

To: _ Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, Clean Sites
Subject: Summary of November 18, 1997, Meeting
Date: November 26, 1997

Next Meeting:

The next Task Force meeting will be on:

Date: Wednesday December 3, 1997
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY

If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact Melinda Holland at (864) 457-4202, or Tom Attitude at (716) 942-2453.

Task Force Attendees:

Attending were: Pete Scherer, Joe Patti, Ray Vaughan, Larry Smith, Rich Tobe, Bill King, John Pfeffer, Nevella McNeil, Brian Patti, John Patti, (NY State Council on Environmental Quality), and W. Warren Schmidt. Not attending were: Lana Rosler, Tim Siepel, Paul Piciulo, Pete Cooney, Tom Kowarski, Murray Kegan, and Eric Wolters.

November 18th Meeting Summary:

The November 18th meeting was not attended by people from the site (DOE, NYSERDA, WVNS, etc.) or regulatory agencies based on the CTF's request at its last meeting. Melinda Holland reviewed the administrative issues and agenda with the Task Force and requested comments on the November 5th meeting summary. No comments to the summary were received. A copy of a draft SAIC document entitled "Comparing the Alternatives for Closure of Long-term Management of Facilities at the Western New York Nuclear Service Center" was distributed and the CTF was asked to read it and bring questions or issues to the next meeting.¹ The document provides a cost-benefit analysis of the closure alternatives, addresses implementation issues, and tradeoffs which must be made in selecting a preferred alternative.

¹For copies of documents distributed at this meeting please call Sonja Allen, WVNS, at (716) 942-2152.

CTF members also raised a number of questions and concerns about implementing Alternative II which are listed below:

- Lack of accurate information about the type of wastes disposed in the SDA.
- Want to see details of storage design before beginning exhumation.
- Is it possible to build safe/secure long term storage?
- How assure safety of workers and local community during exhumation?
- Congress/state may decide to send more wastes to West Valley if create above-ground long term storage.
- Will use of Alternative II limit total dose allowable for the remainder of the site under NRC requirements?
- 24 years to implement is very long.
- Does the technology exist to exhume the wastes safely?
- How well can remote/robot excavation be done, especially with unknown wastes?
- DEIS numbers were done by modeling, does the technology exist to back up the results of the models?
- How can the site ensure the funding to do Alternative II and long-term maintenance?
- If Alternative III were selected, would trenches stay dry, if pumped down, will slurry walls keep groundwater out?
- Alternative II is not a legal final solution for site closure.

The CTF concluded the meeting with the decision to move on to WMA 1, Main Plant, at the next meeting. People from the site and agencies are welcome to attend the next meeting to answer technical or policy questions posed by CTF members, but further presentations are not desired at this time.

Observer Comments

Observer comments were received before the break and at the end of the meeting. Before the break an observer commented that she would like to see the CTF "get down to business," make its recommendations, and worry about cost later. Two other observers had similar comments. At the end of the meeting an observer suggested that some currently-stored material should be sent off site to make room for on-site storage of exhumed wastes. Another observer commented that the CTF should have tried to finish WMA 7 tonight and that she felt the CTF will not speak as freely when site representatives are present. She also expressed doubts about the government's willingness to do Alternative II.