

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: December 3, 2010
Subject: **Summary of the November 17, 2010 Meeting**

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:45 – 9:00 PM, December 15, 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) with questions or comments concerning this summary or future meetings.

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Deb Aumick, Chris Gerwitz, Mike Hutchinson, Paul Kranz, Lee Lambert, Kathy McGoldrick, Anthony Memmo, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Craig Rieman.

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

West Valley Environmental Services, LLC (WVES): John Chamberlain, KK Gupta, Dan Meess.

Observers: Lynette Bennett, Terry Dunford, Jeff Neff (via Telephone), Bill Schaab.

Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed the group and reviewed the meeting documents.¹ Deb Aumick informed the CTF that she had spoken to Warren Schmidt who had contacted Representative Tom Reed's office expressing his willingness to continue to serve. However, he had not yet received a response from Representative Reed.

West Valley Demonstration Project Tank Farm – Tank & Vault Drying System

Dan Meess, Chief Engineer of WVES, presented on the installation of the Tank & Vault Drying System at the WVDP Tank Farm. (For details please see the presentations available online.)

Background. Mr. Meess provided a brief background to start. Tanks 8D-1 and 8D-2 are carbon steel within concrete vaults. The vaults have internal "pans", external coatings and an underdrain. Water has infiltrated the vaults through penetrations in the roof, for piping, and construction joints, and through cracks in the roof, sides and floor. Tanks 8D-3 and 8D-4 are stainless steel in a single vault with the vault bottom lined with stainless steel. All tanks are now isolated and have active ventilation systems and contain some liquids which are causing pitting and corrosion which could, over time, lead to leaks of radioactive materials.

Objectives. The objectives of the tank and vault drying system are to:

- Eliminate the remaining tank liquids and the risk and consequences of a tank leak, and to eliminate the liquids in the vaults and pans.

¹ The documents are listed at the end of this summary and may be found at www.westvalleyctf.org

- Reduce the relative humidity to below 30% to prevent or slow further corrosion, minimize the need to pump water from the vaults and pans.
- Maintain the tanks safely until decommissioned with a system with a minimum 30-year design life with periodic maintenance.

System Operation. The system works by circulating dry warm air with a rotary dryer, adapted from a commercial system used in large facilities, to the bottom of tanks and vaults causing liquids to evaporate, ducting the moist air at the top of the vaults through HEPA filters to remove dust and contaminants and discharging moisture through the permanent ventilation system and stack. The air is passed through the tanks once before being filtered and vented. For the vaults it is recirculated. When the system is placed in operation the relative humidity will drop, evaporation will reduce liquids then the system will maintain a new lower relative humidity.

Associated Work. New underground stainless steel ventilation lines have been installed to replace some of the existing ventilation lines and headers which vary from 6 to 18 inches. In the process, some lines were coated to minimize corrosion and rerouting of lines occurred. Groundwater in the area is pumped to maintain it at a level below the header. The Tank 8D-4 pump was removed and size reduced and was classified as low-level radioactive waste (LLW).

Still to be completed are backfilling and grading, installation of some air diffusers and connections, start-up and balancing of the system, training of personnel, putting the system in operation and removing the temporary ventilation system. The diffusers within ventilation lines will allow for the control of air flow so as not to stir up dust once the liquids are removed.

Questions Addressed. In response to questions, Mr. Meess stated that the permanent ventilation system did not have automatic shutdown capability if contamination was not contained by the HEPA filters. This will be manually surveyed on a schedule yet to be determined. He also stated that, based on experience and the variety of types of piping, cathodic protection against corrosion by placement of a sacrificial anode would be uncertain and could have unintended consequences. In addition, Mr. Meess stated that isolating the three transfer lines from the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) was not done because of the sequence of work related to excavation and removal of the MPPB and the ability to maintain negative pressure in the line during its removal.

Permeable Treatment Wall Installation

John Chamberlain of WVES presented on the installation of the Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW) designed to contain the North Plateau Strontium-90 Groundwater Plume. He noted the placement of the 860 foot wall along an existing road running from the Lag Buildings adjacent to the Construction Demolition and Debris Landfill. The wall is 36-39 inches thick. A video of the installation in progress is available on the Buffalo News website.

The site was prepared in September and early October with the preparation of the existing roadway for the PTW installation, construction of a containment system for the excavated materials and a new access road on the opposite side of the containment system. The one-pass trencher arrived on site on October 12 and, after assembly, began trenching on October 17. Work continued with several interruptions until November 7

when it was halted to await delivery of additional zeolite. An additional 40 feet remains to be installed. Once installation is finished the equipment will be decontaminated on an apron, the soils will be tested for contaminants, and groundwater flows will be assessed.

The interruptions were caused by several factors. Some clay soils initially excavated proved to be very watery and the containment structure needed to be reinforced with rebar and cement due to the weight. Soils also contained medium size (equivalent to a basketball) rocks that damaged the soil conveyor system. The contractor repaired and modified the system.

NYSERDA Update

Tom Attridge of NYSERDA provided brief updates on several NYSERDA activities.

- Work is 95% complete on placement of a new geomembrane cover on 2.5 acres of the State-licensed Disposal Area (SDA) to replace an older cover which had reached the end of its useful life.
- The seasonal deer hunt program opened for bow hunting and to date 11 deer had been killed. This is slightly above the average.
- The Final Status Survey Plan for Partial Site Release was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Some walkover surveying has been conducted near the Bulk Storage Warehouse.
- Flyovers for the LiDar mapping of the Buttermilk Creek watershed are complete and data is being assembled. The CTF will receive a presentation after the contractor's report is submitted.

Update NYSERDA and DOE Proposed Phase 1 Studies Process

Mr. Bembia informed the CTF that the infrastructure was being put in place for the Phase 1 Studies process. Attorneys for the agencies have almost completed negotiating a mechanism for equal cost sharing to remove potential bias and for a supplemental cooperative agreement on contracting and contract management. A facilitator has been selected and scope of work agreed up and once the cooperative agreement is in place a contract will be entered into with the facilitator and subject matter experts. The agencies will meet on November 18 to address outstanding issues. Mr. Bembia stated that he did not believe that the current pace would result in delays to the Phase 1 decision.

CTF members inquired as to whether budgetary constraints would affect NYSERDA. Mr. Bembia stated that meeting its West Valley obligations has not been an issue for NYSERDA in the past. He said that he did not anticipate a State funding problem because: most of NYSERDA's funding is not from the State general fund; the state is obligated to meet its contribution obligations by the WVDP Act and the federal funding acts as a significant leverage of the State contribution, and is an incentive to continue funding.

The CTF will be invited to participate in a public meeting, along with the general public and environmental groups, at the outset of the Phase 1 process to review the proposed study areas and provide input. This meeting will likely take place early in 2011.

CTF Discussion Concerning Membership

Bill Logue briefly reviewed the history of the formation of the CTF membership, increases in membership and the membership addition process and recent resignations. The members noted that Warren Schmidt continues to be interested in serving, as may Bob Engel. People with technical expertise may be available

through the University at Buffalo or the Waste Management Association. The option of approaching Bertrand Chaffee Hospital was raised, as was the possibility of forming more technical ad hoc work groups around particular issues. Once the Phase 1 process becomes more clearly defined the CTF will reassess the basis and need to fill vacant positions. In the meantime, the CTF agreed to reach out to federal legislators to assess their interest in being represented. Deb Aumick will make an informal inquiry to Congressman Reed's chief of staff. Lee Lambert, Joe Patti and Paul Kranz will draft a letter, with assistance from Bill Logue, soliciting interest from Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Representative Reed.

The CTF formed a small Phase 1 committee to be activated when appropriate. Initial members are Ray Vaughan, Lee Lambert, Kathy McGoldrick and Eric Wohlers/Chris Crawford.

Observer Comments

There were no observer comments.

Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Draft letter to US Senators and US Representative for 29 th Congressional District	Lambert, Patti, Kranz, Logue; 12/12/2010

Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 11/17/2010
WVDP Tank Farm: Tank and Vault Drying System	WVES; 11/17/2010
Permeable Treatment Wall Installation	WVES; 11/17/2010
CTF Letter to DOE concerning funding	CTF; 11/10/2010
NYSERDA Letter to DOE concerning funding	NYSERDA; 10/5/2010
DOE Reply to NYSERDA	DOE; 11/10/2010
Newspaper clippings distributed at the meeting	NYSERDA; 11/17/2010