



THE WEST VALLEY CITIZEN TASK FORCE

April 20, 2015

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: **West Valley Demonstration Project FY 2016 and FY 2017 Funding**

Dear Senator Schumer,

The West Valley Citizen Task Force deeply appreciates your December 2014 letter to President Obama requesting FY 2016 funding for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) at the \$75 million level and your more recent direct request to the Department of Energy for 2017. We hope you will continue to advocate within the Senate for FY 2016 funding at that level and with DOE for 2017.

We know that it is easier for Congress to support a request of the President rather than supplement the President's request. In the coming weeks the Department of Energy will be submitting its proposed budget to President Obama and the Office of Management and Budget. We hope that you, in conjunction with Senator Gillibrand and Congressman Reed and Congressman Higgins will encourage the Department to request FY 2017 funding of \$75 million for WVDP.

Should WVDP be funded at the \$75 million level, investment opportunities include the following:

- Lagoon 3 Stabilization
 - Presently Lagoon 3 can only be operated at 60% capacity.
 - The area near the eastern edge of the Lagoon 3 embankment has been impacted by groundwater discharge from a "SmartDitch."
- Utilities Reconfiguration
 - Electrical
 - Current electric substation that services the site was built in 1957.
 - WVDP is unique in that the substation is "customer-owned."
 - Reliability of this system is increasingly of concern.
 - Natural Gas
 - Natural gas supply line servicing the WVDP is very old and needs attention.
- Off-Site Rail Line
 - WVDP is the only existing customer serviced by an approximately 8 mile segment of rail connecting the on-site spur to the main rail service line.
 - The rail line is in need of maintenance and repair efforts.

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- Agency studies show that rail shipment of large amounts of waste is more cost-effective than truck shipment, so use of the rail line for the shipment of the Main Plant Process Building demolition debris appears to be a prudent investment, and is also needed for the Phase 2 decision.
- Accelerate the pace of work at the site by hiring additional employees to support the deactivation and demolition activities, allowing earlier removal of the Main Plant Process Building and supporting the local economy.

With appreciation,

A collection of handwritten signatures. On the left side, there are seven signatures in black ink: a cursive signature, 'Mangalind', 'D. J. ...', 'Maha Kijathu', 'Eric W. Wohlers', 'Jueth Eric', and 'Lionel Lambert'. On the right side, there are two signatures in blue ink: 'Janice' and 'P. S. Kang'.

West Valley Citizen Task Force

Copy:

Bryan Bower, Director, West Valley Demonstration Project, U.S. DOE
 Paul Bemba, Director, West Valley Site Management Program, NYSERDA