



THE WEST VALLEY  
CITIZEN TASK FORCE

March 16, 2016

Mr. Mark Whitney, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
United State Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20585

Dr. Monica Regalbuto, Associate Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary  
United State Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management  
1000 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20585

**RE:** Fiscal Year 2018 Budget for West Valley Demonstration Project

Dear Mr. Whitney and Ms. Regalbuto,

The West Valley Citizen Task Force appreciates that President Obama and the Department of Energy sought an increase in the FY 2017 Budget recently submitted to Congress. We intend to support that request but also respectfully recommend an increase.

As the Office of Environmental Management prepares its budget recommendations for 2018 we strongly encourage that \$70 - \$75 million be requested. We understand that the FY 2017 increase 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. This is an important task, yet there are also other site infrastructure needs that should be addressed.

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 ongoing facility costs or 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 maintain the momentum and increase annual funding.

Sincerely,

Raymond [Signature] Eric W. Wohlens [Signature]

Joseph J. [Signature] Judith [Signature] P. [Signature]

Kathleen E. [Signature] Denise J. Lambert

Joe [Signature] [Signature] [Signature]

The West Valley Citizen Task Force

Copy:

Bryan Bower, Director, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project

Paul Bembia, Director, NYSERDA West Valley Site Management Program