips will include visits to legislators and he invited CTF members to join in those visits to seek funding. The trips are scheduled for February 8 -11 and 22- 25. Mr. Rieman committed to finding out about the availability of DOE Environmental Management leadership in those time frames.

The CTF reviewed and approved the annual summary of activities.

A CTF member asked about rail cars on the spur siding. Mr. Rieman said they were being stored there and another CTF member said they were likely moved there because the siding area away from the spur blocks visibility to local businesses.

**Future Meeting Topics.** Mr. Bembia noted future meeting topics could include the Aerial Radiation Survey, Phase 1 Studies, PPA/Neptune, and towards the end of the year SEIS procurement. CTF members suggested that a systematic method for input, perhaps including informal technical meetings and time for dialogue, be included in the PPA discussions. A request was made that NRC provide an update. A suggestion was made that the CTF review its 1998 Final Report and consider potential revisions to its Mission and Ground Rules.

### **OBSERVER COMMENTS**

Maria Maybee encouraged the CTF to clearly articulate *why* additional funding was needed in making any requests to DOE or Congress. She suggested that as the SEIS process gets underway more guidance be given stakeholders about how to prepare for and provide input productively and when those opportunities would arise. Lastly, she noted that she would be attending an Environmental Justice conference in March and that could provide another opportunity to coordinate funding advocacy in Washington.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who; Date</b>
Erosion Work Group Modeling Information	NYSERDA
Draft Letter of Support for Seneca Nation grant application	Todd Gates/ASAP
DOE EM leadership availability to meet & NRC availability to present	DOE
Additional information on Springville Dam consideration in modeling	NYSERDA

### **DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED**

<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Generated by; Date</b>
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 1/27/2016
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 1/27/16
NYSERDA Erosion Control Update	NYSERDA; 1/27/2016
Summary of December 21, 2015 Ad Hoc Funding Work Group Call	Logue; 1/27/2016
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 1/27/2016