

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator  
Date: March 11, 2015  
Subject: **Summary of the January 28, 2015 Meeting**

## **Next Meeting**

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be: March 25, 2015

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

## **CTF Members and Alternates Attending**

Rob Dallas, Clyde Drake, Judy Einach, Chris Gerwitz, Mike Hutchinson, Paul Kranz\*, Eric Lawton, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers. Alternates present: John Walgus.

## **Agency Participants and Observers**

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

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

*CH2M Hill B&W West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV):* Lynette Bennett, Ray Geimer, Cindy Lee, John Rendall.

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

*Observers:* Diane D'Arrigo\*, Richard K. Rotunda; Scout Troup 66 and Leaders: Colleen Bower, Kevin Bower, Kolby Aldrich, Patrick Dineen, Logan Knab, Mark Kurtis, Zach Kurtis, Adam Silvernail, Cyndi Snyder, Jack Snyder, David Winship, Jock Winship.

## **INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials<sup>1</sup>. Paul Bembia introduced Brad Frank who is the new Program Manager responsible for the WVDP aspects for NYSERDA

## **CHBWV PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Ray Geimer of CHBWV presented an update of work activities accomplished during the 2014 calendar year. He introduced Dr. Christine Lee as the new Manager for Environmental, Safety, Health & Quality for CHBWV.

**Safety:** More than 1.16 one million safe work hours have been achieved without a lost time accident (October 2013 – to date) or recordable injury. There have been no personnel or clothing contaminations or intakes/unplanned radiological exposures. The total recordable case rate of 0.0 is the lowest in the DOE complex.

**Milestone 1: High-Level Waste (HLW) Relocation Project.** In 2014 the High-Level Waste (HLW) Storage Pad was constructed. Equipment to package and move the 278 HLW canisters was procured and delivered. Sixteen Vertical Storage Casks (VSCs) for the HLW canisters and eight overpacks were fabricated. A decontamination process for the canister was developed. Mr. Geimer noted photos of the various pieces of equipment, their functions and dimensions. In response to a question he noted that the casks would be double wrapped in plastic before being loaded and unwrapped in stages to ensure there is no exterior contamination prior to their move to the storage pad.

**Milestone 2: Legacy Waste Operations.** Shipment offsite for disposal reduced the Legacy Waste Inventory of Low-Level Waste (LLW) by 56%, Mixed-LLW by 79% and completed shipment of industrial and hazardous waste. The first 80 drums of TRU waste were removed from the Chemical Process Cell, 56 drums of mineral oil were shipped for

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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.

disposal, processed 119 legacy waste contact-handled containers, processed waste in the Remote-Handled Waste Facility, shipped 3,000 ft<sup>3</sup> of legacy waste and 71,228 ft<sup>3</sup> of newly generated waste. Mr. Geimer reviewed images including foaming of waste boxes to prevent subsidence. He noted that work to fill floor voids in the Main Plan Process Building (MPPB) is almost complete and that the canister move will start in the summer of 2015 and take about 2.5 years to complete. In response to a question, Mr. Bower committed to providing information about the additional cost associated with having the canisters moved to an interim facility rather than a permanent storage facility. Those costs are primarily the pad and cask fabrication costs. Other sites from the DOE complex are planning visits to determine if they might use similar methods for storage and movement, in part because they are running out of inside storage capacity or have not yet constructed it.

**Milestone 3: Facility Disposition – MPPB and Vitrification Facility.** MPPB deactivation continues. Debris and excess equipment removal is complete, as is gross decontamination, radiological surveys and stabilization of wall penetrations in the Vit Cell. Liquid Waste Cell Tanks Raschig rings have been removed from 2 tanks, 4 of 9 tanks have been decontaminated and 4 of 11 hatches cut into the cell. Asbestos containing material has been removed from the MPPB office and sampling performed of the MPPB, Vit roof and exterior. Pipes have been removed from the Off-Gas Trench. Loose items, work tables and gross decontamination have been removed from the Analytical Hot Cells. Vessels from Extraction Cell 1 have been sized reduced. One vessel in the Extraction Cell was hotter than anticipated. Work was suspended and replanned. Off-Gas Cell waste load out has commenced. Head end ventilation will be replaced and installed in a new building.

Demolition of the MPPB will occur in 2017 – 2018. CHBWW anticipates receiving permits from the US Department of Transportation for shipping of the Vitrification Melter and components this spring. Due to several impingements on the rail spur and line, these will be shipped on a 30 axel truck to a rail loading area. The spur and line will be maintained until the Phase 2 decision.

**Milestone 4: Balance of Site Facilities.** 2014 Major Accomplishment include: Repair of Lake 1 spillway, Lake 2 dam and gate repair, refurbishment of Buttermilk Creek culvert, installation of two new potable water wells, move of critical E-Lab equipment to a ground-level office, ditch cleaning and vegetation removal across site, and demolition of Con-Ed Building.

**Other and 2015 Goals.** Mr. Geimer reviewed community support activities including donation of more than 125,000 pounds of food to foodbanks. For 2015, the goals include continue safe, compliant and cost efficient work, initiate relocation of the HLW canisters, deactivation of the Vitrification Facility and shipment of the melter to an offsite disposal facility.

### **FY 2015 BUDGET UPDATE**

Bryan Bower of DOE gave brief overview of the 2015 budget. He noted that there had been Continuing Resolutions and the Omnibus Budget Bill included \$20,514,000 for min-safe, \$32,932,000 for decontamination and decommissioning, and \$7,011,000 for waste management. 58,986,00 will be from the DOE Non-Defense Environmental Management Budget and 1,471,000 from the DOE Defense Safeguard and Security Budget. He reminded the CTF that WVDP is the large site within the EM Non-Defense budget. Within the next week the President will release his proposed budget for 2016. He noted that this is the beginning of an extended process where the House and Senate Appropriations Committees develop budgets before votes in each chamber. Unless there is an increase, it is possible sites could see flat or decreasing allocations because of remedial work at Waste Isolation Pilot Plant as the result of two accidents.

The CTF discussed advocacy for the budget, the benefits of sending a delegation to Washington to visit DOE for the 2017 budget formulation and Congress for the 2016 budget. Several members noted that the strongest points to be made include: WVDP has been doing safe, cost-efficient work and it is unique in that the agencies and stakeholders are in agreement about the current work.

## **UPDATES**

**Phase 1 Studies.** Lee Gordon of NYSERDA gave an update on the Phase 1 Studies. He noted that the **Erosion Working Group (EWG)** and **Exhumation Working Group (EXWG)** are moving forward with work and that the Engineered Barriers Working Group is on hold. The EWG and EXWG had presented recommended studies and received feedback from the public, the Independent Scientific Panel, DOE and NYSERDA. Having considered that input, they are developing Study Plans with detailed data quality objectives that should be ready in early 2015. The EWG did preliminary site visits in 2014 to prioritize study activities within their Study Plan and will be doing field work and model development in 2015. For the modeling they will be looking at how to build into the model new topographic information (e.g., LiDAR data) that has been gathered since the 2010 FEIS, review governing equations and addressing uncertainty. The EXWG has also been working on its study plan and will begin work in 2015. Early work will include review and evaluation of existing inventory reports for the disposal areas and HLW tanks, as well as evaluation of precedent exhumation projects. Both the EWG and EXWG plan to finalize their Study Plans in early 2015.

**Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA).** Bryan Bower reminded the CTF that in the Phase 2 Path Forward for Decisionmaking the agencies agreed to an integrated process to reach decisions for all facilities at the WNYNSC, including the NDA and SDA. Facilities will be evaluated within the context of the License Termination Rule criteria described in the NRC's February 1, 2002 Final Policy Statement. A probabilistic framework will be used for long-term performance assessment. This will require a three-way contract among DOE, NYSERDA and the PPA contractor. This is a unique and complex process and a contract award is anticipated by summer 2015. A CTF member reminded the agencies that for the process to have credibility it will need to be on a transparent platform.

Mr. Bower also stated that the agencies were starting the contacting process for preparation of the Supplemental EIS.

**LiDAR.** Mr. Gordon informed the CTF that the LiDAR topographic survey and associated aerial photography performed in 2010 will be repeated in 2015. This year, the survey will be expanded beyond the Buttermilk Creek watershed, to include the neighboring Connoisarauley Creek watershed and the Cattaraugus Creek floodplain from the WNYNSC to Lake Erie.

**Aerial Radiation Survey.** The agencies are reviewing the report from the aerial survey conducted in September – October 2014. It is likely to be released to the public for the May Quarterly Public Meeting.

## **CTF DISCUSSION**

Annually at the January meeting the CTF reviews its activities and membership. The group reviewed the draft summary of activities and accomplishments. They noted several editorial changes and agreed that the survey questions be reviewed and revised prior to the next year's survey. Bill Logue informed the CTF that Lee Lambert was likely to step down as the representative of the League of Women Voters. He will follow the usual course in finding a replacement. The group agreed to encourage in-person participation while continuing with WebEx.

For outreach the group discussed the possibility of another visit to Washington, inviting legislators or their staff to attend a meeting and/or scheduling a meeting in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast. The group will coordinate with the Ashford Master Planning process at an appropriate time.

## **OBSERVER COMMENTS**

There were no observer additional observer comments.

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who; Date</b>
Additional costs associated with interim storage of casks.	Bower; TBD

**DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED**

<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Generated by; Date</b>
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 1/28/2015
WVDP 2014 Accomplishments	CHBWV; 1/28/2015
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 1/28/2015