

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: September 13, 2010  
Subject: **Summary of the August 25, 2010 Meeting**

## Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM, September 22, 2010**  
Location: Ashford Office Complex  
9030 Route 219  
West Valley, NY

Note: Participants must be U.S. citizens and have photo identification. Please contact Bill Logue (860-521-9122, [Bill@LogueGroup.com](mailto:Bill@LogueGroup.com)) with questions or comments concerning this summary or future meetings.

## CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Deb Aumick, Chris Crawford, Rob Dallas, Bob Engel, Chris Gerwitz, Debra John, Lee Lambert (via telephone), Kathy McGoldrick, John Pfeffer, Warren Schmidt, Eric Wohlers, Ray Vaughan. Darren Kempner attended for Paul Kranz on behalf of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning.

## Agency Participants and Observers

*Department of Energy (DOE):* Christopher Eckert, Moira Maloney,

*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA):* Tom Attridge, Paul Bembia, Andrea Mellon, Paul Piciulo.

*West Valley Environmental Services, LLC (WVES):* Charles Biedermann, John Chamberlain, Cindy Dayton, John McKibbin.

*Observers:* Jack Alexander, Lynne Bennett, David Caldwell, Terry Dunford, Jeff Neff, Elizabeth O'Neill, Ted Towsley, Barbara Warren (via telephone), Mae Wright.

## Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting documents.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began at 7:30 PM and was preceded by a site tour provided by DOE, NYSERDA and WVES staff. CTF members or their organizational representatives participating included: Chris Crawford, Rob Dallas, Debra John, Bob Engel, Darren Kempner (Erie County), Dr. Kevin Watkins (Cattaraugus County Department of Health), Eric Wohlers and facilitator Bill Logue.

## NYSERDA Updates

1. NYSERDA Funded Broadband Monitoring Station at the West Valley Central School. Lee Gordon of NYSERDA informed the CTF that NYSERDA had received an unsolicited proposal from Dr. Won-Kim Young of the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University (LDEO) in March of 2008 to install a broadband seismic monitoring station associated with the West Valley Central School. The goal is to provide real-time seismic data near the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC), augment the school curriculum with a "hands-on" component, fill a data gap for the western New York area and contribute to measurement of activity in the northeastern US. He displayed graphics of earthquake

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<sup>1</sup> The documents are listed at the end of this summary and may be found at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org)

locations in the northeastern US and Canada between 1990 and 2006 and the locations of seismic monitoring stations in the region.

NYSERDA provided \$25,000 to purchase a digital seismometer, data-logger and ancillary equipment. LDEO will install and monitor the equipment, provide NYSERDA and the school district with seismic monitoring software, and assist the school with related curriculum development. Vault, instrumentation and antenna installation is complete on a slope with exposed bedrock and internet access behind the school. Software, power supply and data configuration will be complete in the coming weeks and the system will be operational by late fall or early winter. Data will be available online and posted with LDEO information.

CTF member Ray Vaughan raised questions about how the US and Canadian networks were integrated and whether the readings would provide sufficient geographic precision to improve understanding. These issues were later addressed in a teleconference and email exchange where Dr. Kim provided locational calculations for the recent earthquake. Dr. Kim and other LDEO staff answered questions to everyone's satisfaction. In brief, they advised that continuous data reception and coordination with Canadian station helps in calculating earthquake locations; some calculations differ between the US and Canada due to models based on specific geologic structure and why certain calculations are more accurate for given regions.

2. NYSERDA's Meteorological Station at the State-Licensed Disposal Area(SDA). NYSERDA has installed a monitoring station adjacent to the SDA. Mr. Gordon noted the need for uninterrupted data at the SDA concerning precipitation intensity, wind speed on the geomembrane cover, and snow water content. The station will also augment watershed hydrology monitoring, provide real-time 24/7 data and alert capabilities. The station is being tested and calibrated. It will measure wind speed and direction, barometric pressure, temperature and relative humidity, and total precipitation. It will have a backup power supply and cellular modem. The Ott Pluvio total precipitation gauge has been operating since May 24, 2010. Data, logged every 20 minutes, will be posted to the web and the station could become an official NOAA station.

3. LiDAR and Orthoimagery of Buttermilk Creek Watershed. Mr. Gordon informed the CTF that a contract was in place for Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) and orthoimagery project for the fall. The work is performed by planes flying at several thousand feet using a laser and mirrors in conjunction with high accuracy GPS location information resulting in extremely accurate 3-dimensional topographic models tied to more than 100 ground control points. The work will result in a model of the Buttermilk Creek watershed plus a small surrounding buffer. He showed examples of several models and noted that current New York State ortho images are at the 2-foot pixel size and this imagery will be at the 3-inch pixel size. The flyovers must be done on clear days after leaves are off the trees and without snow cover.

Data may be used for: Change detection, hydrologic modeling, generating custom contour topographic maps, landslide and gully location and erosion volumes/rates, stream network evolution and bank stability, and slope monitoring. It also satisfies a requirement of NYSERDA's Part 380 permit – comprehensive topographic mapping of the SDA and surrounding areas.

4. Partial Site Release Update. Paul Piciulo of NYSERDA presented an update on the status of the partial site release. He reminded the group of previous updates to the CTF in November 2009 and at the Quarterly

Public Meeting in May of 2010. In February 2010 NYSERDA submitted an application for an amendment to the NRC license for the partial site release. NRC advised that there would be a substantial charge for license review at which point NYSERDA reassessed the approach and removed some areas from the application including reducing the area and removing the scrap material landfill. The remaining areas include two non-impacted areas of 134 and 32 acres, and a 33 acre area on which the bulk storage warehouse sits and which will be treated as impacted for purposes of a Final Status Survey. An environmental report is being prepared and the license amendment is being outlined.

The CTF expressed appreciation that a portion of the site was moving toward release. A member raised concerns that precedent not be set for piecemeal decommissioning because of potential cumulative impacts of dose to the public. Their concern is that the License Termination Rule reviews future long term impacts and these are not adequately addressed with partial site releases. Dr. Piciulo stated that the License Termination Rule and 10 CFR 50.83 specifically address this issue and protect the public by ensuring that a) any release is for unrestricted use, b) that the license must comply with applicable federal regulations, and c) records must be maintained and reviews of prior releases in their entirety must be conducted before final decommissioning of the remaining portions of a site. He further noted that public meetings will be held in conjunction with any partial release and concerns could be expressed at that point. Paul Bembia stated that NYSERDA would be willing to consider language in the license amendment to address the issue of cumulative impacts.

Consent Decree. Paul Bembia informed the CTF that the Federal District Court approved the Consent Decree resolving cost allocation issues between New York and the federal government. Two issues remain unresolved, first the natural resource damages claims will be stayed pending the clean up and, second, the issue of high-level waste disposal will proceed to litigation.

Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future. Mr. Bembia informed the CTF that he will testify before a subcommittee of the Blue Ribbon Commission the week of August 30.

## **DOE Project Update**

Christopher Eckert of DOE presented the DOE Project Update.

Safety. As of August 20, WVDP employees had worked more than 3 million hours without a lost-time accident or illness. Four first aids were recorded with one a recordable injury. The Total Recordable Case Rate (TRC) and Days Away, Transferred, Restricted (DART) both stand at 0.2. For September, the TRC will be 0.3 which is low in the DOE complex.

Contamination Events. John McKibbin of WVES presented an update of two contamination events. On July 25 a heavy rain temporarily knocked out power taking a ventilation fan offline. The fan, which had been running continuously for at least six years, did not restart and condensation accumulated and dripped. Six workers received clothing contamination. On August 1 an operator was contaminated during decontamination of the Main Plant Lower Extraction (LXA) and Chemical Operations Aisles (COA) related to the July 25 event. The worker knelt on the floor to perform decontamination work; their knee slipped off a protective pad and sweat caused their protective suit to wick bringing in contaminated moisture. The

worker was immediately decontaminated and received no internal contamination. Roof repairs are being performed.

Main Plant Process Building (MPPB). A graphic displayed areas of the MPPB work which has been completed, is ongoing and is planned. Work is made more complex by ventilation issues, asbestos, areas being disturbed and systems being removed from service.

A video was shown of a robotic arm being used in the highly contaminated Extraction Cell -1 to make more than 400 pipe cuts. The arm is working well. Another video showed the use of Nitrocision® to remove contamination from the floor and walls of Process Mechanical Cell (see 2/24/2010 summary on how the process works). Ninety-five percent of the cell wall and about 300 ft<sup>2</sup> of floor and cell horizontal surfaces have been decontaminated. A thirty gallon drum filled two-thirds measured 30 rads of contamination and a hotter area on the floor with 1" measured more than more than 70 rad.

Asbestos removal continues with 2,098 of the 5,242 linear feet of asbestos from piping and coverings and 164 ft<sup>2</sup> of 2,264 of asbestos from floor tile and vessels.

Radioactive Waste Reduction. As of July 31, 2010, 77,114 ft<sup>3</sup> of stored Low-level Radioactive Waste (LLW) and 44,412 ft<sup>3</sup> of Transuranic (TRU) waste have been processed. Two video clips were shown. The first was Plasma Cutting for contact-handled TRU waste processing in the Container Size Reduction Facility. Contents of waste containers are processed and large components are size-reduced with high temperature rapid plasma cutting. The second video showed the remote handled filter crusher in the Remote-Handled Waste Facility which reduces HEPA filters to one-third of their original size and enables packaging multiple filters in one drum.

Waste Tank Farm. The work on tank and vault drying continues with a pump being removed from Tank 8D-4 in the coming days with remote handling equipment. The pump will be decontaminated as it is removed and placed in a steel waste box. Installation of the above-ground ventilation system is 90% complete and removal of the underground ventilation pipe is 74% complete. The rotary drying test is 75% complete.

North Plateau Ground Water Plume. Preparation for installation of the Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW) to passively remove strontium-90 continues. Testing has been successful for the soil conveyor system for the one-pass trencher and the "stone slinger" truck to load zeolite. There are 1080 bags of zeolite on site. Laboratory tests of the zeolite are complete. The proposal for the trencher is under review and a contract will be awarded soon.

United Way Day of Caring. Staff volunteered to make improvements at the Springville Preschool Learning Center League for the Handicapped on August 18 and Delevan Headstart and on August 19 at Springville Bertrand Chaffee Hospital and Olean Mental Health Facility.

## **Review and Update NYSERDA and DOE Proposed Phase 1 Studies Process**

Lee Gordon reviewed the Proposed Phase 1 Studies Process (see the 6/2010 Meeting Summary of Paul Bembia's presentation for the overview which is not repeated here). DOE and NYSERDA are currently drafting an agreement for agency neutral contracting and 50/50 cost-sharing for this work to ensure that any contractors hired will not be biased in favor of either agency. Scopes of work are being drafted for the

facilitator, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and Independent Scientific Panel (ISP). Facilitators are being interviewed. Several CTF members asked if there would be opportunities for review or input into the membership of the ISP and SMEs. Mr. Gordon will share the tentative list and biographies of ISP members. The agencies are committed to an open and transparent process and will make information available as soon as possible. A protocol for identifying potential study areas is being developed - different study areas will be prioritized by the SMEs and they will evaluate a study area to determine if it will contribute to meaningful progress and then they will identify the study activities. Since the issuance of the Record of Decision and Findings Statement, the agencies have been meeting weekly to plan and consulted with the regulatory agencies in June.

## Other Business

Lee Lambert brought a recent NOAA report on climate change to the attention of the CTF and noted that climate change has serious implications for management of the WVDP and WNYNSC if there is not a full cleanup.

## Observer Comments

There were no observer comments.

## Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Resumes of ISP members	NYSERDA; 8/28/2010
Link to NOAA Report	Lambert; 8/28/2010

## Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 8/25/2010
NYSERDA Updates	NYSERDA; 8/25/2010
DOE West Valley Demonstration Project Update	DOE; 8/25/2010
Proposed Phase 1 Studies Process Review and Update	NYSERDA/ DOE; 8/25/2010
NY Attorney General Response to CTF Comments on Consent Decree	NYAG; 6/29/2010
State of NY, et al v. U.S., et al Order Approving Consent Decree	8/17/2010
State of NY, et al v. U.S., et al Consent Decree	8/17/2010
DOE News Release concerning Consent Decree	DOE; 8/25/2010
DOE response to CTF Concerning CTF Letter and Resolution of May 26, 2010	DOE; 8/11/2010
Newspaper clippings distributed at the meeting	NYSERDA; 6/23/10