

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Citizen Task Force Facilitator
Date: February 19, 2018
Subject: **Summary of the January 24, 2018 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: **March 28, 2018, 6:30 PM**
Location: Ashford Office Complex
9030 Route 219
West Valley, NY

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Deb Aumick*, Rob Dallas, Clyde Drake, Todd Gates, Heidi Hartley*, Lee James*, Barbara Frackiewicz, Paul Kranz*, Eric Lawton, Kathy McGoldrick, Joe Patti, Mary Reid*, Ray Vaughan, Eric Wohlers.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Marty Krentz, Moira Maloney, Audrey Seeley, Zintars Zadins.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Chris Andrzejewski, Paul Bembia*, Janice Dean*, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon, Jane Pietraszek.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC. (CHBWV): Scott Anderson, Cindy Dayton, Joe Pillittere.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC): Pat Concannon.

Neptune and Company: Terry Jennings*, Amy Jordan*, Sean McCandless*, John Tauxe*.

Public: Barry Miller, William Townsend, Patricia Townsend, Barbara Warren*.

INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹. Paul Bembia joined the meeting by phone and was represented at the table by Andrea Mellon. Bryan Bower informed the CTF that Christopher Eckert retired as Safety and Site Programs Lead after 29 years of federal service and Dave Cook retired as facility representative after 20 years at WVDP and 33 years of federal service. Anne Marie White was nominated and is undergoing the confirmation process as Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management (EM-1).

CHBWV PROJECT UPDATE

Scott Anderson of CHBWV presented a project update. At the outset, he noted that CH2MHill had been acquired by Jacobs Engineering. CH2M Hill BWXT West Valley, LLC, as a limited liability company, will not be impacted.

Safety. The 12-month average for Total Recordable Cases is 2.0 and Days Away, Restrictions, Transfers at 1.0. The last recordable lost-time case was in April 2017 and last recordable injury was in November 2017.

2017 Accomplishments. The following was accomplished in 2017: the site was recertified as a DOE-Voluntary Protection Star site for the 4th year leading to a Legacy of Star Award; accelerated legacy waste shipping; continued demolition preparations for the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB); completed a number of infrastructure upgrades; worked with DOE to begin the reconfiguration of the electrical supply delivery system including a 13.5 kilovolt feed, new poles and substation; finished Vitrification Facility deactivation and began demolition; and conducted support initiatives to benefit local communities.

Milestone 1. Relocation of the High-Level Waste (HLW) canisters to long-term interim storage, is complete.

Milestone 2- Legacy Waste. Shipment is 86% complete with approximately 23,000 ft³ in 30 shipments remaining. Three large vessels from the Chemical Process Cell-Waste Storage Area (CPC-WSA) will be disposed of. The first has been moved from the area for processing, the second is being prepared for processing and the

¹ Each is listed at the end of this summary and may be found at www.westvalleyctf.org

* Participated by telephone.

third will be shipped intact. Non-destructive assays are being conducted so that high-dose concentration areas in the vessels can be selectively removed with a remote plasma cutting tool. The remaining portions of the vessels will then be disposed of as Low-Level Waste (LLW). Legacy waste shipments are planned to conclude in September 2018.

Deactivation Progress Under Milestone 3. The Vitrification Facility demolition is underway and is 47% complete. Phase 1 of the demolition, removal of the outer access aisles exposing the cell walls, was completed in November 2017. Phase 2 work is ongoing and includes the Process Cell, Shield Doors and South Wall. Phase 3 will be the demolition of the Crane Maintenance Room, Tunnel and Secondary Filter Room. Planned completion is March 2018. The Vit Cell is now open to the air. Demolition is with a pneumatic hammer with dust suppression from a mister. The cooler units mounted high in the cell have fixative applied that did not entirely cover them therefore they will be lowered using a crane prior to packaging. There are 111 intermodals loaded with Vit waste and 94 have been shipped. Mr. Anderson displayed pictures of the demolition at various stages.

The MPPB deactivation is 80% complete with remaining work being very labor intensive, primarily on asbestos removal and deactivation in radiological areas. The Uranium Process Cell and Uranium Loadout, Acid Recovery Pump Room, Off Gas Cell Blower Room and Head End Ventilation are now demolition ready. Three major areas remain to be deactivated.

Balance of Site Facilities – Milestone 4. Nineteen of 47 other facilities on the site have been demolished with no further work planned at this time. The new data center building equipment has been installed. The new electrical substation installation is underway and should be operational in April. Infrastructure that will not be needed in Phase 1B or Phase 2 is being “patched” for use until it is not needed. The rail spur upgrades are scheduled for the spring. The rail spur will be used to transport MPPB waste.

Goals for 2018. Complete Legacy Waste disposition and Vit Facility demolition. Complete MPPB deactivation and begin demolition. Initiate waste shipment by rail. Complete gas and electric reconfiguration. Complete communication and computer system migration to new Data Center.

Follow-up From Prior Meetings. 1) Vitrification Facility Demolition Monitoring. At a previous meeting a CTF member had inquired about monitoring around the Vit demolition concerning the set point limits, the response if they are reached and the monitoring station locations. Mr. Anderson showed a graphic of the fixed and movable monitoring sites. These include monitors in 9 locations inside and outside the demolition perimeter with filters that are sampled daily with results available the next day. There are also four E-cams inside the demolition boundary with real-time air monitoring capabilities overseen by a rad tech. The E-cams have two alert levels and an alarm level. The latter is at 600 counts/minute (cpm) which, if met, would cause an immediate work stoppage. This level is about one-fourth of the allowable release level. The first alert sounds at 30% of the 600 cpm and the rad tech notifies the work crew at which point there is a pause in work, demolition conditions are reviewed and an evaluation is made to proceed or take additional precautions prior to proceeding. The second alert is at 60% or 400 cpm at which point the work is paused and additional actions are taken to mitigate airborne levels. Actions might include additional dust suppression, stopping hammering, moving the debris pile, etc. There have been two instances of alert level 1. The first was from radon and the second resulted in multiple horizontal surfaces requiring decontamination. **2) Potable Water.** The Annual Site Environmental Report has information about the new potable water system test results. Water is being treated for iron.

NYSERDA – 2017 SDA GEOMEMBRANE COVER PROJECT

Chris Andrzejewski of NYSERDA presented an overview of the State-Licensed Disposal Area (SDA) Geomembrane Cover Project. Recent testing of the cover over Trenches 1-12 indicated that it was due for replacement of the XR-5 geomembrane. Trenches 13 and 14 and a portion of Trench 12 had received an additional cover in 2010. Design criteria were developed based on lessons learned with the existing cover. These elements included removing obsolete penetrations, reducing stormwater outfalls and related piping, addressing wind up-lift and ballast issues and minimizing ponding and suspension of the cover. Mr. Andrzejewski showed pictures of the work to remove sand ballast, make modifications concerning penetrations and stormwater structures, installation of new stormwater structures and piping, and placement of the new cover and sand ballast.

The new XR-5 cover was placed over the existing cover in strips of 54 x 300 foot panels that were then “welded” at the seams. Ponding, up to 12 inches over Trench 8, was eliminated by placing leveling sand and geofoam prior

to placement of the new cover. A settlement gauge was installed to monitor subsidence over time. The tail end of the new geomembrane was buried within a perimeter trench to keep it from being uplifted by wind. By design, post-construction stormwater runoff was kept to (below) pre-construction discharge rates and is designed to tolerate a 100-year storm. The contractor is completing the as-built drawings.

NYSERDA – SDA TRENCH LEACHATE ELEVATION UPDATE

Jane Pietraszek of NYSERDA presented an update on the SDA Trench Leachate Elevation changes in Trenches 14, 1, and 3 noting that all changes were small and do not present a public health, safety or compliance issue. She noted the locations of the trenches within the SDA and showed both graphics and narrative timelines of the changes, possible impacting events (e.g., wind damage to covers and seam openings) and corrective measures, and elevation levels relative to ground surface.

For **Trench 14** elevations have been generally decreasing since infiltration controls were installed in 1992-1993. In 2011 increases were noted and continued through 2015 totally 8.04 inches. In 2016 levels stabilized. If the levels increase on the same trend of 0.12' per year it would take 11 years to reach the historic high and 118 years to reach the surface. In March 2015 a consultant report investigated the increases in T-14 and T-1 compared to groundwater and precipitation rates but did not identify a pathway or source. In October 2015 another consultant performed a more detailed evaluation and made recommendations for further study and mitigation measures. In 2016 a work plan was produced, and the investigation activities were conducted. The final report from those 2016 activities is forthcoming in 2018. The report will indicate that T-14 increases are likely due to influences at the north end of the trench, and that groundwater is not infiltrating T-1 from the east or south and groundwater is not infiltrating T-3 from the south. The report will further indicate that the likelihood for T-14 is that stratigraphy such as peat or a loose layer may be a cause of the groundwater flow impacts; however, further studies are needed to fully delineate the area north of Trench 14 for groundwater infiltration. A work plan will be generated for further studies to be conducted in the area north of T-14.

The 2016 work plan recommended installation of 38 soil probes and 24 new piezometers. Ms. Pietraszek showed areas where these were installed and Telog locations that monitor groundwater elevations in real time with data downloaded to a laptop. This will help with understanding of seasonal groundwater variations. The Telogs can be moved from well to well. In response to a question she stated that the wells were not shallow enough at 25" to show short-term impacts from rainy or dry periods, due to the density of the till that the wells are installed into. Soils were field measured from the 38 soil probes for radiological and volatile organic compounds and none were found to be above background. Bi-weekly water level measurement are currently being taken at the new piezometers. Groundwater grab samples, purge water samples and developed groundwater samples were collected from all piezometers where groundwater was present in 2016. The grab groundwater samples from two piezometers exhibited elevated tritium levels, and therefore these piezometer locations were not sampled until the leachate sampling event in August and September 2017. The groundwater grab samples from the remaining locations, the purge water samples and the developed groundwater samples did not exhibit criteria for radiological or hazardous designations.

T-1 increases were first noted in 2006 with small increases through 2017. In 2017 sampling indicated that fluid is probably localized in the sump area. Additional investigation is being considered. Field air measurements in 2017 showed no radiological or volatile organic compound concentrations above background. Leachate data is being validated and will be sent to NYSDEC once that is complete.

T-3 leachate elevations have been decreasing since 1995-1996 when infiltration controls were installed. Stabilization (i.e., levels stopped decreasing) was noted in 2014 and in 2016 a probe malfunction was suspected. Since the probe was replaced in July 2016 the decreasing trend has continued consistent with earlier levels. No further action is need for T-3.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS)

Marty Krentz of DOE informed the CTF that the SEIS Notice of Intent for the Phase 2 Decision for the Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship of the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center would be published in the Federal Register and the New York State Environmental Bulletin in early February. There will be a 60-day comment period on the scoping process with public meetings to

be held March 19 at the West Valley Hose Company, March 20 at the Erie County Community College Buffalo Campus and March 22 at the Cattaraugus County Council Chamber. An SEIS website will be created that will have information on the scoping and SEIS process.

CTF ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The CTF reviewed and approved the summary of 2017 activities and reviewed the results of their annual survey and attendance for the year. No changes were made in membership.

Ray Vaughan suggested that the CTF form a Scoping Comment Workgroup and a Technical Workgroup. The former he would be happy to chair and would operate during the comment period. The latter would operate on a longer-term basis. There was some discussion about the degree of overlap and whether the two might operate simultaneously or sequentially. Mr. Vaughan and Bill Logue will reach out to CTF members about their opinions and participation. The CTF agreed to re-establish the Agenda Workgroup.

The CTF agreed to write letters supporting funding to congress for the 2019 budget and DOE for the 2020 budget under development. Todd Gates of the Seneca Nation of Indians stated he would be in Washington on two separate weeks in February and offered to hand deliver letters. Eric Lawton, assisted by Ray Vaughan, will draft the letters.

OBSERVER COMMENTS

There were no observer comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Action	Who; When
Draft funding letters	Lawton & Vaughan supported by Logue
Solicit membership in Scoping and/or Technical Workgroup	Vaughan and Logue
Solicit membership in Agenda Workgroup	Logue

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 1/24/18
Project Update	CHBWV; 1/24/18
NYSERDA 2017 Geomembrane Cove Project	NYSERDA; 1/24/18
NYSERDA SDA Leachate Elevation Update	NYSERDA; 1/24/18
News Clippings Distributed at Meeting	NYSERDA; 1/24/18
Summary of 2017 CTF Activities	Logue – posted after the meeting
2017 Annual Survey	Logue – Posted after the meeting