

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: April 15, 2016  
Subject: **Summary of the March 23, 2016 Meeting**

## **Next Meeting**

Date & Time: **April 27, 2016 6:30 – 9:00 PM**  
Location: Ashford Office Complex  
9030 Route 219  
West Valley, NY

## **CTF Members and Alternates Attending**

Deb Aumick\*, Rob Dallas, Clyde Drake, Paul Kranz\*, Sylvia Patterson, Mary Reid, Ray Vaughan, John Walgus.

## **Agency Participants and Observers**

**Department of Energy (DOE):** Bryan Bower, Moira Maloney, Ariana Roscoe, Sandra Szalinski, Zintars Zadins.

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

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

**New York Department of Environmental Conservation:** Ken Martin.

**Enviro Compliance Solutions (ECS):** Mike Wolff\*, Joe Yeasted\*.

**Observers:** Paul Siepierski, Diane D'Arrigo.

## **INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials<sup>1</sup>. He noted that letters to the Western New York Congressional Delegation and DOE supporting funding had been sent and that Senators Schumer and Gillibrand had written Senate Appropriations supporting FY 2017 funding of \$75 million. Sylvia Patterson of the Seneca Nation of Indians noted that the Nation's environmental justice grant had met the EPA threshold criteria and was under review. The Town of Ashford and Town of Persia Redevelopment partnered on the grant.

## **CHBWV PROJECT UPDATE**

Scott Anderson of CHBWV stated that as of March 10 CHBWV and its subcontractors had worked 1,221 days without a lost-time work accident or illness.

**Milestone 1:** High-Level Waste. (HLW). By the end of 2015, 20 High-Level Waste (HLW) canisters were loaded into four Vertical Storage Casks (VSC) and relocated to the HLW Interim Storage Pad. The goal is to complete the move of the remaining 52 VSCs in 2016. Relocation will resume in April and increase to two shifts/day in June. NAC International received the NRC Certificate of Compliance for the Overpack, which certifies that the package (packaging and contents) meets the applicable safety standards for packaging and transportation of radioactive material.

**Milestone 2:** Waste Operations. Fifty-two percent of Legacy Waste has been shipped. NRC granted Special Package Authorization to ship the Melter. The Melter and two vitrification components will be shipped to Waste Control Specialists in Texas in September. An impact limiter is being constructed for the Melter package.

**Milestone 3:** Facility Disposition. Main Process Plant Building (MPPB) deactivation is 47% complete and the Vitrification Facility deactivation 91% complete. Demolition of the latter is scheduled to start February 2018.

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<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.

**Milestone 4:** Site Operations. Thirty percent of the 47 site facilities have been demolished. The 4-plex and 10-plex office trailers have been installed and the Administrative Office Building will be vacated. Site utility systems (electric gas and IT) are being rerouted in anticipation of future demolition work.

**Funding.** Mr. Anderson noted the allocations of the \$61 million in approved funding for FY 2016. He stated that if \$70-75 million were received going forward that the contract Scope of Work would be completed in 2019, mortgage cost reduction would be accelerated, risks reduced and infrastructure upgrades could be performed that are necessary to Phase 1B and Phase 2. Lastly, he said there is waste ready for shipment pending available funds.

In response to a question, Mr. Anderson noted that the nurse had been relocated from the Administrative Building to a new trailer and that improvements to the less than ideal shower facilities are being worked on.

## **PHASE 1 STUDIES UPDATE**

**Erosion Studies.** Mike Wolff, ECS Erosion Study Manager provided a recap of the Erosion Working Group activities related to the three study areas as of February 2016. For Study 1 – Terrain Analysis, Age Dating and Paleo Climate – mapping was completed in 2015 and the other six tasks are underway with work continuing in the 2016 field season. Some reconnaissance work is complete, such as pebble sample gathering along Buttermilk Creek terraces to assess erosion environments and aid in interpreting the history. Tree core samples will inform understanding climate fluctuations in the last 100 years. Some samples from the Buttermilk Creek section on the site are being age dated. Ground penetrating radar will be performed when weather permits. This work will develop more detail on local subsurface conditions and identify potential sample locations/features.

Study 2 – Recent Erosion and Deposition Processes – work started in 2015. Significant work will be performed on the seven study tasks in 2016. The work will focus on compiling a digital database of the gullies of concern on the site, those gully “signatures” (topographic indices) will be used to identify analogue gullies for study. The group will perform field inspections to compare the site and analogue gullies.

Study 3 – Preliminary Erosion Modeling – consists of 10 tasks four of which have been started and will continue in 2016. The tasks focus primarily on preparatory work, model calibration, identification of topographic metrics and generation of model grids. Data from Studies 1 and 2 will be incorporated as they are gathered and validated.

A CTF member informed Mr. Wolff of an email sent to the agencies with information about the bedrock floor relative to Buttermilk Creek and Cattaraugus Creek. He also noted that work by the Buffalo, Niagara and Rochester Railroad to maintain track beds as far back as 1880 may have impacted erosional processes. Mr. Wolff stated that the Working Group had received the email and was discussing the bedrock issue and that information would be sought about the rail bed work. In response to another question Mr. Wolff noted that there were approximately 15 critical gullies on-site, of which 13 were very similar in their digital signature, and that there were 5 candidate analog gullies. Lastly, he noted there has been no change in the composition of the Working Group and its subgroups.

**Exhumation Studies.** Joe Yeasted, ECS Exhumation Study Area Manager, provided a recap of the Exhumation Working Group activities related to the three study areas as of February 2016. Study 1, Task 1 – Waste Inventory Comparison – is complete except for the final report which is being reviewed by the agencies. The general findings are: for the State Licensed Disposal Area (SDA) the waste volumes are consistent with the URS 2002 study being most refined; for the NRC-Licensed Disposal Area (NDA) the various studies are in agreement as to inventory with the 2000 URS considered the best to use going forward; and for the Waste Tank Farm, a 2012 inventory is best to use going forward. The inventories are up to date through 2020 and projected further into the future for radioactive decay. Upcoming tasks are to complete the report and inventory update.

Study 2, Task 1 – Evaluation of Previous Surveys and Modeling – gamma radiation levels on the surface of the NDA and SDA were indistinguishable from ambient background. Based on modeling gamma levels in borings would not be discernable more than 6 feet from the highest activity level areas in the SDA. The plan for Study 2.3 will be revised following evaluation of the waste inventory at a scale of less than 50 feet. Upcoming tasks are to finalize the revised field study strategy and study plans, select a geophysics contractor and then implement the geophysics study. A non-invasive geophysics study of the SDA and NDA will be performed to identify areas of heavy metal/monoliths to help correlate the inventory locations. Bids for this work are due April 16.

Study 3, Task 1 – Review of Selected Sites – this is largely a paper study about what works well and what could work better to protect workers and the public during exhumation and what techniques could be applied to West Valley. Seven sites have been identified, four are DOE, one is commercial in the U.S. and two are foreign. The key findings are that standard exhumation equipment is generally used to exhume waste and special technologies are used to process waste, and remote technologies used for tank removal. With standard exhumation equipment, tent like structures are used at some sites with no structure used at other sites. Upcoming tasks include completing the remaining work and reports on the other sites and evaluating the findings relative to West Valley.

## **DOE BUDGET UPDATE**

Bryan Bower of DOE provided an overview of the FY 2017 Budget Request recently submitted by President Obama to Congress. He reminded the group that the budget had to go through the full appropriations process. Prior to reviewing the details, he noted the mission and history of DOE Environmental Management (EM) program, the nationwide cleanup progress of reducing the footprint by 90% with 16 sites in 11 states remaining. He noted that the remaining sites, such as Hanford and Savannah River, present the biggest challenges. He reviewed the budget allocations by state and the breakdown (defense cleanup/non-defense/Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommission Fund/U.S. Enrichment Fund) of recent budget requests and enactments. The total EM request for FY 2017 is \$6.119 billion and is prioritized according to risk (highest risk such as tanks waste to lowest such as excess facility D&D). Lastly he showed comparisons for similar information at West Valley. The 2017 WVDP request is for \$61.613 million for non-defense activities and \$2.015 for safeguards and security (S&S). This is an increase of \$2.4 million for cleanup and a reduction of \$576,000 in S&S over the previous year enacted budget.

During the presentation Mr. Bower noted that under the Greater-Than-Class-C EIS there was a potential that West Valley TRU Wastes could be shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. In response to a question he noted that there were very few non-defense sites such as Moab, the Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC) and Berkeley Labs.

In response to another question he committed to getting information on funding for Canadian wastes being shipped to Savannah River for disposal. A CTF member noted that those wastes were shipped in liquid form and that this was both controversial and unwise. Following the meeting DOE informed the CTF of the following:

Canada is funding the radioactive material shipments from the Chalk River Laboratories in Canada to the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. The material that will be shipped is called target residue material (TRM) and it contains highly enriched uranium that was provided by the United States for the production of medical isotopes. Approximately one third of the supply of medical isotopes used worldwide comes from the Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario. None of the radioisotopes used in advanced medical diagnostics are currently produced in the United States.

At the Savannah River Site, uranium will be recovered from the TRM, purified, and blended with natural uranium to produce low enriched uranium for nuclear fuel, which will be used to generate electricity in Tennessee Valley Authority power plants.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Paul Bembia of NYSERDA informed the CTF of the status of the soil sampling resulting from the Aerial Radiation Survey. The analytical data has been received and a report prepared. The draft report will be reviewed by the regulatory agencies and the Seneca Nation and a final report will be released, probably in July, with a presentation at the August Quarterly Public Meeting. The group received a quick preview of the CTF website which is under development. Ms. Patterson informed the group of the meeting of State and Tribal Governments to be held at the Seneca Nation in early May. She will forward an agenda to the CTF.

## **CTF DISCUSSION**

The CTF discussed outreach concerning funding and asked the facilitator to explore with congressional delegation staff a possible conference call with the staff of the Appropriations Committees. The facilitator will also coordinate with NRC about a possible presentation to the CTF at the June meeting.

## **OBSERVER COMMENTS**

Diane D'Arrigo reiterated the request of environmental organizations to have real time access to documents, assumptions and computer code used in the Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA) modeling. Mr. Bembia stated that the PPA contractor was preparing a public participation plan by the end of April. The agencies expect to have more information relative to Ms. D'Arrigo's request at an upcoming public meeting.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who; When</b>
Information of Canadian Waste Shipments	DOE
State & Tribal Government Meeting Agenda	SNI

## **DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Generated by; Date</b>
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 3/23/16
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 3/23/16
Phase 1 Studies Erosion Working Group Status Update	ECS; 3/23/16
Phase 1 Studies Exhumation Working Group Status Update	ECS; 3/23/16
DOE Budget Update	DOE; 3/23/16
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 3/23/16
Cattaraugus Creek/WVDP Community Meeting #4 Flyer	Water Walkerz