

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland
Subject: Summary of May 7, 2002, CTF Meeting
Date: June 4, 2002

Next Meeting

The next full Citizen Task Force (CTF) meeting will be held as follows:

Date	Tuesday, June 11, 2002
Time	7:00 - 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 Attridge at (716) 942-2453.

CTF Attendees

Attending were: John Beltz, Gayla Gray (for Lana Redeye), Bill King, Lee Lambert, Mark Mitskovski (for Larry Rubin), Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Paul Piciulo, Lana Redeye, Pete Scherer, Warren Schmidt, Tim Siepel, Ray Vaughan, Alice Williams, and Eric Wohlers.

CTF Members not attending (nor represented by an alternate) were: Michelle Enser, Mark Steffan.

Agency Attendees

There were no agency attendees.

Meeting Highlights

Topics discussed included:

- ▶ CTF member Bridget Wilson resigned.
- ▶ Tom Barnes, Southern Tier West, provided an update on options for funding economic development studies.
- ▶ A letter from DOE Under Secretary Robert Card to NYSERDA President William Flynn, dated April 29, 2002, stating that DOE is willing to fund an economic development analysis that can be used by NYSERDA and the community.
- ▶ Status of negotiations between NYSERDA and DOE.
- ▶ A CTF member provided oral comments on the DOE's proposed Accelerated Plan.
- ▶ An update on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's series of meetings held April 16-17, 2002, regarding the Final Policy Statement.
- ▶ A CTF member proposed the formation of a second work group to review/evaluate technical issues.
- ▶ Dan Meess, WVNSCO Manager of High-level Waste Tank Farm Deactivation Engineering, presented information on High-Level Waste Tank Lay-up.

Meeting Summary

Tom Attridge opened the meeting by briefly describing the written materials that were disseminated at the meeting (see the list at the end of this summary) and Melinda Holland reviewed the agenda. Bridget Wilson's letter of resignation from the Task Force was circulated, and Task Force members requested that a letter be sent to Bridget thanking her for her dedication and years of service with the CTF. Melinda

Holland agreed to begin the search for a replacement for Bridget. Some CTF members suggested potential groups to contact, and Ms. Holland agreed to contact these groups.

Update on the Future Site Use Workgroup Progress on a Draft Request for Proposals - Tom Barnes, Southern Tier West, who has been working with the Future Site Use Work Group (FSUWG), gave an update on recent developments to have an economic redevelopment study done for the region. Mr. Barnes stated that Southern Tier West will take the lead on drafting a Request For Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to prepare a regional economic redevelopment study. Southern Tier West, Erie County and Cattaraugus County representatives met recently and agreed to work with each other and the CTF to pursue funding for a study and to write an RFP for a study.

Mr. Barnes stated that representatives of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA)¹ have told him they would accept a pre-application for funding the study. If an EDA grant is received, 50% matching funds must be obtained by the Grantee. Mr. Barnes offered to follow up with EDA about funding for the study. He then discussed the letter from DOE Under Secretary, Bob Card which stated, among other things, that “the Department would fund an economic development analysis that can be used by NYSERDA and the community as it proceeds to determine the best future uses of the site. Task Force members asked NYSERDA to seek clarification and more information on DOE’s offer to provide funding for the economic development study and report back to the CTF.

While Southern Tier West does not technically need the CTF’s concurrence to proceed with the study, Mr. Barnes stated that the County Planning Agencies want to work closely with the Task Force on the study. Towards that end, Mr. Barnes asked if the CTF supported having Southern Tier West proceed. CTF members expressed their support and gratitude to Southern Tier West and the Counties for moving ahead on economic development for this region. There was discussion on the scope of the study - to what extent it will focus on re-use of the site and its skilled work force as compared to regional economic development. This discussion concluded with acceptance of a regional study with a strong focus on re-use options for the site and economic development opportunities for West Valley. CTF members asked that Southern Tier West work closely with the Task Force on aspects of the study dealing with the site, its work force and impacts on the local community. It was also suggested that Southern Tier West and the County Planning Agencies report back to the full CTF instead of the FSUWG.

Update on the Status of the DOE/NYSERDA Negotiations

NYSERDA discussed the April 29th letter from Bob Card and stated that they will share their response to it with the CTF. NYSERDA supports continuation of the negotiation meetings. Mark Frei has been named as DOE’s new lead negotiator, replacing Jim Fiore, and is expected to contact NYSERDA in May. CTF members expressed the view that DOE Headquarters now seems to be paying more attention to West Valley and that the CTF’s discussions with the Western New York Congressional delegation has helped to create this more positive response.

Accelerated Cleanup Plan for West Valley

CTF members discussed their concerns with the DOE’s Accelerated Cleanup Plan proposal for West Valley including:

- ▶ Are the process building cells selected the correct ones to start with?
- ▶ Plan presentation is mostly “buzz words” with little substance to support
- ▶ Dropping of cleanup of the “bath tub ring” of contamination in the HLW tank

¹ For more information about EDA’s programs and grants go to the following web site: www.osec.doc.gov/eda/

- ▶ Reduced emphasis on cleanup of the North Plateau groundwater plume
- ▶ Lack of clarity on NEPA requirements/process; e.g. without completion of the EIS, ROD etc. it is difficult to know if these are the best proposals to accelerate cleanup at the site. Need to know the end state for the site before you can plan the most efficient short-term activities
- ▶ Will these proposals save money in the long run?

Ray Vaughan agreed to draft questions and comments on the accelerated cleanup plan for the CTF before the June 11th meeting. CTF members stated that many of their questions parallel the questions recently raised by NYSDERDA on the Accelerated Cleanup Plan. CTF members expressed concern about their lack of knowledge about the specifics of the plans for accelerated cleanup at West Valley and asked to have their questions answered at the June 11th CTF meeting. A CTF member requested that the Task Force be provided with copies of the portion of an appendix to the 1996 EIS that gives cost projections year by year for various levels of cleanup.

Follow up from the April 16 and 17th meetings with NRC

The transcript from the April 17th Public Meeting will be distributed to the CTF as soon as it becomes available. The CTF decided to wait for the transcript before deciding on any further actions regarding the NRC Policy Statement. A CTF member who attended the regulatory agencies meeting held on the morning of April 17th said the regulators plan additional meetings to work on the Regulators Communication Plan issues. Another CTF member stated that she still wants copies of all of the individual comments filed with NRC on the development of the draft Policy Statement and how NRC dealt with these comments.

Discussion on CTF Impact

CTF members concluded that the Task Force is having a significant impact on issues surrounding the site through their meetings with and letters to Congressional delegation members. A member of Senator Schumer's staff called to say he would like to meet with the Task Force to follow up on CTF letters and their meeting with the Congressional delegation in D.C. The CTF decided to draft a follow up letter to the Congressional delegation asking for a progress report and inviting them to the next CTF meeting. John Pfeffer offered to draft this letter for the CTF and invite Congressional staff to attend the June 11th CTF meeting.

Ray Vaughan asked CTF members to contact him if they would be interested in being part of a Technical Issues Workgroup which would take a closer look at erosion modeling, dose calculations, etc.

Explanation of High Level Waste Tank Lay-up

Dan Meess, WVNSCO, gave a presentation on site plans for HLW tank "lay-up" as requested by the Task Force. This presentation explained the current condition of the tanks, how they are constructed, how tank corrosion is being controlled with nitrogen gas, how the vault drying system helps to prevent leaks, and how groundwater infiltration is controlled. During question and answer discussions, Mr. Meese explained that tank 8D-1 has no contamination in the tank containment pan, and tank 8D-2 has shown a slight increase in radioactive contamination in the water in the pan and annulus since 1986. This water is treated then sent to the lagoon. Tank 8D-2 has a small leak in the tank containment pan which allows some groundwater from the vault to get into the pan. He also explained that the tanks have not leaked into the environment, describing how the tanks and groundwater are monitored. He stated that they are not yet sure how far down they could lower the water table around the tanks during tank lay-up. The tank/vault drying system will save around \$50,000 - \$100,000 a year as it eliminates the need to use nitrogen to control corrosion and it will be more effective in slowing tank erosion.

Mr. Meess explained that they leave a few inches of liquid in each tank as it acts as shielding to keep the radiation levels at the top of the tanks from increasing and that the pumps cannot remove all of the liquid. Depending on the tank closure option selected in the preferred alternative, the tanks can be completely dried out using the existing tank vault drying system with some modifications. No decision has been made on drying the tanks completely. If the tanks are dried, the waste will crystalize on the walls and could not easily be removed without washing the tanks; also the tanks may not be able to be grouted if mixing of the residual waste and the grout is a requirement. They are also not sure an option drying the tanks is covered under the existing EIS. The tank lay-up approach is to keep the tanks safe and stable until a final decommissioning decision can be made. DOE hopes to have a Record of Decision (ROD) on Decommissioning by 2005.

The vitrification system will be shut down this September and there is little chance that it could be restarted again given the age of the melter. Any remaining liquid wastes needing treatment would have to be treated by some method other than vitrification. The exhaust from the tank/vault drying system is double-HEPA filtered and emissions from the stack are not expected to result in increased stack emissions.

The CTF questioned why NRC's Final Policy Statement eliminated one of the criteria on incidental waste, specifically requiring the solidified residue to not exceed class C low-level waste concentration limits. Mr. Meese responded that possibly NRC realized it was premature to apply requirements developed specifically for the Hanford site to other sites (like Savannah River and West Valley) universally, and that perhaps NRC recognized site-specific characteristics need to be considered. Mr. Meess stated that not having this requirement may permit the tank contents to be dried out at a later stage of tank lay-up. Mr. Meess was asked to provide information to the CTF on whether the material in tank 8D-2 is between 10 and 100 nCi/gm."

The CTF then went into a closed caucus session at the request of Jim Little, President, WVNSCO. The caucus will be summarized separately.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the CTF is scheduled for June 11, 2002.

-- More --

Action Items

Action	Assigned to	Due Date (2002)
Send thank you letter to Bridget Wilson.	T. Attridge	May 31
Follow up with EDA and DOE about funding an economic development study for the West Valley area	Paul Piciulo Tom Barnes	Before the June 11 th meeting
Provide the CTF with copies of the portion of an appendix to the 1996 EIS that gives cost projections year by year for various levels of cleanup	S. Allen	May 31
Distribute transcript of NRC public meeting.	S. Allen	When available
Prepare draft comments on proposed Acceleration Plan.	R. Vaughan	Before June 11 meeting
Provide copies of all of the individual comments and responses to comments on the Policy Statement.	C. Glenn / S. Allen	June 3
Provide information on whether the material in Tank 8D-2 is from 10 / 100 nanocuries TRU	D. Meess	Before the June 11 meeting
Draft follow up letter and invite Congressional delegation to June 11 CTF meeting.	J. Pfeffer	June 3
Develop a recommendation for a candidate to join the CTF to fill the vacancy created by Bridget Wilson's resignation. Contact Cattaraugus Creek Basin Task Force and the Cattaraugus Concerned Citizens for potential candidates.	M. Holland	June 11

Observer Comments

An observer expressed concern that the regulators are including the regulated (DOE and NYSERDA) in future meetings, but not the public.

List of Documents (For copies, please contact Sonja Allen at 716/942-2152.)

- ▶ Meeting agenda
- ▶ Letter from DOE Under Secretary of Energy Robert Card to NYSERDA President William Flynn, dated April 29, 2002
- ▶ Presentation titled, "High-Level Waste Tank Lay-Up"