



THE WEST VALLEY  
CITIZEN TASK FORCE

March 16, 2016

Honorable Lamar Alexander, Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy and Water Development  
Room S-128  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Energy and Water Development  
Room S-128  
The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Charles Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
478 Russell Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE:** Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriation for West Valley Demonstration Project

Dear Senators Alexander, Feinstein, Schumer and Gillibrand,

For almost two decades the West Valley Citizen Task Force has monitored progress at the West Valley Demonstration Project. Recently President Obama sought \$63,628,000, a modest increase in the FY 2017 Budget over FY 2016. We support this increase, which we understand is intended to address the need for relocation of the site's electrical service as preparation continues for the demolition of the Main Plant Process Building. However, despite our support for the FY17 funding request, we also strongly recommend that the amount be increased to \$70 million for the reasons articulated below.

In the Record of Decision issued by the US DOE in 2010, the WVDP project timeline was based upon an anticipated funding level of \$75 million annually. Allocations of funding below that level jeopardizes that timeline, and associated work completion, upon which the Record of Decision was based. Funding at the \$75 million level, if restored, would allow for timely completion of the facility deactivation and attention to infrastructure needs. Recent funding, even with the proposed FY17 increase, has been unduly limited and has not kept pace with critical onsite infrastructure that is in need of repair. This includes work on the lagoons, repair of storm damage to the dam spillway, and repair/maintenance of the rail spur. Repair to the rail line would reduce future shipping costs. Delays may also require work which would not be necessary if work proceeds in a timely fashion. Adequate funding should also provide for stability of the workforce, which is beneficial both to the local economy and to the continuity and efficiency of the project.

Given the excellent progress at completing work in a safe and efficient manner at the West Valley Demonstration Project, and given the breadth of agreement and support from stakeholders on the path forward, we urge DOE and Congress to provide funding at a level that maintains the momentum and achieves timely cleanup.

Sincerely,

Raymond Eric W. Wohlens Jack J. Act

William R. DeLoe Judith A. Einfeld John A. Act

Deborah S. Lambert Kathleen E. McCallister

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West Valley Citizen Task Force

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