

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

Next Meeting

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be:

Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM, September 26, 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*, Chris Gerwitz, Mike Hutchinson, Lee James, Paul Kranz, Lee Lambert, Anthony Memmo*, Warren Schmidt, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Mark Bellis, Ryan Danna, Tim Leuthauser, Ben Underwood*.
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Paul Bembia, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon.

CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, Inc. (CHBWV): Lynette Bennett, Dan Coyne, Dan Meess, John Rendall.

Introductions and Announcements

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting materials.¹ He demonstrated the new CTF webpage which lists correspondence going back to 1998 with a brief synopsis of each item and links to the correspondence.

Lee Gordon of NYSERDA informed the CTF that the Phase 1 Studies Erosion Work Group (EWG) submitted consensus recommendations for studies. (Available at www.westvalleyphaseonestudies.org.) At the August 22 Quarterly Public Meeting, the EWG will present their recommendations and be available for Q&A. The agencies will gather input through September 7 at which point the input and recommendations will be provided to the Independent Scientific Panel for review. The agencies will then determine how to proceed. Mr. Gordon reminded the CTF of the Climate Change Workshop on August 2 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration is available at www.westvalleyphaseonestudies.org. Four climate experts will make presentations about climate change and its relationship to the Phase 1 studies and the West Valley site. Following the workshop they will prepare guidance for addressing the issue of climate change in the Phase 1 Studies. Local EWG members may attend the workshop. Enviro Compliance Solutions will summarize and convey key concepts and the guidance to the EWG. A CTF member remarked on the speed at reaching consensus and the quality of the recommendations.

Bryan Bower introduced interns Ryan Donna and Tim Leuthauser who are University at Buffalo engineering students.

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

* Participated by telephone.

Project Update

Bryan Bower of DOE presented a project update. He opened by noting that in the future either he or Dan Coyne, CHBWW General Manager, could present updates. After brief discussion, it was decided that they will alternate and the arrangement will be revisited after several meetings.

Safety. There was one first aid incident but no recordable incidents in June. Safety performance is measured on a 12 month rolling calendar so the Total Recordable Case Rate will drop from 1.01 after several months if there are no more incidents.

Mr. Bower then gave updates on each of the contract milestones.

Milestone 1. The approval process for the High-Level Waste (HLW) system continues with DOE approval of the selected vendor. Within several days to a week notifications to other bidders and the contract award with the vendor should be complete. At that point the identity of the vendor and system will be disclosed.

Milestone 2. Waste shipping. Plans called for shipping 40,000 ft³ of low-level legacy waste (LLW) in the fiscal year. This was accomplished in six months. Shipments have resumed and 1,339 ft³ of LLW were shipped in June to the Nevada National Security Site. Waste Packaging. EPA was notified of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) plasma-arc cutting process. The dissolver is being size reduced, surveyed and packaged. Packaging and loading of out waste boxes of LLW from the Vitrification Facility continues. The Vitrification Facility is being considered for use during the canister relocation.

Milestone 3. Main Plant Process Building. (MPPB) Asbestos has been removed from the Off-Gas Aisle and Glycol drained from the Chilled Water Units/System. The 01-14 Building is being readied for demolition in the fall. Balance of Site Facilities. The Maintenance Storage Shed and Warehouse pad demolition are complete and the Vit Test Facility Waste Area pad demolition has started. Demolition is performed with a large excavator with several different attachments. There is no beneficial reuse of demolition debris material. Disposal will be either at the Chafee Landfill or at a site in Ohio at a lower cost.

Milestone 4. The Laundry Facility and Environmental Lab are in the process of going cold, dark and dry to make them demolition ready. This will reduce the need for water treatment. Planning for the utility room shutdown was initiated. Current plans are to use localized heating in the MPPB and place the steam system in layup this fall to save funds related to running the boilers.

Tank 8D-4 liquids/solids characterization sampling is complete, the samples were shipped to labs and the analysis and report are in progress. Based on the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP), the sludge is a mixed waste with mercury and radioactive waste. There are 10,000 -12,000 curies in the tank solids.

Canal dredging planning continues with a subcontract awarded and the US Army Corps permit received.

Look Ahead. Facility Disposition. MPPB lower extraction aisle will be clean of hazardous systems by the end of August. 01-14 Building preparations for demolition continues. By August 30 demolition of the following will be complete: Waste Tank Farm Test Tower, Vitrification Test Facility Waste Storage Area, Maintenance Storage Area, Product Storage Area, Old Warehouse, and Hazardous Waste Lockers. By September 1 the hazardous components in the aisles will be removed. Waste Operations. Complete processing and packaging in RHWF and Vit Facility. Prepare for handling waste from the 01-14 demolition. Site Operations. Complete preparation for cold, dark and dry and turnover to decontamination and decommissioning of the Laundry, Environmental Lab, Utility Room and complete wireless monitoring

installation. Canal dredging and dam repairs will start, complete packaging/removal of waste in the Chemical process Cell/Equipment Contamination Room, and award the HLW procurement and complete 50% design.

Tank and Vault Drying System Operation and Results

Dan Meess of CHBWW presented on the Tank and Vault Drying System (TVDS) operation and results. He started with a brief background of its use and operation. In 2003 over 90% of residual liquids were removed from the underground tanks. In 2010, prior to starting the TVDS, 25,700 gallons remained in the tanks. Two are large carbon steel tanks and two are smaller stainless steel tanks. They are enclosed in underground vaults and have an active Permanent Ventilation System (PVS). The tanks are at the end of their design life and the vaults are subject to infiltration from groundwater which sets up a corrosive situation and requires pumping and treating the vaults and managing the water table in the area. The water infiltration was verified with a non-toxic dye test. The water table is maintained at a level 6" from the bottom of the vault. Because final decisions may not be made until 2020, the decision was made to prevent possible leaks and corrosion by evaporating the liquids in the tanks and vaults with a drying system. This decision also preserves all potential closure options. A CTF member suggested that conditions could change as a result of the work and this could impact closure/exhumation decisions and therefore careful data records should be kept.

The TVDS works by injecting warm dry air into the tanks or vault where it picks up humidity and moisture is filtered out when exhausting that air. Vault air is recirculated and tank air is HEPA filtered and vented through a stack. The filters and stack are monitored. Mr. Meess showed several graphics demonstrating the airflows in the tanks and vaults.

Mr. Meess then presented results for the tanks from 18 months of operation. Between January 2011 and March 2011 Tank 8D-2 decreased from 4,270 gallons to 1,890 gallons (limit of level indicator) and is estimated to have been dry since June 2011. Between January 2011 and August 2011 Tank 8D-1 decreased from 14,000 gallons to 3,810 gallons (limit of level indicator) and is estimated to have been dry since November 2011. The airflow ran in Tank 8D-3 and 8D-4 from January 4, 2011 to February 8, 2012 when it was suspended for characterization sampling and was resumed in June 12, 2012 for 8D-3 and July 11, 2012 for 8D-4. Tank 8D-3 liquids were reduced from 1,560 to 922 gallons as of July 1, 2012. Tank 8D-4 liquids were reduced from 5,870 to 5,400 gallons as of July 1, 2012. Mr. Meess showed graphics of the relative humidity. When the relative humidity is around 20% one can be assured that the liquids have been removed. Overall the 25,700 gallons in all four tanks has been reduced with a measured results of 13,700 (53%) and a projected reduction of 19,400 (75%). The difference in measured v. estimated is because the tank bottoms are tilted and liquids are below the level indicators.

Mr. Meess then presented results for the pans and vaults. The levels for the Tank 8D-1 pan decreased from 4.5 to < 0.2 inches and vault decreased from 2.6 to < 0.5 inches. The tank 8D-2 pan decreased from 8.6 to 0 inches and vault decreased from 9.4 to < 1.3 inches. The 8D-3/8D-4 vault level decreased from 21 inches to dry with more than 1,140 gallon evaporated and relative vault humidity reduced from greater than 80% to approximately 20%. The 8D-3/8D-4 tank relative humidity decreased from more than 90% to about 40%. Relative humidity reduction in Tank 8D-1 decreased from ~100% to ~20% and in the vault decreased from ~90% to ~30% RH. In Tank 8D-2 tank relative humidity decreased from ~100% to 30-70% and in the vault decreased from >90% to ~30%. Excessive tank outside air infiltration is preventing a lower tank

relative humidity in 8D-2 and efforts to reduce infiltration continue. The average temperature varies seasonally from 50° – 70° Fahrenheit.

The system will continue to be operated and monitored. Airflows will be adjusted. Once the tanks are dry the HEPA filters will capture particulates in the circulated air. In response to a question, Mr. Meess and Mr. Bower noted that several methods had been used at other sites such as Savannah River and Hanford to remove solids in the bottom of tanks and contamination on the side walls using remote technology. These could be the subject of a future presentation to the CTF.

Draft WIR Evaluation

DOE recently released the Draft Waste Incidental to Reprocessing (WIR) Evaluation for the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank and Melter Feed Hold Tank for a 45-day public comment opportunity. Several members reminded the CTF of the group’s longstanding concern about what they felt could be the reclassification of waste as WIR because it could open the door to determining that some facilities on-site are WIR and could be left in place and that, although they had raised the issue a number of times they felt that the CTF should continue to be on record on the issue. Mr. Bower and Mr. Underwood reiterated the points made at the June 27 meeting about the WIR decision process and regulatory regimes (see the March and June 2012 CTF Meeting Summaries). After discussion Ray Vaughan and Lee Lambert agreed to draft a comment letter for CTF consideration. . Paul Bembia of NYSERDA stated that NYSERDA does not object to the WIR decisions for offsite disposal of these components but believes that they do not set precedent for WIR decisions regarding in-place closure of the tanks or other site facilities. He also pointed out that the NRC 2002 Final West Valley Policy Statement set two criteria for WIR (removing waste to the degree technically and economically practicable, and meeting the 10 CFR 61 performance criteria) while the Ronald Reagan National Defense Act of 2005 sets three criteria (removing waste to the degree technically and economically practicable, meeting the 10 CFR Part 61 performance criteria, and meeting the 10 CFR Part 61 LLW waste concentration criteria).

Observer Comments

There were no observer comments.

Action Items

Action	Who; Date
Provide prior letter on WIR decisions	Logue; 7/26/2012
Draft WIR Comment Letter	Lambert/Vaughan; 8/5/2012

Documents Distributed

Document Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 7/25/2012
Project Update Presentation	DOE; 7/25/2012
Tank & Vault Drying System Update	CHBWV; 7/25/2012
July 21, 2012 CTF letters to Congressmen and Senators re funding amendments	CTF; 7/21/2012
News clippings distributed at the July 25, 2012 Meeting	NYSERDA; 7/25/2012