

To: Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, West Valley Citizen Task Force
Subject: Summary of December 21, 1998, Task Force Meeting
Date: January 18, 1999

Next Meeting:

The next Citizen Task Force (CTF) meeting is scheduled for:

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 1999
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY

A draft agenda for the February 3 meeting is attached. If you have questions or comments regarding the upcoming meeting or about this summary, please contact Melinda Holland at (864) 457-4202 or Tom Attridge at (716) 942-2453.

CTF Attendees:

Attending were: Joe Patti, Ray Vaughan, Barbara Mazurowski, Eric Wohlers, John Pfeffer, Paul Piciulo, Warren Schmidt, Rich Tobe, Bill King, and Murray Regan. Not attending were: Blake Reeves, Nevella McNeil, Tim Siepel, Lana Redeye, Pete Scherer, Larry Smith, Bridget Wilson, and Pete Cooney.

Regulatory Agency Attendee: Jack Krajewski, NYSDEC

December 21 Meeting Summary:

Tom Attridge and Melinda Holland opened the meeting by reviewing administrative issues and the agenda. They announced that Blake Reeves is planning to submit a letter of resignation from the Task Force and that NYSERDA would make a recommendation for replacing him. Tom also mentioned that Lana Redeye is no longer employed by the Seneca Nation of Indians and NYSERDA will be contacting Duane Ray, President to seek a replacement for the CTF.

At the beginning of the meeting, Rich Tobe mentioned that DOE headquarters had contacted him to let the CTF know that the DOE Secretary would not be able to attend a meeting at West Valley with the Task Force. Jim Owendoff, the Acting Deputy Secretary for Environmental Management may attend, but a date had not been set.

The focus of this Task Force meeting was finalization of the CTF's written comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in response to its Draft Decommissioning Criteria for West Valley (SECY-98-251, October 30, 1998). NRC will hold a meeting (open to the public) on January 12 at 9:00 a.m., EST, in Washington, DC, to hear presentations and ask questions of the

CTF, DOE, NYSERDA, NYSDEC, and the NRC staff who prepared the criteria paper. The CTF selected Rich Tobe to testify on its behalf. Ray Vaughan has requested to speak on behalf of the Coalition. Although Mr. Vaughan has not yet been granted time on the agenda, he plans to attend the meeting as an observer. The format will be somewhat like a Congressional hearing: a presentation by the agencies and CTF, followed by questions from the Commissioners to the representatives of the various organizations. The proceedings will be videotaped and transcripts will be available.¹ The CTF's written comments will be submitted at least one week before the public meeting.

Eric Wohlers and Rich Tobe explained that the CTF work group which prepared the draft comments had met three times over the last few weeks and that the workgroup is seeking input to and approval of the document by the full CTF. Pete Scherer, Bridget Wilson and Nevella McNeil telephoned to express support for this final draft, but they were unable to attend this meeting.

In introducing the CTF workgroup's draft paper, Rich Tobe explained that a key concern is that postponement of setting standards until after the site identifies the preferred alternative and completes the SEIS seems to invite a standard different from that required by NRC's License Termination Rule. Other key concerns with the NRC document include its lack of clarity, use of the incidental waste criteria, and failure to adequately address the requirements of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act (WVDPA). He also stated that West Valley is a unique site and should require a unique standard different from other sites. That standard should be provided now, and not after the preferred alternative is developed.

Barbara Mazurowski, DOE, and Paul Piciulo, NYSERDA, provided the CTF with a verbal summary of the comments their agencies would be submitting, respectively. A copy of each agency's comments on the NRC Decommissioning Criteria is attached.

A NYSDEC representative stated that Paul Merges, chief of their radiation program, will make the agency's presentation to the NRC. A copy of NYSDEC's comments on the SECY paper are attached.

The CTF next worked out edits to the draft comments and approved the resulting comments for submittal to the NRC as the CTF's comments. A copy of the CTF's paper is attached.

Observer Comments

An observer congratulated the CTF on doing an excellent job in developing and reaching agreement on this document.

Next Steps

- The next meeting was set for February 3.

¹For transcripts of the January 12 meeting at NRC, contact Sonja Allen, West Valley Nuclear Services, at (716) 942-2152 or allens@wv.doe.gov.