

# West Valley Citizen Task Force

## Summary of Accomplishments – 2011

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### Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the accomplishments, activities, attendance and 2011 year-end survey results for the West Valley Citizen Task Force. This summary is intended to be an aid to discussion and decision-making for 2012. Listed first are the accomplishments for the year. Following that is an analysis of attendance for the year.

### Meetings, Presentations and Other Accomplishments

During the 2011 the CTF accomplished the following:

- Six CTF meetings were held. This is a lower number of meetings than usual; however, it is the result of the decision by the CTF to forgo four meetings in favor of the Quarterly Public Meetings being scheduled on the days the CTF meeting would have been held. A number of CTF members attended the Quarterly Public Meetings.
- The CTF held an Annual Organizational meeting in January. At the meeting the Objectives from the Mission and Ground Rules were amended.
- Conducted outreach to the Offices of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand.
- Topics of presentations and discussions at CTF meetings included:
  - Phase 1 Studies Process (multiple updates and presentations).
  - DOE Project updates.
  - DOE agency-wide cleanup vision for 2020.
  - Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Draft Evaluation for the WVDP Melter.
  - DEIS for Greater-Than-Class-C-Low-Level Waste and Greater-Than-Class-C Like Waste.
  - Information on FY 2013 Budget Requests and stakeholder dialogue about site priorities.
  - Budget updates.
  - Updates on the Phase 1 Decommissioning – Facility Disposition contractor selection process, accomplishments of West Valley Environmental Services during its contract term and introduction of the CH2M Hill B&W West Valley (CHBWV) team for the Phase 1 Decommissioning – Facility Disposition work. CHBWV presented on its contract scope, and transition and work plans.
  - Updates on site visits to the DOE Miamisburg and Fernald sites by representatives of the Town of Ashford, DOE and NYSERDA.
  - Presentation on Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future.
  - The CTF received a presentation from an ad hoc working group it formed on the NRC Rulemaking Process for Reprocessing.
- Several CTF members attended the Buffalo meeting of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board and several Board Members attended a CTF meeting and answered questions informally.

- Dr. Elizabeth Thorndike of the NYSERDA Board of Directors attended a CTF meeting.
- Several CTF members attended and presented on a panel at the Boston Regional Meeting of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future.
- Website maintenance and updates continued throughout the year

## Correspondence

### Sent

The following correspondence was sent by the CTF in 2011:

- April 7, 2011 Letters to Congressman Reed and Higgins and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand concerning funding for WVDP work.
- May 6, 2011 Comment Letter to DOE concerning Waste Incidental to Reprocessing Draft Evaluation for WVDP Melter.
- May 6, 2011 Comment Letter to DOE concerning Great-Than-Class-C Low-Level Radioactive Waste EIS.
- October 31, 2011 Comment letter to Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future on draft report.

All correspondence is available on the CTF website at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org) on the 2011 meeting materials page.

## Press Coverage

Numerous press articles and coverage directly and/or indirectly mentioned the West Valley Demonstration Project and the CTF. These articles are available with the materials for each meeting on the website at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org).

## Membership and Attendance

In January Joe Sempolinski, Communications Director for Congressman Tom Reed joined the CTF as a member. He later became an alternate and Lee James became the Congressman Reed’s representative on the CTF.

The chart below notes the attendance of members and alternates for 2011. The Mission and Ground Rules Section II.A.1. states that “Members who fail to attend half of the scheduled meetings in a calendar year may be removed from the CTF by consensus of the CTF Members present at the first scheduled meeting of each year.” With members attending both CTF meetings and Quarterly Public Meetings in 2011, the CTF will need to assess attendance requirements going forward and revisit the question of membership for open slots in light of the Phase 1 studies process.

Name	26- Jan	23-Mar	27- Apr	27- Jul	28- Sep	26- Oct	Present	Absent	Alt Present	Attendance*
<b>Members</b>										
Deb Aumick	n	y	n	y	n	y	3	3	0	50.00
Rob Dallas	y	n	n	y	y	y	4	2	0	66.67
Judy Einach	a	a	a	n	a	a	0	1	5	83.33
Chris Gerwitz	y	y	n	y	y	y	5	1	0	83.33
Mike Hutchinson	y	n	y	y	y	y	5	1	0	83.33
Lee James	a	y	n	y	n	n	2	3	1	50.00
Kathy Konst	a	a	a	a	a	a	0	0	6	100.00
Steve Kowalski	y	y	n	y	y	y	5	1	0	83.33
Lee Lambert	y	y	y	y	y	y	6	0	0	100.00
Anthony Memmo	y	y	n	y	n	a	3	2	1	66.67
Joe Patti	n	y	y	y	n	y	4	2	0	66.67
John Pfeffer	n	y	y	y	y	n	4	2	0	66.67
Warren Schmidt	y	y	y	y	y	y	6	0	0	100.00
Bill Snyder	n	n	y	n	n	n	1	5	0	16.67
Ray Vaughan	y	y	a	y	y	y	5	0	1	100.00
Eric Wohlers	n	n	a	y	a	n	1	3	2	50.00
							0	0	0	0.00
							0	0	0	0.00
<b>Alternates</b>										
Mike Brisky (Schmidt)	n	n	n	n	n	n	0	6	0	0.00
Chris Crawford (Wohlers)	n	n	y	n	y	n	2	4	0	33.33
Gladys Gifford (Vaughan)	n	n	y	y	y	n	3	3	0	50.00
Deb John (Memmo)	n	n	n	n	n	y	1	5	0	16.67
Deborah King (Snyder)	n	n	n	n	n	n	0	6	0	0.00
Paul Kranz (Konst)	y	y	y	y	y	y	6	0	0	100.00
Chris Pawenski (Konst)	n	n	n	n	n	n	0	6	0	0.00
Kathy McGoldrick	y	y	y	n	y	y	5	1	0	83.33
Bob Potter (Gerwitz)	n	n	n	n	n	n	0	6	0	0.00
Joe Sempolinski (James)	y	n	n	n	n	n	1	5	0	16.67

y = Present  
n = Absent



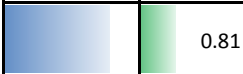













a = Represented by alternate
















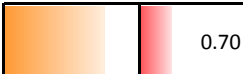


\* A member is considered present if either they or their alternate attended a meeting

## Year-end Survey

An online survey was distributed to members and alternates as of the end of the year. The survey was completed by 16 of the 16 members and alternates who received it. (The survey was sent to members or their alternate when the alternate is the regular/de facto attendee for the member.) The survey was replicated from the prior year's survey. A parallel survey was completed by 8 representatives of DOE, NYSERDA and CHBWV. Answers were based on a scale ranging from strongly agree to strongly disagree with an opportunity for open responses. The summary indicates the number of responses, the average score of those responses and a standard deviation representing the range of variation among answers. the survey results are attached.

**West Valley CTF 2011 Evaluation**  
**Analysis of Responses**  
**Multiple Choice**

Section / Question	Members				Agencies				
	Responses	Avg	Disagree ↔ Agree		Responses	Avg	Disagree ↔ Agree		
			1 ↔ 5	Std Dev			1 ↔ 5	Std Dev	
<b>CTF PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION</b>									
1	I am comfortable asking questions and speaking candidly about issues in the CTF process.	15	4.80		0.40	8	4.75		0.43
2	I am comfortable working with other CTF participants and discussing issues of concern with them.	15	4.47		0.81	8	4.75		0.43
	The CTF is appropriately addressing its objectives as specified in the Ground Rules by:								
3	Providing a forum for open discussion of related issues by community representatives.	16	4.38		0.99	8	4.38		0.48
4	Identifying and understanding the various interests of the community and other interested parties.	16	4.00		1.12	8	4.00		0.50
5	Increasing the flow of information between DOE, NYSERDA and the Task Force Members (and their constituencies).	16	4.25		0.56	8	4.25		0.66
6	Expanding areas of agreement, clarifying differences, and exploring ways to establish mutually agreed upon recommendations among the Task Force Members.	16	4.31		0.98	8	4.13		0.60
7	Enhancing public involvement in the decision-making process.	16	3.56		1.27	8	3.88		0.60
8	Coordinating with regulators.	16	4.06		0.83	8	3.38		0.99
9	Other comments on process and participation:	3	NA	See attached.	NA	0	NA	See attached.	NA

Section / Question	Members				Agencies				
	Responses	Avg	Disagree ↔ Agree		Responses	Avg	Disagree ↔ Agree		
			1 ↔ 5	Std Dev			1 ↔ 5	Std Dev	
<b>CTF FACILITATOR</b>									
10	The facilitator helps the CTF participants engage in the process.	16	4.88		0.33	8	5.00		0.00
11	The facilitator helps the CTF manage time well.	16	4.56		0.79	8	5.00		0.00
12	The facilitator has reached out to understand my interests, issues and concerns.	15	4.80		0.40	8	4.88		0.33
13	The facilitator is open to feedback and suggestions.	16	4.94		0.24	8	5.00		0.00
14	The facilitator understands the key issues and is prepared for meetings.	16	4.94		0.24	8	4.75		0.43
15	The facilitator upholds the ground rules and works in an impartial manner.	16	4.88		0.48	8	5.00		0.00
16	The facilitator helps the CTF deal with difficult issues in a constructive manner.	15	4.93		0.25	8	4.88		0.33
17	Other comments or suggestions for the CTF facilitator:	5	NA	See attached.	NA	0	NA	See attached.	NA
<b>CTF MEETINGS</b>									
18	The presentations provided by agency staff meet the information needs of the CTF participants.	16	3.94		0.83	7	4.29		0.70
19	The format of the CTF meetings provides for open discussion of the key issues.	16	4.63		0.48	8	4.00		1.00
20	Other comments or suggestions on CTF meetings:	1	NA	See attached.	NA	0	NA	See attached.	NA

Section / Question	Members				Agencies				
	Responses	Avg	Disagree ↔ Agree		Responses	Avg	Disagree ↔ Agree		
			1 ↔ 5	Std Dev			1 ↔ 5	Std Dev	
<b>CTF EFFECTIVENESS</b>									
21	The CTF is an effective voice for the surrounding community.	15	4.07		0.77	8	3.38		0.48
22	The CTF process provides a full and balanced exchange of views, information and advice: (Check all that apply)								
23	I am able to provide input on significant issues in a timely manner.	16	4.00		0.79	8	4.63		0.70
24	I have developed positive relationships with the other CTF participants.	16	4.50		0.50	8	4.63		0.70
<b>CTF OUTREACH</b>									
25	The CTF is effective at sharing information with members' constituents and the community.	16	3.94		0.83	8	3.00		0.71
26	I keep my constituents informed of the CTF developments and issues.	16	4.13		0.70	7	4.57		0.73
27	I participate in the WVDP Quarterly Public Meetings to keep current on the issues.	14	3.86		0.83	7	4.57		0.49
28	The local community understands the issues being addressed by the CTF.	16	3.13		0.86	8	2.50		0.50
29	Other comments or suggestions concerning CTF outreach:	3	NA	See attached.	NA	1	NA	See attached.	NA
<b>GENERAL</b>									
30	General comments and thoughts:	1	NA	See attached.	NA	0	NA	See attached.	NA

# West Valley CTF 2011 Evaluation

## Members

### Open Ended Questions

9 **Other comments on process and participation:**

Public outreach needs improvement

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Facilitator is always promoting the objective listed above. However, many CTF members still remain rather parochial when it comes to listening to members of the public outside of the very local area. There is often a level of temerity among some CTF members when it comes to confronting regulatory agencies.

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I don't know that the CTF has been able to accomplish the goals mentioned in questions numbered 3, 4, 5 and 7. Somehow we need to reach out more effectively, make sure the people are informed and get feedback from the public.

17 **Other comments or suggestions for the CTF facilitator:**

This facilitator is a tremendous asset to the CTF.

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I would prefer that we keep the current facilitator

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Bill Logue has done a commendable job as facilitator for the CTF meetings.

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He does the best he (or anyone else probably) can, and so is generally effective at leading discussion and clarifying meaning among participants.

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Sometimes there is just too much on the agenda to cover the topic properly.

20 **Other comments or suggestions on CTF meetings:**

We appear to get updates accurately and in a timely manner, but every so often are blindsided by something we were either not told, or told in a way that downplayed its importance or relevance. Q # 18 implies the problem: we don't know what we don't know!

29 **Other comments or suggestions concerning CTF outreach:**

Outreach and education need to continue to be an emphasis, this is a complex site with complex issues, the public doesn't always understand these issues making outreach and education important.

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It seems that outreach continues to be our weakest point. Perhaps publicizing our website, or some other form of access to accurate information would lure the public to get involved and comment.

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The quarterly meetings need to be facilitated better so presentor can present their information.

30 **General comments and thoughts:**

The site is so incredibly complicated that the average person simplifies it... it's either cleaned up or not. It is a real challenge to keep constituents informed without boring them with what seem like endless details.

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## West Valley CTF 2011 Evaluation A g e n c i e s

### Open Ended Questions

9 **Other comments on process and participation:**

17 **Other comments or suggestions for the CTF facilitator:**

20 **Other comments or suggestions on CTF meetings:**

29 **Other comments or suggestions concerning CTF outreach:**

I am unaware of the CTF's outreach efforts to the surrounding communities.

30 **General comments and thoughts:**