

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Bill Logue and Loraine M. Della Porta\*, Citizen Task Force Facilitators  
Date: April 20, 2015  
Subject: **Summary of the March 25, 2015 Meeting**

## **Next Meeting**

The next Citizen Task Force Meeting will be: June 24, 2015  
Time & Date: **6:30 – 9:00 PM**  
Location: Ashford Office Complex  
9030 Route 219  
West Valley, NY

## **CTF Members and Alternates Attending**

Clyde Drake, Judy Einach, Lee James\*, Paul Kranz\*, Lee Lambert, Joe Patti, Ray Vaughan.

## **Agency Participants and Observers**

*Department of Energy (DOE):* Bryan Bower, 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, Charles Biedermann, Dan Coyne, John Rendall, Bill Schaab.

*New York Department of Environmental Conservation:* Patrick Concannon.

*U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission:* Amy Snyder.

*Observers:* Diane D'Arrigo\*, Joe Forti\*, Orlando Monaco, 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 a project update.

**Safety:** More than 1.31 million safe work hours (864 work days) have been achieved without a lost time accident (October 2013 – to March 19, 2015) or illness. No recordable or first aid cases in this timeframe, this is lowest recordable case rate in the DOE complex. No radiological exposures or personnel or recordable clothing contaminations.

**Milestone 1: High-Level Waste (HLW) Relocation Project.** The focus of the current work is preparation of the Equipment Decontamination Room for the High-Level Waste (HLW) relocation.

**Milestone 2: Legacy Waste Operations. (Through 1/15)** 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. Two-hundred forty-three Low-Level Wastes (LLW) and Mixed-LLW (MLLW) containers are ready for shipment. Eighty drums of TRU waste were removed from the Chemical Process Cell. Much of the Legacy Waste work will be suspended or slowed while funds are directed to HLW relocation and deactivation and demolition activities.

**Milestone 3: Facility Disposition – MPPB and Vitrification Facility.** Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) deactivation continues. Twenty-eight core borings and 7 hatches are being cut in the Liquid Waste Cell and the manned entry for manipulator removal and final wipe down is complete in the Sample Storage Cell. Work on the HLW

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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 2015 Meeting Materials.

\*Participated by telephone.

trench is ongoing and 80% complete in the Crane Removal Room in the Vitrification Facility. Work continues in the Off-Gas Cell and XC-1.

**Milestone 4: Balance of Site Facilities.** Lagoon 3 design work is being completed to relocate the outfall to redirect water to an area to prevent erosion. Winter sand has been removed from the onsite roads and cold patch applied. A break in a previous repair of a water line under the road was repaired in the area near the main gate.

## UPDATES

**Phase 1 Studies.** Lee Gordon of NYSERDA gave an update on the Phase 1 Studies. To ensure safety and quality control/quality assurance, work control processes are being put in place for upcoming fieldwork. An individual will be hired to assist Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and contractors onsite.

He noted that the **Erosion Working Group** (EWG) is developing Study Plans with detailed data quality objectives that should be ready in April. Near-term work will focus on age dating, measurement of current erosion (stream flow and sediment, surveying gullies, etc.) and modeling.

The **Exhumation Working Group** (EXWG) has also been working on its study plan to be completed by the end of April and will begin work in 2015. Early fieldwork will include non-intrusive testing of the SDA and NDA. The group will also perform an analysis of existing radionuclide inventories for the site.

The **Engineered Barriers Working Group** (EBWG) has been on hold while the other working groups begin their work and while the agencies were developing the overall approach. The EBWG will likely be asked to review their work to date and revise their draft recommendations in light of the approach and information from the other working groups. The recommendations will address issues such as barrier degradation, literature review, modeling and looking at both DOE and natural analogs such as glacial moraine.

**LiDAR.** The LiDAR topographic survey and associated aerial photography performed in 2010 will be updated in the fall of 2015 in an expanded area with a report expected in early 2016.

**Aerial Radiation Survey.** The agencies are reviewing the report from the aerial survey conducted September – October 2014. If available it will be released to the public for the May Quarterly Public Meeting. In response to a question Mr. Gordon stated that ground truthing was performed using a pressurized ion chamber as part of the study process. Soil sampling is possible. A CTF member encouraged that this be done sooner rather than later along Cattaraugus Creek due to the rearrangement of the streambed with high flow events. Mr. Gordon noted that the photographic record over 15-20 years demonstrated large changes in Cattaraugus Creek.

**Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA).** Bryan Bower informed the CTF that a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) was released for comment. The final RFP will be released in several weeks with a 30-day response time.

A CTF member noted the importance of transparency in conducting the PPA. He suggested that scoping include members of the public and regulatory agencies to help identify categories to be handled probabilistically and then work collaboratively with DOE and NYSERDA to assign levels of probability. Mr. Bower responded that SMEs would be consulted and a defensible rationale developed and reviewed in a public setting followed by updates. The CTF member reiterated that the process be one where all could assess the reasonableness of the assigned probabilities. Mr. Bower stated that the experts would be made available at meetings. Mr. Bembia stated that there will be opportunity for discussion at critical junctures and information would be made available.

## CTF DISCUSSION

The facilitator reviewed a copy of a letter from Senator Schumer to President Obama requesting \$75 million in 2016 funding. He also noted the status of the 2017 budget development within DOE. Mr. Bower stated that after a call in the fall with Senator Schumer's staff, the staff invited him to Washington in January to meet with them and provide an overview of the project. In past years Congressmen Reed and Higgins have offered amendments to increase funding.

After discussion Lee Lambert and Ray Vaughan agreed to work with Bill Logue to draft a letter of thanks to Senator Schumer and letters to DOE, Office of Management and Budget, President Obama and members of the Western New York Congressional delegation to press for funding for 2016 and 2017. A suggestion was made that the DOE leadership be invited to meet with the CTF. Drafts will be circulated by email. A CTF member noted that he would like the NYSERDA leadership to meet with the CTF as well.

Mr. Bower noted the level of infrastructure that will be needed for 2017-2019 period to prepare for soil remediation work and the Phase 2 decision. He also noted there are no waste disposal facilities for WVDP transuranic (TRU) waste. The Remote Handled Waste Facility will be needed as long as there is TRU waste onsite.

Potential topics for future meetings include:

- New potable water wells and impacts on local hydrology.
- A quick study on trenching process for waste removal at the NDA and SDA using a machine similar to the Permeable Treatment Wall machine. Mr. Bembia noted the tunnel-boring concept was raised with the EXWG. That group is focusing on existing technologies before novel approaches. A brief discussion ensued about how the trenching might work (soil replacement, overlaps, air exposure, etc.). Mr. Bembia noted the EXWG is evaluating the impacts on costs and volumes depending on whether or not all soil and cap material was removed.

In early April the CTF will decide if an April meeting is warranted.

## **OBSERVER COMMENTS**

Diane D'Arrigo requested that PPA assumptions and information be made available on an ongoing basis throughout the process. She noted that for Yucca Mountain a searchable/reviewable public library was available. She stated that a group of environmental organizations would be writing a letter on this issue.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

| <b>Action</b>           | <b>Who; Date</b>        |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Draft letter on funding | Lambert, Vaughan, Logue |

## **DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED**

| <b>Document Description</b>           | <b>Generated by; Date</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Meeting Agenda                        | Logue; 2/25/2015          |
| CHBWV Project Update                  | CHBWV; 2/25/2015          |
| News Clippings Distributed at Meeting | NYSERDA; 2/25/2015        |