

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Melinda Holland
Subject: Summary of June 19, 2001, Task Force Meeting–**Revised**
Date: July 6, 2001

Next Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday, September 18, 2001
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219, West Valley, NY

The focus of the September 18 CTF meeting will be announced. 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. There will be a meeting of the newly formed Future Site Use Work Group on Tuesday, July 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ashford Office Complex. All CTF members are welcome to attend.

CTF Attendees

Attending were: Gayla Gray (for Lana Redeye), Bill King, Lee Lambert, Nevella McNeil, Mark Mitskovski (for Larry Rubin), John Pfeffer, Pete Scherer, Tim Siepel, Ray Vaughan, Bridget Wilson, Eric Wohlers, Paul Bembia (NYSERDA), Paul Piciulo (by phone), and Alice Williams.

CTF Members not attending were: Pete Cooney, Joe Patti, Warren Schmidt, Murray Regan, and Larry Smith.

Agency Attendees

Attending in person: Jack Krawjewski and Tim Rice, NYSDEC.

Administrative Announcements and Updates

Tom Attridge opened the meeting by describing the materials that were disseminated at the meeting. Melinda Holland reviewed the agenda and expressed her pleasure to be back working with the Task Force again.

At the beginning of the meeting Paul Piciulo told the CTF that the executive management of NYSERDA, with support of the Governor's office, is working at the highest levels of DOE to get the negotiations restarted.

Task Force Member Vacancy

Tom Attridge explained that he had spoken with Larry Smith who said he is resigning from the CTF and will send a letter of resignation to the Task Force. The CTF asked that DOE and NYSERDA send a letter thanking Larry for his years of service on the Task Force. The CTF members also decided that they would like Melinda Holland, Task Force facilitator, to serve as a neutral in identifying a replacement candidate to fill Larry's vacancy. In this role Ms. Holland will evaluate stakeholder interests, assemble a list of potential candidates, interview candidates, and recommend one candidate to NYSERDA, DOE and the CTF for their approval. She will also prepare a brief report summarizing these activities. To aid in this process, Ms. Holland asked Task Force members to check and correct the list of their community

affiliations and to inform her of potential candidates to fill the vacancy.

Revised Ground Rules

The Task Force members addressed the revised draft ground rules which they have been working on for the last two meetings. Several additional edits were suggested and approved, as shown on the attached copy. By unanimous agreement the CTF then adopted the revised ground rules.

CTF Meeting with Commissioner Dicus

Next, the Task Force members who met with NRC Commissioner Greta Dicus earlier that day shared some highlights of that meeting. All who had met with the Commissioner, including DOE and NYSERDA, had many positive things to say about her and stated that the meetings had been useful and informative. They also felt that she was very knowledgeable about the site and the issues. CTF members expressed hope that the Commissioner's prediction that the NRC Policy statement would be issued this summer comes to fruition. A CTF member noted that the Commissioner acknowledged that NRC may revisit the Policy Statement after it is issued if new information becomes available that NRC did not consider in developing the document.

A CTF member mentioned that Commissioner Dicus was very interested in the erosion issues. Another CTF member said that NRC staff mentioned that the SIBERIA erosion model was nearing completion. That member requested that the CTF be provided with an update on that model. The DOE representative said that they will provide that update at the next CTF meeting and added that if the CTF had not seen Paul Bembia's talk on site geology it is very informative and well worth the time. The CTF expressed an interest in having Paul give this presentation at the next meeting.

Future Site Use Work Group

An enthusiastic discussion ensued about promoting the re-use of the West Valley site facilities and scientific/ technical expertise for a research/ technology park, educational center, etc. This issue was discussed at the meeting with Commissioner Dicus earlier in the day. It was stated that starting such a project now would allow DOE and NYSERDA to reap multiple benefits from the money they are investing in clean up. Task Force members felt that it would be advisable to leverage those resources to create a lasting, positive economic future for the area. Task Force members supported the idea but cautioned that it will take leadership, skill, time and effort to accomplish, as well as requiring the support of DOE and NYSERDA. The CTF's role could be to promote and garner support for the idea, investigate types of feasible re-use activities, and encourage all affected government agencies (local, state, tribal, county, federal) to support the project. Possible focuses for such a research park which were discussed included a Great Lakes Study Center (needing cooperation between Erie and Cattaraugus Counties); water quality/hydrology protection; genome/bioinformatics; toxic waste and contaminated site cleanup; innovative environmental or energy technology development; a cooperative effort with the University of Buffalo research departments; or developing other clean industries. The DOE representative stated that this is a very exciting idea and she supports the CTF's pursuit of it. However, she cautioned the group not to become discouraged by the obstacles they may encounter such as budgets being cut for research, competition from DOE National Laboratories looking for new missions, other federal agency "turf" (e.g. Department of Agriculture), and the fact that DOE does not own this site. She encouraged the group to find something unique and in demand on which to focus future use.

A meeting was scheduled for the CTF Future Site Use Work Group on July 17, 2001, at 7:00 p.m at the Ashford Office Complex. Work Group members include: Mark Mitskovski, Bill King, Ray Vaughan, Tim Siepel, Joe Patti, Pete Scherer, Nevella McNeil, Eric Wohlers and John Pfeffer. Mark Mitskovski offered to share with the group research findings related to this subject currently being compiled for him by volunteers. All work group members agreed to think about and investigate options for types of

research, education, or clean industry that might be suitable for the site; sources of funding; and people who need to be involved in the project. Melinda asked if DOE and NYSERDA representatives could provide information to help the CTF. DOE agreed to provide information on similar efforts at other DOE facilities and NYSERDA agreed to provide information on the agency's research projects.

Announcements

An announcement and agenda were distributed to the Task Force for a Long-Term Stewardship Workshop to be held in Grand Junction, Colorado on July 30 - August 2. Site representatives asked CTF members to contact Tom Attridge if anyone is interested in attending this workshop. More information on the workshop can be found at: www.doejpo.com/programs/ltsm/general/events/index.htm

The DOE representative announced that Bob Campbell, President of WVNS, is retiring on July 1. The CTF asked site representatives to send a letter to Mr. Campbell wishing him a happy retirement and thanking him for a job well done.

GAO Report

CTF members commented on the May 2001, GAO report "Nuclear Waste: Agreement Among Agencies Responsible for the West Valley Site is Critically Needed." They agreed that the report was well written, balanced and offered positive recommendations. The DOE representative said that, unfortunately, the Congressional hearings which had been scheduled on this report have been canceled, and there is concern that no Congressional action will be taken as a result. The NYSERDA representative stated that they agreed with the GAO recommendations that the agencies need an agreement to continue the success of the Project. NYSERDA stated that they believe the two agencies are in the best position to devise a solution to the negotiations.

Next Steps

Earlier in the meeting, the CTF Future Site Use Work Group agreed to meet on Tuesday, July 17, 2001, 7:00 p.m. at the Ashford Office Complex.

The Task Force agreed to take a two month break over the summer (except for the Work Group meeting) unless some event occurs which creates the need for a meeting (e.g. issuance of the NRC Policy Statement). The next full meeting of the CTF was scheduled for September 18.

Observer Comments

There were no observer comments.

Action Items

- ▶ Melinda Holland will initiate process of identifying a replacement for Larry Smith on the CTF.
- ▶ Tom Attridge will send the adopted version of the CTF Mission and Ground Rules to each CTF member.
- ▶ SAIC will provide an update on the SIBERIA erosion model at the next CTF meeting.
- ▶ Paul Bembia will give the presentation on site geology (the same one that was developed for NRC) at the next CTF meeting.
- ▶ NYSERDA and DOE will draft, and send, appreciation letters to Larry Smith and Bob Campbell.
- ▶ DOE will provide Future Site Use Work Group of the CTF with information on similar efforts taking place at other DOE facilities.
- ▶ NYSERDA will provide Future Site Use Work Group of the CTF with information NYSERDA's research programs.

- ▶ Tom Attridge will coordinate CTF travel to the DOE Long-Term Stewardship Conference in Grand Junction at the end of July.