

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: December 7, 2011
Subject: **Summary of the October 26, 2011 Meeting**

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM, January 25, 2012**
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, Rob Dallas, Chris Gerwitz, Mike Hutchinson, Deb John, Steve Kowalski, Paul Kranz, Lee Lambert (by telephone), Kathy McGoldrick, Joe Patti, Warren Schmidt, Ray Vaughan.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Craig Rieman, Sandra Sazlinski.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Tom Attridge, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon, Dave Munro (by telephone).

CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWW): Charles Biedermann, Ryan Dodd, Ray Geimer, John Rendall, Bill Schaab (American DND).

Observers: Gene Gleason, Rick Miller.

Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting materials.¹

Phase 1 Studies Update

Lee Gordon of NYSERDA reported that on September 30 DOE and NYSERDA jointly awarded contract to Environ Compliance Solutions (ECS) to identify and implement phase 1 studies. Under the contract, ECS will provide subject matter experts, the Independent Scientific Panel and professional facilitation services. ECS is a small business multidisciplinary environmental engineering firm with many of the necessary subject matter experts on staff (e.g., environmental compliance, engineering, geology, hydrogeology and others). Innovative Technical Solutions is a large business subcontractor with expertise in environmental and radiological support services. Armstrong and Associates will provide professional facilitation support.

At the November 16 Quarterly Public Meeting (QPM) each of the three firms will have representatives present to introduce themselves and discuss their experience. In the interim, the firms are reviewing relevant documents including the Environmental Impact Statement and comments, Record of Decision, NY Findings Statement, and Decommissioning Plan. A Phase 1 Studies website will be developed and a climate change workshop will be convened that will be open to the public. Erosion experts are being identified and work for subject matter experts relating to erosion "potential areas of study" will begin soon.

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

A CTF member suggested that as part of or in addition to the climate change workshop, a broader climate session should assess past climate (paleoclimate) and review the various assumptions made about past, present, and future climate. He noted that these climate assumptions serve as inputs to West Valley erosion models and thus need to be clearly expressed and scientifically sound. The Independent Scientific Panel should be in place for the first QPM in 2012 and will be approximately four times per year. ECS has contacted each proposed member and the contracting process has started to engage panel members.

October 12 Meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future

CTF members Chris Gerwitz, Tony Memmo, Paul Kranz and Ray Vaughan attended the meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission on October 12 in Boston, Massachusetts on the draft recommendations. Ray Vaughan reported that the meeting was useful and provided an overview of the Commission's likely direction. He made several recommendations concerning how the CTF could raise issues in a comment letter to the Commission. These were incorporated into the letter ([Link to letter on CTF website](#)) The suggestions centered on learning from the West Valley experience, ensuring a disposal pathway for WVDP HLW, and implications for the back-end of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Paul Kranz concurred and stated that he felt the Commission should focus first on safety and protection of human health and the environment and that any redefinition of HLW would not increase safety and would likely increase cost. During CTF presentations at the meeting the point was clearly made that the West Valley commingled HLW should not be prejudiced by a redefinition. He noted that significant amounts of HLW is stored in pools at closed and decommissioned power plants and the associated risks. In addition, the rail infrastructure to transport HLW may not exist as presumed or may not be in condition to handle the waste shipments. A basic premise of the Commission is the consent based approach to siting the storage facility but it is not clear as to whose consent (e.g., state, local) is needed and to what degree. Chris Gerwitz noted that the focus for siting an interim storage facility must be based upon scientific support for making the decision because of the stigma and because of frustration associated with the time and expense related to Yucca Mountain which will not be used. An interim facility should accept the 275 HLW canisters from WVDP.

In discussion, members questioned whether waste issues were adequately addressed in the cost of nuclear power and as part of the nation's energy plan. Others noted that funds for disposal are received from ratepayers through the generators but that the latter are frustrated because there is not a disposal facility and are suing the government.

Following this discussion, the CTF reviewed and edited the comment letter to the Commission. CTF members agreed on edits subject to email review and requested that the final letter be submitted by the October 31 deadline. Members noted that the letter addresses CTF concerns relating to WVDPP issues and the lessons from the West Valley experience but does not address the underlying seven core Commission recommendations specifically. Those interested in commenting on those issues were encouraged to do so independently of the CTF.

WVDP Project Update

Craig Rieman of DOE presented an update on activities at WVDP.

Safety. WVDP has worked 43 million work hours without a lost-time work accident. CHBWV has worked approximately 60,000 hours in September without a work accident or illness. These result in a Total Recordable injury and Days Away Restricted Time rates of zero.

Regulatory. In September CHBWV received an asbestos abatement license and USEPA performed a RCRA compliance inspection and found no violations. A Regulatory Roundtable meeting was held on October 5 to introduce CHBWV to regulators and discuss upcoming scope and planned activities. On October 18 elevated mercury levels were found at an outfall pipe resulting in a non-compliance event for the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit. NY State Department of Environmental Conservation was notified. CHBWV is investigating the source which is believed to be from rinse from bottles for ammonia samples containing trace mercury in the reagents. Procedures for collection and disposal of rinse bottles are being revised.

Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW). The first two quarters of monitoring results reflect pre-installation flow patterns and effective cation exchange to remove strontium-90 from groundwater. The pump and treat system continues to function and a SPDES closure plan for isolation and removal of the system in 2012 has been prepared. The closure of the system will occur if the PTW continues to operate effectively. The recovery wells will be left in place after removal of the system.

HLW Canister Relocation. Repairs to the Chemical Process Cell crane and camera system have been made. Swipe samples to survey contamination on the outside of the canisters were obtained. CHBWV is preparing a Request for Proposals, to be released by the end of 2011, for construction of the HLW storage system. Proposals may submit for either vertical or horizontal systems.

Operations. Main Process Plant Building (MPPB) water isolation is complete, except for the decontamination showers. In January remaining employees will be relocated out of the MPPB. The laundry facility will close by the end of November and winterization is 95% complete. The fire suppression system will remain operative.

Waste Management. Twelve disposal shipments totaling 15,334 ft³ of low-level waste (LLW) to the Nevada National Security Site will be made by the end of 2011. In November hazardous waste will be shipped to Heritage Environmental Disposal Services and a mixed waste shipment is planned for December. CHBWV is evaluating on-site storage capability for TRU waste.

Facility Disposition. MPPB contaminated pipe removal is ongoing in the upper extraction aisle, as is final cleanup of asbestos in the lower extraction aisle. Reviews of the test and storage building slab and foundation and test tower and maintenance triangle are complete and demolition is scheduled by year end. The 01-14 cell and ammonia aisle initial characterization was performed. They will be deactivated by March and demolition by the end of may 2012.

Funding. The WVDP funding request was \$60 million. Congressional budget approval is pending. Continuing resolutions through November 18 are providing funding at 2011 levels. A CTF member inquired about staff reductions of URS staff. CHBWV representatives stated that URS is a subcontractor and that the contract was novated through December and that the nature and scope of the contact had changed over time and that URS makes decisions regarding its staffing levels to meet work needs. Approximately \$2 million dollars in funding has been allocated to the Phase 1 studies (this includes \$1 million each from

DOE and NYSERDA).

Community Support. The United Way fund drive raised \$28,418 and the annual food drive has begun.

Future Meetings and Schedule

After discussion, the CTF agreed to a schedule of regular meetings with one meeting each quarter cancelled in favor of the QPM. Kathy McGoldrick will confer with the Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes about continuing this format.

Craig Rieman reported that at a recent meeting the Mayor of Carlsbad, New Mexico expressed interest in siting an interim commercial HLW storage site and a desire to meet with the CTF about accepting WVDP HLW. After discussion, the CTF asked Bill Logue to contact representatives from Carlsbad about their participation in a CTF meeting. He will report back to the CTF and schedule an Agenda Work Group call.

Paul Kranz reported that Cort Richardson of the Northeast Council of State Governments also asked to meet with the CTF concerning nuclear waste transportation issues. Bill Logue was asked to contact him about participation in a CTF meeting. He will report back and add this to the Agenda Work Group call.

The CTF requested an update on the Erdman Brook erosion mitigation project. In response to a comment by a CTF member, Tom Attridge reported that there appear to be both erosion and infill in the Brook bed over recent history that is related to beaver activity and recently discovered wood samples showing beavers marks have been dated at 200 and 400 years old. A CTF member noted that this was difficult to build into predictive models.

Other Business. A CTF member asked that the group be kept informed about site monitoring activities and any layoffs or reductions to part-time. John Rendall of CHBWV stated that site monitoring has not changed recently but that the nature of monitoring will change as the program mission changes. There is a plan to move to ambient air monitoring. A CTF member noted that a fishladder is being installed at the Scoby Hill Dam and inquired about sampling. Tom Attridge and Craig Rieman stated that this would be the responsibility of the US Army Corps of Engineers and NY Department of Environmental Conservation.

Observer Comments

There were no observer comments.

Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Contact Carlsbad, NM and NECOSG, schedule Agenda Work group call	Logue; 11/25/2011

Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 10/26/2011
Phase 1 studies Update	NYSERDA; 10/26/2011
DOE WVDP Project Update	DOE; 10/26/2011