

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Melinda Holland, Facilitator, Holland & Assoc.  
Subject: Summary of February 9, 2004, CTF Conference Call  
Date: February 17, 2004

### **CTF Participants**

*Attending were:* Bill King, Joe Patti, Paul Piciulo, Mike Hutchinson, Ray Vaughan, Bryan Bower, Lee Lambert, Tom Attridge and Sonja Allen.

### **Conference Call Summary**

The conference call began with a discussion of the meaning of Bob Van Wicklin's email which states "*Amo is awaiting word from DOE on several issues related to WVDP so he feels that a delegation meeting is premature.*"

A DOE representative explained that DOE officials met with Representative Amo Houghton in November 2003 to discuss issues related to the West Valley site. After this meeting, Representative Houghton sent a letter to DOE Secretary Abraham (as requested on this call, a copy of this letter has been sent to the CTF). The DOE representative on the conference called explained that Houghton's letter raised several questions that "*absolutely must be resolved before the end of next year.*" The questions raised in Representative Houghton's letter include: "*What does the Federal Government want? What does the state want? What are both sides willing to give?*" "... *the three issues are the high level waste fee which varies between \$200 million to \$20 - \$30 million. Second, the long-term stewardship of the site - frankly, what does stewardship mean? Third, mentioned in our meeting, low level waste.*" He noted that Representative Houghton's letter ended with the statement that "*in the final analysis, you and George Pataki have to sit down and do the final negotiations.*"

DOE West Valley staff has drafted a letter in response to Representative Houghton's letter. That letter is now at DOE Headquarters for approval and release. The DOE representative did not know when the letter would be sent. A CTF member asked that DOE inform the Task Force on February 18 about when this letter will be sent.

Task Force members noted that given Bob Van Wicklin's email, that it was unlikely that Representative Houghton would be willing to initiate a meeting of the WNY delegation until after DOE's response letter has been received. Another CTF member suggested that the Task Force try to become involved in these discussions between DOE and Representative Houghton. One reason for this involvement would be to make sure that Representative Houghton understands that allowing waste to remain in place with long-term stewardship should not be treated as a "done deal," and that this is subject to conclusion of the EIS process.

Task Force members on the call asked Melinda Holland to contact key staff leaders for Senator's Clinton and Schumer and Representative Houghton to request a meeting with their local staff.

CTF members also expressed concern about the reduction for the WVDP in President's proposed 2005 budget. A CTF member asked what more could the site accomplish if the budget had not been cut for 2005. A DOE representative responded that they would ship more waste sooner, decontaminate the buildings faster, but at some point the capacity of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) would become a bottleneck. In response to a question about the 107 million dollar annual budget predicted

through 2021, a DOE representative explained that budget number was based on the old management plan which is no longer being used due to DOE's new preferred alternative. Bob Warther, DOE Ohio Field office will explain more about the preferred alternative at the February 18 Task Force meeting. In response to a question about how to get a stable, multi-year budget commitment, a DOE representative explained that will be the goal under the new WVDP contract which will begin in 2005. The request for proposals for that contract will be released soon.

A CTF member asked NYSERDA about the agency's plans for future use of the site. A NYSERDA representative explained that re-use of the land is not in the agency's mission at West Valley. A Task Force member suggested that the CTF should meet with the state legislative delegation in Albany to discuss the re-use of the site and other issues. A CTF member recommended approaching Cathy Young and Pat McGee first, and consulting with Warren Schmidt, who works for Cathy Young. This topic will be discussed at the February 18 Task Force meeting.

A CTF member suggested that a list of job-creation proposals currently unfunded should be presented to federal and state elected officials with a request to fund the proposals to compensate for the loss of jobs due to budget cuts at the West Valley site. Another CTF member noted that the region does not have much chance for economic re-development as long as wastes remain in place at the site.

In response to a CTF member's request, a DOE representative agreed to bring a copy of the EIS schedule to the next CTF meeting.

Action Items

<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Provide the CTF with a copy of Representative Houghton's letter to Secretary Abraham.	DOE	done
Provide a copy of the decommissioning EIS schedule to the CTF at the February 18 meeting.	DOE	2/18/04
Inform the CTF about when DOE's reply to Rep. Houghton's letter will be sent.	DOE	2/18/04