MEMORANDUM

To: Citizen Task Force

From: Melinda Holland, Clean Sites

Subject: Summary of February 18, 1997, Meeting

Date: February 24, 1997

The next Citizen Task Force meeting will be on:

Date:	Wednesday, March 5, 1997
Time:	7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location:	Ashford Office Complex 9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY

If you have questions, comments or would like additional information regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact Melinda Holland at (864) 457-4202, Kate Whitby at (703) 739-1207, or Tom Attridge at (716) 942-2453.

Task Force Attendees:

Pete Scherer, Warren Schmidt, Joe Patti, Tim Siepel, Larry Smith, Ray Vaughan, Pete Cooney, John Pfeffer, Bridget Wilson (for Elaine Belt), Paul Piciulo, Tom Rowland, Rich Tobe, Nevella McNeil, Bill King, Blake Reeves. Members not attending: Dick Timm and Eric Wohlers.

Regulatory Agency Attendees:

Jack Krajewski, NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Gary Comfort, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

Additional NRC staff observed the meeting by video-conference.

February 18, Meeting Summary:

Tom Attridge began the meeting by addressing several administrative issues. Melinda Holland, the Citizen Task Force facilitator, reviewed the agenda with the Task Force members.

Federal Budget Update:

Tom Rowland, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), gave a brief update on DOE's budgeting process and outlook.

Overview on the Approach to Waste Management Area-Specific Analysis:

Jim Hammelman, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), discussed an approach to evaluate the risk, cost, and environmental impact data that was evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Waste Management Area #5 Overview:

Stuart MacVean, Operations Manager for West Valley Nuclear Services, presented information on the facilities and wastes located within Waste Management Area 5 (WMA-5).

Group Discussion:

A Task Force member stated that some of the waste in WMA-5 is "transuranic" waste. The member explained that transuranic waste fell into a special category and that it was considered to be more hazardous if ingested or not shielded because more alpha-emitting radionuclides were present in this type of waste.

Several members of the Task Force asked for clarification on the contents of the waste containers and the radioactivity emitted into the atmosphere from WMA-5 structures (through exhaust fans). Mr. MacVean responded that no radionuclides were released into the air through the vents in the storage building in question. One member asked if there were any wastes not considered part of the Federal clean-up, such as New York State wastes. The presenter responded by saying that all the waste in WMA-5 was generated by the DOE project.

Several members of the Task Force asked about the known soil contamination in specific areas in WMA-5 (i.e. the swamp and soil area north of the Lag Storage Building). Discussion was initiated on the surface drainage pattern of the area (generally to the north) and the old Nuclear Fuel Services Inc. (NFS) hardstand area contamination.

Some discussion focused on the limited storage capacity of the structures in WMA-5. Mr. MacVean stated that it was estimated that 15,000 to 20,000 cuft. of waste can be expected to be generated annually. Other issues raised included the necessity of keeping the waste indoors, day-to-day operations, capacity to store LLRW resulting from completion of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), and capacity to store LLRW through completion of the vitrification process.

A member asked how much of the annual WVDP budget was used for waste management operations. The presenter responded that currently about six percent of the total annual budget is spent for waste management operations.

Waste Management Area #5 Analysis

Jim Hammelman, of SAIC, discussed the evaluation of risk, cost, and environmental impact data for WMA-5.

Group Discussion:

A Task Force member stated that the dose to the maximally exposed individual calculated in the analysis was too low. Ensuing discussion led to the issue of erosion and, more specifically, gully growth and its potential impact on doses to the maximally exposed individual (living downstream). Discussion continued on the erosion models used in the DEIS, the speed of gully growth, gradual seepage versus mass transport of materials, current NRC thinking on this issue, the erosion assumptions (conservative rim-widening rate) used in the DEIS, and the erosion impact on different areas of the site. The member agreed to wait until another meeting to discuss this complex issue in more detail.

A member asked how much time it would take before the waste in WMA-5 became non-radioactive (decayed to a non-hazardous state). Mr. Hammelman stated that the analysis had not been done for WMA-5. Ensuing discussion resulted regarding the relative time someone would have to watch the waste in WMA-5 before you could walk away from the site. This led to a discussion of the various radioactive half-lives of the materials in WMA-5. A member noted that it makes a difference how long it would remain radioactive in light of the political stability over time (kingdoms can change, social structures crumble). Other issues discussed included potential for vandalism and terrorism.

There was some discussion on the NRC's general reference scenarios that were used in the "intruder" dose evaluations. Other issues discussed included transportation and worker dose. One member requested that a presentation be done at a future meeting on the transportation and worker risks in the cost/benefit analysis especially for Alternative 1. The member also requested that each WMA meeting include discussions of relative risks from transportation and to workers, separated by Alternative.

Observer Comments:

An observer stated that it was important for the Task Force to know that the sediment in the ditch in WMA-5 is contaminated at levels requiring clean-up. Also, the observer stated that the monitoring well near the Chemical Process Cell Waste Storage Area (CPCWSA) is contaminated and the old NFS Hardstand area didn't "go away," but that it was moved to fill the inactive Lagoon #1.

Parking Lot Items:

- The Task Force would like to more fully discuss the issue of gully growth (erosion). It was suggested by one member that further analysis on this type of erosion be completed including a look at the rate of released contamination.

Action Items:

- Presentation at next meeting on how Alternative #1 came to show the least net risk reduction.
- Provide Citizen Task Force with a copy of the resignation letter from Katherine Koss of Senator Present's office.