

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Materials Management, Bureau of Hazardous Waste and Radiation Management

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September 27, 2021

The West Valley Citizen Task Force
c/o The Logue Group
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Dear Members of the Citizen's Task Force:

While some of you are already likely aware, the Department has the unfortunate duty of sharing the news of the untimely passing of Mr. Timothy Rice, Chief of the Radiation Materials Management Section, to the members of the CTF. His sudden death has left his many friends and colleagues at the Department and throughout the community with a deep sense of grief. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts.

The Department must also relay how Mr. Rice's passing impacts work at the West Valley site. One of the last projects Mr. Rice was working on was a presentation he planned to provide to the CTF in the near future. The presentation was to be a discussion of the Department's decommissioning criteria for the State-licensed Disposal Area (SDA). Mr. Rice was instrumental in developing the criteria, and the Department relayed the determination to the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) and New York State Energy Research and Development Agency (NYSERDA), respectively, in correspondence dated February 3, 2020. This correspondence is attached for your information. Due to the ongoing pandemic, sharing and discussing the criteria with the public (i.e., the CTF) has been delayed until now.

As anyone who had interacted with Mr. Rice knows, he carried with him a vast understanding and expertise related to the Department's development of radiologic requirements, such as those needed for the SDA decommissioning (likely to be pursued during the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement [SEIS] process). His years of working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), respectively, and experience with numerous facilities, both state and federal, allowed him to be the Department's main point of contact on such issues. With his passing, a significant resource has been lost and will be difficult to replace.

The Department requests that any questions or comments related to the SDA decommissioning criteria communicated with this letter be addressed to Mr. Daniel Evans, P.E., Director-Bureau of Hazardous Waste and Radiation Management, at daniel.evans@dec.ny.gov or the above address. The Department will respond in an appropriate manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Daniel J Evans, P.E.
Director, Bureau of Hazardous Waste and Radiation
Management

Enclosure

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