

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Nancy Raca and Susan Charland, Highland Planning
Date: December 19, 2022
Subject: **Summary of December 14, 2022 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 6:30 p.m.
Location: Ashford Office Complex and Zoom

CTF Members and Alternates Attending

Kevin Boyle, Charlie Davis, Heidi Hartley, Lee James, Kathy McGoldrick, Tony Memmo, Joe Patti, Ray Raffel, Shannon Seneca, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan.
Facilitators: Nancy Raca and Susan Charland.

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Stephen Bousquet, Bryan Bower, Jeff D’Agostino, Bill Frederick, Patrick Hefflinger.

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

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

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Pat Concannon.

New York State Department of Health: Cynthia Costello, David O’Hehir.

Observers: Ashley Clines, Tyler Dockendorf, Kelsey Shank.

Introductions, Announcement, Administrative Business

CTF Facilitator Nancy Raca welcomed all present and reviewed the meeting agenda and materials.¹ As an administrative update, Paul Bembia of NYSERDA noted that Andrea Mellon reports that construction work to stabilize the north slope is now complete. Restoration and vegetation work will commence in the spring. A detailed characterization of soils taken from the slope will be completed.

Ms. Raca circulated schedule for 2023 meetings. The next meeting will be on January 18th, 2023, which is the third Wednesday of the month, due to a scheduling conflict with the fourth Wednesday. Meetings will resume on the fourth Wednesday of each month beginning in March. All meetings will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Ashford Office Complex unless otherwise announced. The 2023 schedule is as follows:

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

January 18, 2023	CTF Meeting
February 22, 2023	Quarterly Public Meeting
March 22, 2023	CTF Meeting
April 26, 2023	CTF Meeting
May 24, 2023	Quarterly Public Meeting
June 28, 2023	CTF Meeting
July 26, 2023	CTF Meeting
August 23, 2023	Quarterly Public Meeting
September 27, 2023	CTF Meeting
October 25, 2023	CTF Meeting
November 15, 2023	Quarterly Public Meeting
December 20, 2023	CTF Meeting

CHBWV West Valley Demonstration Project Update

Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

Safety: As of November 2022, the Total Recordable Case Rate is at 0.30, with the last recordable case in April 2022. Days Away Restricted or Transferred (DART) are at 0.30, with the last recordable injury in May 2022.

Main Plant Process Building Deconstruction: Mr. Wooley showed photos from the deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building, which is proceeding on schedule thanks to the good work of the team. Deconstruction of the Solvent Storage Terrace, Upper Warm Aisle, and Lower Warm Aisle is complete. The South Stairwell has been removed and deconstruction of the Extraction Chemical Room is almost complete. The team has also removed Extraction Cell #1 and is working on Cell #2, using misters as they work. These misters are proving effective. In response to a question, Kelly said that the upcoming hot phases of the deconstruction will continue in mid-2023 with the start of the chemical process area.

New Scope: Exterior work on the new guard house is complete. Interior work and fencing is ongoing. Expected opening date for the guard house is late January or early February. With regard to tank sampling at 8D-4, a new fabric roof was installed on the weather structure over the 8D-4 containment tent, which eliminated precipitation in the working area. A mock-up is underway to demonstrate the use of a specialized sampling equipment to obtain a liquid sample from 8D-4 and familiarize new staff with sampling. A radiation-resistant camera is being fabricated for use in the tank. In response to a question, it was noted that the water management system is working well overall, even with heavy rains.

CTF Discussion

Washington, DC Visit: Ms. Raca said that a small group of CTF members led by John Pfeffer has met to begin discussing a trip to visit legislators and agency officials in Washington. A summary of their meeting is available at www.westvalleyctf.org.

Charlie Davis updated the CTF on discussions to date: The trip will most likely be on a Wednesday in late January or early February. The goal is to meet with legislators and their staff as well as DOE officials and the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA). It's important to get West Valley's story in front of people in Washington; otherwise we will be overlooked. Potential topics to discuss during the trip include future funding, high-level waste disposal, the extension of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act, and the ongoing work at the site and the need for work to continue. John Pfeffer is working with ECA to determine the best date for the trip.

Ms. Raca noted that all CTF members are welcome to participate in planning the trip and in the trip itself. Kathy McGoldrick, Ray Raffel, Kevin Boyle, Tony Memmo (or a Seneca Nation representative) indicated an interest in attending the trip if they are available once the date has been selected. Ms. Raca will send an email to the CTF inquiring about further interest in going to Washington and will also schedule a follow-up call to discuss trip details.

ECA Grant: Ray Vaughan gave an update on a grant application that the Town of Ashford just submitted to ECA. This application was put together by Mr. Vaughan, John Pfeffer, Ray Raffel, and Shannon Seneca, with assistance from the Town of Ashford's grant writer Karl Kalbacher. Mr. Vaughan showed a copy of the grant application to CTF members present. The grant application seeks \$50,000 to fund two efforts: 1) an expert-led hydrologic erosion study of the Franks Creek/Erdmann Brook watershed and 2) a public outreach effort. The grant writing team received letters of interest from Ramboll and the University at Buffalo for the first part. If the grant application is successful, there will be a procurement process for engaging an expert for the erosion study. For the public outreach effort, we would seek an expert to coordinate 15 meetings with local governments and CTF members. Mr. Vaughan said that he expects grant awards to be announced in about 45 days.

Members of the CTF discussed the timing of the grant and whether there would be a preferred alternative or any results from Neptune's work to review. Currently, Neptune's erosion modeling work will be part of the draft Supplemental EIS, which is expected in 2025, and will not be available before then. Mr. Vaughan indicated that the study funded by the grant will be just one "tool in the toolbox" that the CTF will need to evaluate the preferred alternative at that time. Also, he noted that it is important to begin lining up experts as soon as possible.

Kathy McGoldrick stated that releasing the results of Neptune's analysis only at the time of the draft Supplemental EIS is too late. This timing does not allow the CTF an opportunity to examine Neptune's modeling methodology. Ms. McGoldrick said that the CTF was initially told that it would have the Neptune information well before the draft Supplemental EIS comes out.

Bryan Bower of U.S. DOE said that Neptune will be present at upcoming Quarterly Public Meetings to discuss erosion, groundwater flow, and other topics. However, DOE cannot create a unique review and comment process for the CTF. DOE will follow the NEPA/SEQR process, and the CTF will receive information at the same time as the public.

Joe Patti objected to this approach and indicated that the CTF should be treated as an advisory group and should have early access to information. The CTF needs time to arrange for technical support and conduct a thorough review.

Ray Vaughan noted that in the past the CTF has had pre-meetings where technical information can be discussed with contractors. Mr. Bower said that this may be possible before a Quarterly Public Meeting.

Ms. McGoldrick thanked the team that put together the grant application.

Observer Questions and Comments

Shannon Seneca asked whether the CTF would develop a common set of talking points for the Washington, DC trip and noted that the high-level waste repository is an important topic. Joe Patti noted that historically the CTF only presents topics that it has consensus on. Getting together talking points before the trip will be important.

In response to a question about trip logistics, Mr. Patti shared that CTF members often carpool to Washington and share a hotel. Sometimes a county van can be secured.

Ms. Raca said she will schedule a follow-up call to discuss trip details.

The next CTF meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom and in person at the Ashford Office Complex.

Follow Up

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

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Raca; 10/26/22
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 10/26/22
News Clippings Since the Last Meeting	NYSERDA; 10/26/22