

To: Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland, Clean Sites
Subject: Summary of November 5, 1997, Meeting
Date: November 13, 1997

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Citizen Task Force (CTF) will be held on:

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 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 Attridge at (716) 942-2453.

CTF Attendees:

Nevella McNeil, Elaine Belt, Eric Wohlers, Rich Tobe, Pete Scherer, Warren Schmidt, Joe Patti, Larry Smith, Ray Vaughan, Paul Piciulo, Blake Reeves, Barbara Mazurowski (for Tom Rowland), Murray Regan, Tim Siepel, and John Pfeffer.

Absent: Lana Rosler, Bill King, and Pete Cooney.

Regulatory Agency Attendees:

Jack Krajewski, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
Todd Jackson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Region I

Wednesday, November 5, 1997, Meeting Summary:

Tom Attridge began the meeting by addressing administrative issues. Melinda Holland reviewed the agenda and received comments on the October 21 meeting summary. A CTF member requested that the summaries be more detailed and comprehensive and include the names of those making statements. He would like summaries to contain enough detail to allow those who miss meetings to understand what happened at the meeting. Ms. Holland stated that it would be necessary to prepare a transcript via stenographer or tape to be able to accurately quote each person's statements for attribution. Video taping meetings was suggested by some members but others were not comfortable with that idea. The issue was resolved by Ms. Holland agreeing to work with the site staff to take more detailed notes and prepare a more comprehensive summary.

cost as a limitation. He felt that the costs of Alternatives 3 and 4 (as estimated) were too low as they do not build in future high costs of revisiting the cleanup. It is better to spend known dollars now to get the wastes out of the ground.

Recent legislative and White House activities regarding nuclear waste disposal and sale of nuclear reactors to China raised a concern over the potential for the West Valley site being viewed as a likely location for disposal of nuclear wastes from other locations. The New York State low-level waste siting law specifically states that West Valley is not to be considered as a site for additional low level wastes. However, some are concerned that the State law could easily be amended. The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Act states that high level wastes are to be removed from the site. Asking for additional federal legislation to secure more money for DOE at West Valley could result in a weakening of the current WVDP Act. These issues, among others, will be discussed with Representative Amo Houghton when the CTF has its video conference with Representative Houghton.

Next, Tom Attridge requested that the CTF begin developing a list of values or site closure principles using the pros and cons lists as a starting point. After considerable discussion, the CTF concluded that it does not want to do a values development exercise at this point. Instead, the members discussed their desire to continue discussions among themselves on which cleanup approach they favor for each waste management area. A CTF member-only caucus was suggested for the next meeting, but several members did not support a closed caucus. The CTF agreed instead to have the November 18 meeting be attended only by Task Force members and interested citizens, excluding site representatives. Values and closure principles will be revealed during the discussions over what to do with the waste management areas and can be summarized at the end of the process to explain how and why the CTF made its recommendations. At the next meeting, some CTF members expressed a desire to discuss what kind of recommendations they will develop, the process they will use to develop the recommendations, and whether the recommendations should be idealistic or realistic. It was also recommended that the CTF begin discussing the WMAs one at a time to hear what each member wants and to develop recommendations. Another CTF member stated that the CTF needs a "reality check" from the regulatory agencies and the site agencies.

Gene Peters of Clean Sites offered to have available for inspection at the next meeting, a version of the site cleanup "game" which uses a site map and puzzle pieces to represent the various alternatives for cleanup of the key waste management areas. It was suggested that this exercise could be useful for the CTF as a tool or focal point in discussing issues and concerns when considering cleanup alternatives for each waste management area.

Other Issues

The Savannah River Site Citizen Advisory Board (SRS CAB) sent a draft motion (copy attached) to the West Valley site requesting a CTF response to the SRS CAB recommendation to allow the vitrified high level waste canisters produced at West Valley to be shipped to SRS for storage