

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: November 13, 2014  
Subject: **Summary of the September 24, 2014 Meeting**

## **Next Meeting**

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be: To Be Scheduled

Time & Date: **6:30 – 8:00 PM**  
Location: Ashford Office Complex  
9030 Route 219  
West Valley, NY

## **CTF Members and Alternates Attending**

Chris Crawford\*, Clyde Drake, Mike Hutchinson, Paul Kranz\*, Eric Lawton, Kathy McGoldrick, Joe Patti, Mary Reid, Ray Vaughan. Alternates present: John Walgus.

## **Agency Participants and Observers**

*Department of Energy (DOE):* Bryan Bower, Sandra Szalinski.

*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA):* Paul Bembia, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon.

*CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV):* Dan Coyne, Cindy Dayton, John Rendall.

*New York Department of Environmental Conservation:* Patrick Concannon, Ken Martin.

*Observers:* Diane D'Arrigo\*, Paul Siepierski, Barbara Warren\*.

## **INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials<sup>1</sup>.

## **CHBWV PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Dan Coyne of CHBWV presented an update of current work activities.

**Safety:** As of August 11, 2014, one million safe work hours (48,000/month over the last 20 months) have been achieved without a lost time accident. The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is among the safest in the DOE complex and has received the VPP Star of Excellence for safety.

**Milestone 1: High-Level Waste (HLW) Relocation Project.** Eight additional Vertical Storage Casks (VSCs) for the HLW canisters are being fabricated in September to bring the total to 16. Eight overpacks have been completed and an additional eight are being manufactured. Mr. Coyne reviewed the equipment status for moving the HLW canisters from the Chemical Process Cell (CPC) in the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) to the storage pad. The Tugger and Vertical Cask Transporter are on site and being tested; the Automatic Welding System was delivered September 24; the TL220 to move VSCs through the Load In/Load Out Facility is complete and will be delivered in September; and the low profile rail cart is 75% complete and will be delivered in December. To support the weight of the equipment and loaded VSCs, steel plates are being placed in the Load In/Load Out Facility, voids below the floor of the Equipment Decontamination Room (EDR) are being filled and upgrades performed to 1,400' of the haul road from the MPPB to the storage pad. Mr. Coyne noted that NAC, the VSC contractor, tested the casks for weather degradation and that the pad would have active and passive security controls for intrusion detection. Mr. Bower stated that a security analysis was approved by DOE and NRC. For security reasons the analysis is not disclosed. The Certificate of Compliance for transportation is anticipated from NRC in November or December.

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<sup>1</sup> Each is listed at the end of this summary and may be found at [www.westvalleyctf.org](http://www.westvalleyctf.org) under 2014 Meeting Materials.

\*Participated by telephone.

**Milestone 2: Waste Operations.** Legacy Waste shipments are limited due to work and funding being directed to HLW relocation activities. As reported at the previous meeting: Low-Level Waste (LLW) shipping is 53% complete, Mixed-LLW 79% complete; and industrial and hazardous waste shipment is complete. A number of degraded SR Box waste containers have been loaded into IP-2 containers. CHBWV continues to work with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Savannah River National Lab to prepare the application to ship the Vitrification Melter, Concentrator Feed Make-up Tank and Melter Feed Hold Tank for shipment. Work also continues with the Department of Transportation on shipment planning.

**Milestone 3: Facility Disposition.** MPPB deactivation continues with: Liquid Waste Cell Tanks 13D-7 and 13D-8 decontamination complete and core bore for hatches; asbestos removal in the MPPB shower and utility area; Off-Gas Trench pipe removal from east/west section; Analytical Aisle Sample Storage Cell decontamination; Extraction Cell-1 mockup for Wach's saw and decontamination equipment, and Portable Ventilation Unit preparations in the Off-Gas Cell. The latter two work areas were shut down on CHBWV's arrival and have been re-started. The Vitrification Facility cell wash down was successful and the facility is being prepared for demolition.

**Milestone 4: Newly Generated Waste.** CHBWV contract-to-date shipping through August includes 150,546 ft<sup>3</sup> of Industrial Waste, Hazardous/Universal Waste 648 ft<sup>3</sup>, LLW 114,933 ft<sup>3</sup>, Mixed LLW 991 ft<sup>3</sup>, and 195 Balance of Site Facilities (BOSF) shipments. This aspect of the work will slow down because much of the BOSF work is complete; therefore, the demolition crew has been demobilized until work resumes with the Chemical process Cell Waste Storage Area.

The Lake 1 spillway repairs and Lake 2 dam repairs are complete and reseeding complete. The repairs were performed to the original 100-year flood specifications with a revised 24-hour storm event with 5.2 inches of rainfall. Reinforcing ribs in a culvert installed in 1990 were also inspected. The potable water wells are installed and approvals received from Cattaraugus County after sampling. (A more detailed presentation on this was requested for a subsequent meeting.)

An Aerial Radiation Survey of the Center and surrounding areas, down Cattaraugus Creek to Lake Erie is being performed. A helicopter flying at about 150 feet at 80 MPH will complete the survey by early October, weather permitting. Results will be public in early 2015.

**Other.** CTF members asked Bill Logue to follow-up with Senate staff concerning funding for the WVDP and perhaps to set up a meeting. Continuing budget resolutions at the pro rated \$60.4 million level are expected through at least early December.

## **PHASE 1 STUDIES UPDATE**

Lee Gordon of NYSEEDA gave an update on the Phase 1 Studies. Several members of the **Erosion Working Group** (EWG) have been on site doing reconnaissance along the Buttermilk Creek watershed looking at landforms to identify sites for Study 1 (Terrain Analysis, Age Dating, and Paleoclimate) that will help understanding of the evolution of the watershed over the last 10,000 years. Samples were taken for carbon-14 dating of sediments. The group will write a report and prioritize areas for study during the 2015 season. For Study 2 (Recent Erosion and Deposition Processes) the EWG plans reconnaissance later this year to identify sites for instrumentation and measurement of erosion processes. For Study 3, work is underway to identify data quality objectives and modeling approaches, including selection of potential model components.

The **Exhumation Working Group** is developing plans for the recommended studies. They will be assisted by Doug Splitstone, a statistician, and Dr. Jay Beech from the Engineered Barriers Working Group.

A CTF member suggested the agencies investigate a system similar to the Permeable Treatment Wall trencher with a movable shield for exhumation. Mr. Gordon stated that the initial focus will be to assess existing precedent projects before potentially examining novel methods such as the trencher or the previously suggested tunnel boring.

## **OTHER UPDATES**

**Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA).** Mr. Gordon informed the CTF that DOE and NYSERDA are working on a contract mechanism similar to that for the Phase 1 Studies where the agencies jointly contract with a vendor for the work so as to avoid potential bias toward either agency. Mr. Bembia added that some of the DOE procurement requirements have slowed the PPA contracting process, and the agencies are working to resolve the issues. Several questions were raised about the underlying assumptions of the PPA being available to the public, including details and software programs used. These technical details are expected to be developed during the contractor's work. Mr. Bembia noted that after a contractor is selected and work commences there would be regular updates. Mr. Bembia also said that NYSERDA and DOE will discuss the CTF's questions regarding the information that will be made available to the public during the preparation of the PPA, and will provide the CTF with more information during an upcoming meeting. An award is expected in 2015 and work will be performed in the 2015-2017 timeframe.

**State-Licensed Disposal Area Trench-14 Leachate.** Mr. Gordon reported that water infiltration into SDA Trench 14 is slow and stable at about 1.2-1.5 inches per year or about 6 gallons per day. The leachate elevation is at 1,365 feet and ground level at 1,380 - 1,385 feet. A report from an independent hydrogeologist is complete and under review by DOE and NYSERDA. The brief conclusion: there have been some changes in the groundwater elevations in the area between the SDA and the NRC-Licensed Disposal Area (NDA). NYSERDA will be performing video inspection of the drain lines on the SDA and has asked DOE to perform similar work for the NDA and suggested that both agencies monitor groundwater elevations on a monthly basis. A suggestion was made that a daily data logger be used. Mr. Gordon continued, stating that an inspection of the geomembrane cover found a small tear in a drainage swale seam that has been repaired and reconfigured to move the seam away from a low spot.

The suggestion was made that the trenches be dried in a similar fashion to the Tank Farm. Mr. Bembia stated that the issue of what to do with the trenches and the leachate and the waste is a Phase 2 decision. In terms of the current inflow of water, further investigation is needed. For 15 years leachate levels were decreasing and it is important to determine the source of new water. Pumping and treating water without first cutting off the inflow source just allows clean water to get contaminated and creates waste.

## **CTF DISCUSSION**

CTF members expressed frustration with the pace of work. Mr. Bembia stated the agencies were committed to a Phase 2 decision by 2020. Requested future meeting topics included: details on the Probabilistic Performance Assessment, including a presentation from the contractor on the values, variables and assumptions; potable water wells. The group will decide about an October meeting in the coming weeks. Eric Lawton noted that the next Community Future is scheduled for October 7. He invited all to participate.

## **OBSERVER COMMENTS**

There were no observer additional observer comments.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who; Date</b>
Follow-up with Senate staff about funding and a possible meeting	Logue; TBD

## **DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED**

<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Generated by; Date</b>
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 9/24/2014
WVDP Project Update	CHBWV; 9/24/2014
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 9/24/2014