

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Bill Logue, Task Force Facilitator
Date:
Subject: **Summary of September 28, 2022 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: October 26, 2022
Location: TBD

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Kevin Boyle, Anna Carr, Heidi Hartley, John Hood, Kimberly Krzemien, Tony Memmo, John Pfeffer, Ray Raffel, Robert Ring, Shannon Seneca, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan. Facilitators: Bill Logue & Loraine Della Porta.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Stephen Bousquet, Bryan Bower, Jeff D’Agostino, Patrick Hefflinger, Joceline Nahigian, Audrey Seeley.

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Paul Bembia, Brad Frank, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon, Peter Vlad.

CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC (CHBWV): Joe Pillittere, John Rendall, Kelly Wooley.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Marlayna Doell.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Pat Concannon, Lynn Winterberger.

New York State Department of Health: Rachel Bratek, Cynthia Costello, David O’Hehir, Conor VanDemark

Government Accountability Office: Janice Poling.

Neptune & Company: Katie Catlett, Sean McCandless.

SC&A: Charlotte Salmon.

Observers: Diane D’Arrigo, Charley Bowman, Ashley Clines, Joanne Hameister, Blossom Vance, Barbara Warren, Misa Yasumiishi, and unidentified phone in callers.

Guests: Nancy Raca, Sue Charland.

Introductions, Announcement, Administrative Business

Bill Logue welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials¹. Bryan Bower of DOE informed the CTF that Marty Krentz had taken a new position and then introduced Jeff D’Agostino as the new NEPA Compliance officer for WVDP. He also stated that the CTF could resume in-person/hybrid meetings as many COVID of the restrictions had been lifted. If there is an increase to high community spread masks will be required.

Lee Gordon of NYSERDA informed the CTF that the contract for CTF facilitation is jointly funded by NYSERDA and DOE and a new 5-year facilitation contract had been awarded through a

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

competitive bid process to Highland Planning of Rochester. He introduced Nancy Raca as lead facilitator and Sue Charland as back-up facilitator. Nancy introduced herself and noted that the firm specializes in public engagement. She will be reaching out to CTF members in advance of the October meeting and looks forward to working with the CTF.

CHBWV Project Update

Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

CTF Site Tour. Mr. Wooley showed photos from the July 27, 2022 CTF site tour where the group viewed the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB), Water Management System, High-Level Waste Casks and Pad, Drum Cell and Radiation Monitoring Control Room.

Safety. As of August 2022, the Total Recordable Case Rate is at 0.31 with the last recordable case in April 2022 and Days, Away, Restricted are at 0.31 and the last recordable injury in May 22, 2022.

COVID-19 Controls. Controls have been adjusted for mask and screening to reflect Cattaraugus County transmission rates. Preventive maintenance and cleaning continue. Regional infection rates will continue to be monitored and additional controls implemented, if necessary, per any guidance.

Main Process Plant Building Deactivation. Decontamination of the Product Purification Cell (PPC) is complete and decontamination equipment demobilized. The MPPB Ancillary Facilities are 100% deactivated and 7 of 7 Ancillary Facilities deconstructed. As part of the deactivation, the Vent Wash Room underwent final cleanup, fixative application and sealing of duct openings.

In the Acid Recovery Cell the floor was cut into 26 blocks which can be removed without breaking them into small pieces thereby reducing potential contamination spread. The blocks were cut using first a 32" saw blade then a 48" blade, and finally a 60" blade. Following the cutting the floor was rinsed, fixative applied and a plywood covering placed. When removed, the blocks will be placed into waste containers for disposal.

MPPB Demolition Preparation. The Water Management System is complete with associated Work Instruction Packages and Standard Operating Procedures revision. The Drum Cell is being used for preparing waste containers for MPPB demolition debris. The 10-Plex is supporting MPPB demolition with showers, lockers, radiation control monitoring and respirator issue. Rail shipments have resumed after additional training and incorporation of lessons learned from the February derailment event.

The Contractor Readiness Assessment (CRA) was completed at the end of August. The CRA addresses both the physical aspects of the building and systems and processes to ensure safe demolition. DOE completed their Readiness Assessment on September 13 and CHBWV was approved to proceed on September 15. On September 21 MPPD deconstruction work commenced.

Mr. Wooley noted the deconstruction approach includes lessons learned from WVDP and other DOE sites. The process is sequenced with work controls and includes extensive modelling and

real-time monitoring to ensure potential radiological exposure is below regulatory levels.

He then showed pictures of the Solvent Storage Terrace Area where deconstruction started. Pictures of an excavator mounted quarry saw that will be used to pre-cut portions of the Off-Gas Cell corner wall were discussed.

New Scope. Construction of the new Guard House continues with interior work. Legacy Waste has been relocated in High Integrity Containers to an interior location on site. Pre-entry video inspection and initial radiological survey inside the pump pit for Tank 8-D4 is complete.

NYSERDA Update: State-Licensed Disposal Area Trench 14 and North Slope

Andre Mellon provided an update on the State-Licensed Disposal Area (SDA).

Trench 14. The Trench 14 water infiltration control project is designed to prevent groundwater from entering the trench from surrounding areas, including the NRC-Licensed Disposal Area (NDA) Hardstand A geomembrane cover was installed over the hardstand to manage rain and snow melt as clean water which is diverted away from the SDA through stormwater drainage. A sheet pile wall was installed at the north end of Trench 14 as a groundwater barrier. In the last year water level data from 38 wells has been collected. Water levels have decreased in the area of the sheet pile wall and geomembrane cover. Having decreased from the time of the installation of the geomembrane cover through 2011, Trench 14 started showing increasing water elevations from 2011-2021. Those levels are now decreasing, indicating that control measures have reduced the volume of groundwater infiltration. There are some seasonal variations and the groundwater system will likely continue to equilibrate. Firmer conclusions can be drawn over time and future updates will be provided.

SDA North Slope. A geotechnical investigation was conducted of the SDA North Slope to determine if the soil movement was of surface soils pushed onto the slope during trench construction or if it was of deeper soils. The investigation was completed in June 2022 with 22 borings varying from 5'-34' in depth. Some borings were conducted using hand-augers and other mechanically driven processes. Three locations had instruments installed to detect movement and water elevations within the slope. During the investigation an area of contamination in the lower southwestern corner of the slope was discovered. Based on analysis this appears to be legacy contamination from leachate overtopping of the SDA in 1975.

The investigation determined that the soil movement was in the upper 5' of the soils which is consistent with the soils pushed into the area during trench construction. Precipitation events exacerbate the movement of the soils, particularly with the slope steepness and fill from construction soils.

A stabilization design was developed and technical comments were received from NYSDEC. Under the design, approximately 3,600 yd³ of loose soils will be moved. Approximately 200 yd³ of contaminated soils will be stored at the SDA and be characterized then containerized for shipment and disposal. The remaining soils will be transferred to the SDA Buffer Area. The plan includes "shear keys" that act as passive drainage channels for clean precipitation and groundwater to move off the slope, into a trench at the base of the slope, and distribution to

the adjacent floodplain wetlands. The slope will be reconfigured to be less steep and engineered rock fill will be used to cover the slope and prevent movement. Soil removal will be performed and the drainage features will be completed in October and slope grading in November. Future updates will be provided.

CTF Discussion

Site visit. A CTF member noted that the site visit helped inform understanding of the topography changes on the site and provide context beyond what is seen in presentations.

Structured Invitation. Ray Vaughan noted that there was not much to update on the Structured Invitation and suggested time be allocated to it at an upcoming meeting. He then gave a presentation on current modeling results implications for the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). He started by noting that the SDA trenches, and other site locations, are susceptible to erosion and release of downstream contamination. As an example, he showed a stream meander on Franks Creek as an illustration of how close the creek is to the SDA.

Using several graphics of cross-sections of the South Plateau, Mr. Vaughan showed a 21° stable slope angle and a 50' downcutting of the creek estimated in the Landscape Evolution Model by Tucker and Doty. In this scenario, Franks Creek would impact the SDA trenches in less than 10,000 years. Neptune and Company is looking at several erosion processes, including hillslope advance (valley widening) and gully head advance. With loss due to hillslope advance, erosion is projected to reach the middle of the SDA in 4,600 years. If climate change is included the time would be reduced to about 3,000 years. For gully head advance, to the SDA would be significantly impacted in about 650 years or 540 years with climate change.

Mr. Vaughan raised the issue of how the DSEIS might address this. Alternatives considered might include: partial exhumation where the most highly contaminated areas of the disposal areas are exhumed and designing and installing engineered barriers for the SDA, NDA and other facilities. For the former he raised questions about the accuracy of burial records; whether water has redistributed contamination within the trenches; and whether a release of remaining waste would result in exposures acceptable to downstream communities, even if below 25mrem/year regulatory limit. With respect to engineered barriers, he noted: erosion typically undercuts and bypasses barriers; repair and replacement can't be assumed past 100 years; and during the repair and replacement period standard death and injury rates for workers using heavy equipment on slopes need to be considered.

Mr. Vaughan stated that the issues should not be passed on to future generations and one should not rely on the knowledge, finances and priorities of others over a 100-year timeframe – the limited institutional control period. In concluding, he noted the relevant portions of the structured invitation tasks applicable to the issues he raised.

Washington Visit. The facilitator reviewed the timing and process for prior site visits. After discussion the CTF agreed that planning for a trip in the first quarter of 2023 should begin. John Pfeffer noted that increased security in congress makes planning critical because escorts are now required. Outreach to schedule meetings with relevant Western New York House and

Senate elected officials or their staff and staff of committees of cognizance will begin. Congressman Sempolinski, who serves until the new congress convenes, and Lee James may be able to help with this. Mr. Pfeffer also suggested trying to schedule with the Nuclear Waste Cleanup Caucus and Ike White at DOE.

Other Business. Mr. Gordon committed to providing a LiDAR update and drone footage at the October meeting. An update on the timing of the SEIS may be available in November pending contract renewal with SCA, Inc. As information from the Probabilistic Performance Assessment becomes available for presentations, pre-meetings may be scheduled for those who wish to have more technical discussions.

Mr. Gordon thanked the Mr. Logue for facilitating the CTF for the last 15 years. Bill thanked the agencies and CTF and expressed his appreciation for their commitment and volunteerism noting it was a privilege to have worked with them for so long.

Observer Questions and Comments

Mr. Kelly asked an observer to clarify which documents from April 2021 they were viewing with respect to the MPPB inventory so that he could determine if there are more recent documents that are publicly available.

Follow Up

Description	Generated by; Date
Plan CTF delegation to Washington	Highland & CTF

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Logue; 9/28/22
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 9/28/22
NYSERDA SDA Update	NYSERDA; 9/28/22
Update on Structured Invitation	Vaughan; 9/28/22
News Clippings Since the Last Meeting	NYSERDA; 9/28/22