

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: May 17, 2012
Subject: **Summary of the April 25, 2012 Meeting**

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM, June 27, 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.

NOTE: The CTF will forgo its May meeting. DOE and NYSERDA will host the Quarterly Public Meeting on May 23, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the Ashford Office Complex. A Phase 1 Studies Update will be part of that meeting.

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Chris Crawford, Rob Dallas, Chris Gerwitz, Steve Kowalski, Paul Kranz, Lee Lambert, Kathy McGoldrick, Anthony Memmo*, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Warren Schmidt, Bill Snyder, Ray Vaughan.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Jennifer Dundas, Craig Rieman, Sandra Szalinski, Ben Underwood.

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

CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWV): Charles Biedermann, Sharon Cook, Dan Coyne, Tom Dogal, John Rendall, Bill Schaab (AD&D) BP Shagula, Alan Upshaw.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Patrick Concannon.

Observers: Diane D'Arrigo*, Gene Gleason, Joanne Hameister*, Barbara Warren*.

Introductions and Announcements

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

Environmental Monitoring Program

John Rendall, Regulatory Strategy manager for CHBWV, presented on the Environmental Monitoring Program. Mr. Rendall started by noting that environmental surveillance collects approximately 8,000 samples annually from more than 200 locations. This is reported each fall in the Annual Site Environmental Report (ASER) which is available on the WVDP website. Of particular interest are Chapter 2 and Appendices A and B. Environmental monitoring includes: air (at the stacks and ambient), groundwater and surface waters on-site and off-site, sediment and soils on and off-site, food/biota (deer, fish, milk) and the WVDP drinking water system and includes radiological and non-radiological components. The analytical results from the samples are used to calculate the Total Effective Dose Equivalent (EDE) from water and

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

* Participated by telephone.

air pathways In 2010 the dose to the Maximum Exposed Off-site Individual (MEOSI) was 0.066 mrem/yr, far less than the DOE standard of 100 mrem/yr. Radiation monitoring is primarily for alpha and beta particles. These are available in the ASER.

Effluent monitoring includes liquid effluents (e.g., site sewage treatment plant, low-level waste (LLW) treatment facility, and batch discharges), stormwater discharges from outfalls and drainage points and other locations, and plant ventilation stacks. Liquid effluents are reported monthly to NYSDEC. On one occasion last fall, the mercury limit under the new State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit was exceeded. The system was temporarily shut down and cleaned and a study is underway to look at processes and tracking. Some effluents from the site are taken to the Buffalo sewage treatment plant where it goes into the waste stream. Mr. Rendall said he believed that through the clarification process most mercury was settled out.

The Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW), installed in 2010 to remove Strontium-90 from groundwater, from early monitoring data appears to be working effectively. Sixty-six wells are monitored quarterly and an additional 21 wells annually. The PTW appears to be working well with respect to water flowing through the wall. CTF members requested a future presentation with contour maps of strontium-90 concentrations and water flows, both up and down gradient of the wall, and performance information relative to design tests. The initial year of monitoring will provide baseline information.

Due to the removal of stacks at the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) and associated demolition activities in the future, a new ambient air monitoring program is being implemented. Sixteen new locations near the site perimeter in all directions and a background location will monitor diffuse source emissions and augment existing approaches. The monitors filter air and filters are tested every two weeks for alpha and beta particles and quarterly for specific WVDP isotopes. A high volume air monitor will be placed at the northwest corner of the site and air monitors and dosimeters will be used at work areas. The goal is to have the system operational by July. Data collection from the stacks will continue for another year. Data will be available in the ASER. Environmental monitoring and regulatory compliance activities are performed by four CHBWV staff and a number of subcontractor staff. Mr. Rendall committed to providing information about the particle size captured by the air filters. (Note: Following the CTF meeting Mr. Rendall identified that Pall Glass Fiber Filters, Type A/E are used in the ambient air monitoring systems with a capture efficiency of 98.98% for particles greater than or equal to 0.3 μm diameter).

A CTF members suggested that placement of ambient air monitors in the towns might provide residents peace of mind. Mr. Rendall met with the CTF member at the conclusion of the meeting and discussed how the ambient air monitoring network will provide 360° coverage between the site and surrounding communities.

Project Look-Ahead

Dan Coyne, CHBWV Acting President and Project Manager, gave a presentation of the near-term work planned at WVDP. He started by noting that two minor injuries, a slip and fall in an office and an injury with a weed-whacker meant that the project was at the limit of its goal for possible injures for the year. He also noted that CHBWV has worked 345,907 hours without a lost time injury and WVDP more than 4.5 million hours since the last lost-time injury.

Workers continue to prepare the MPPB and 01-14 Building for demolition by removing contaminated materials and systems. The former women's room is being converted to showers for asbestos work. Upcoming work areas include: Process Chemical Room, Hot Acid Cell and Lower Extraction Aisle in the MPPB and in the 01-14 Building the Waste Dispensing Cell and work on the off-gas filter housing and vitrification off-gas line and cell systems.

For the balance of site facilities a project specific labor agreement is being implemented, demolition equipment will arrive on-site in May and demolition of the Waste Tank Farm Test Tower, Test & Storage Building slab, product storage building area and hazardous waste lockers will occur by June.

In April Tank 8-D4 sampling and shipping of samples to labs in Texas occurred. In May canal dredging and engineering for dam repairs will occur as will installation of monitoring cameras for the dam. Preparations for demolition will commence for the Vehicle Repair Shop, laundry and E-Lab in June. A computerized maintenance management system will be implemented in June and the geotechnical analysis of Lagoon 3 will start in June. Several members expressed concern about the closing of the E-lab. Mr. Rendall noted that by having samples tested off-site some efficiencies will be gained, although some time will be added. He also stated that the state certification for the E-lab was limited so some samples would have to be shipped in any event and that gross alpha and beta testing capabilities would be maintained on-site.

LLW waste shipments continue ahead of schedule with 40,000 ft³ shipped through the end of March. It appears that the Vitrification Offgas Submerged Bed Scrubber will be classified as LLW, the target completion date for that is April 30. The Melter DOT exemption for shipment should be submitted by the end of May and discussions regarding the path forward for TRU waste will be conducted in partnership with the DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant. The melter will be grouted for stabilization for shipping and to prevent potential voids in disposal/burial.

In closing, Mr. Coyne noted that a number of areas which offered opportunity for potential acceleration of work were being explored. These include: lower waste volumes and contamination levels than planned, use of multiple shifts for work, acceleration of some demolition work, looking at alternate locations for the storage of TRU wastes. Cost saving are also being explored including: renegotiation of both payroll services and trucking contracts, and safeguards and security efficiencies through coordination with the sheriff's department, adjusting inventory management, reducing the vehicle pool, and changes in contracts for radiological and environmental services. The sheriff's department is reimbursed for staffing and historically a new vehicle is purchased every two years.

CTF Letter on Funding

The CTF reviewed and discussed a letter to the Congressional delegation drafted by Lee Lambert which expressed concern about proposed funding levels for WVDP. A number of suggestions were made and edits noting the recurring nature of the request, the need for stable funding for both accomplishing work and maintaining the local economy, the implications for additional cost and delay associated with lower funding than planned and requesting multi-year funding. The CTF agreed to review edits by email and have the letter sent the following week.

As part of the discussion the CTF decided not to comment on the advisability of asking that the current year supplemental funding be carried over to FY 2013 to reduce the impact on the labor force. This decision was

made because members believed that DOE is in the best position to determine the short-term use of funds in light of budgetary and political decisions.

A member stated that it would be helpful to have a graphic which displayed the level of funding and the corresponding amounts of reduced cubic feet of waste on-site and curies.

Radionuclide Inventory Over Time

Craig Rieman of DOE showed a graphic of radionuclide inventory levels and types over the next 1,000 years if the source term were left in place. Several corrections were noted and the fact that the Cesium prong is not included should be clarified. A member asked for graphics displaying the implications if the HLW tanks were removed (but not the vaults) and most serious sources of radiation were removed from the disposal areas.

Asset Revitalization Initiative

Craig Rieman provided handouts of two DOE presentations on the Asset Revitalization Initiative (ARI) which is an agency wide effort to advance beneficial reuse of land, facilities, infrastructure, equipment, technologies, natural resources, and a highly-skilled workforce through collaboration of the public and private sector. He reviewed the example and stressed that DOE considers ARI reuse in response to local community organizations. Paul Bembia of NYSERDA stated that WVDP as a non-defense site is technically not part of the program but that NYSERDA had requested it be treated as such. He reminded the CTF of the NYSERDA letter to DOE he had provided them. Chris Gerwitz and Charlie Davis are working on a possible proposal from the Town of Ashford.

Paul Bembia explained that NYSERDA was re-evaluating the possibility of looking at partial site release from the NRC license. Because the process is uncertain and expensive, the state is considering options for use while under license and with ownership by the state. This may make it more attractive for redevelopment because of the tax exempt status of the property under state ownership. He also said that reusing the property for energy projects (solar and wind for example) appear to be allowable within the NYSERDA mission. One member expressed concern that continued tax exemption wouldn't help the town. Another member suggested that at a future meeting to discuss the economic redevelopment activities that have been implemented at NYSERDA's MALTA facility.

Observer Comments

During the break observers on the phone raised questions with CHBWV representatives about the nature of demolition activities, dam and NRC-licensed disposal area north slope repairs.

Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Provide CTF with air monitoring filter particle capture size	CHBWV; 5/15/2012
Revise letter per discussion	Logue 3/27/2012

Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 4/25/2012
CHBWV Environmental Monitoring Presentation	CHBWV; 4/25/2012
CHBWV Look-Ahead Presentation	CHBWV; 4/25/2012
DOE Inventory Over Time Graphic and ARI handouts	DOE; Various
News articles distributed at January 25, 2012 meeting	NYSERDA; 1/25/2012