

THE WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

April 20, 2015

Secretary Ernest Moniz
United State Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

Director Shaun Donovan
The White House
Office of Management and Budget
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

RE: West Valley Demonstration Project FY 2017 Funding

Dear Secretary Moniz and Director Donovan,

In 2010 the Department of Energy issued the Record of Decision for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). The ROD and underlying FEIS assumed that Phase 1 Decommissioning would take 10 years at an average annual cost of \$75 million. The Phase 1 Decommissioning work has never been funded at the level. Consequently it is years behind schedule and the overall cost will be significantly increased because fixed costs for maintaining and securing the site continue to be incurred.

In recent years WVDP has proven that it can use the cleanup funding it receives in an effective and efficient manner, accomplishing work safely and modeling processes that benefit the entire DOE complex. WVDP is unique in many respects but notably of late is the degree of consensus among DOE, NYSERDA, regulators, the Citizen Task Force and others about the Phase 1 work.

We are well aware that in the coming weeks the Department of Energy will be submitting its proposed budget. Through budget amendments in recent years Congressman Reed and Higgins have initiated funding increases for WVDP. Those increase were very helpful yet still fell well short of the levels projected in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for Phase 1. In December Senator Schumer wrote to President Obama seeking his support for FY 2016 funding of the WVDP in the amount of \$75 million. More recently he met with DOE Environmental Management staff concerning FY 2017 funding.

As you consider the FY 2017 WVDP allocation we hope you will take these efforts of the Western New York Congressional delegation as a clear signal of interest in a higher level of funding. We ask that you request \$75 million in funding for WVDP for 2017 in the President's submission to Congress.

Sincerely,

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West Valley Citizen Task Force

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Honorable Charles Schumer, U.S. Senate
Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senate
Honorable Tom Reed, NY 23rd Congressional District, Olean Office
Honorable Brian Higgins, NY 26th Congressional District, Buffalo Office
Bryan Bower, Director, West Valley Demonstration Project, U.S. DOE
Paul Bembia, Director, West Valley Site Management Program, NYSERDA