

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Nancy Raca, Highland Planning
Date: October 5, 2023
Subject: **Summary of September 27, 2023, Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Location: Ashford Office Complex and Zoom (register at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nTewrMrfTv68tp3gTUN3Hw)

CTF Members and Alternates Attending (in person or via Zoom)

Members

Kathy McGoldrick, Tony Memmo, Joe Patti, Pat Townsend, Ray Raffel, Ray Vaughan

Alternates

Kevin Boyle, Anna Carr, John Hood, Shannon Seneca

Facilitator and Notetakers: Nancy Raca, Julia Hayden, Anne Redmond

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Steve Bousquet, Bryan Bower, Jeff D'Agostino, Bill Frederick

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Paul Bembia, Lee Gordon, Andrea Mellon

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

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

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: Patrick Concannon, Derick Dietrich

Observers: Ashley Clines, Diane D'Arrigo, Patrick Hefflinger, Charlotte Salmon

Welcome, Announcements, Administrative Business

CTF Facilitator Nancy Raca welcomed all present, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the meeting agenda.¹ Nancy noted that, for future meetings, organizations represented on the CTF are asked to identify a single person (either the representative or, if he/she is not present, his/her alternate) to speak on behalf of the organization for that meeting. This is consistent

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

with the CTF Ground Rules and will allow the facilitator to get an accurate count of organizations present and better assess consensus.

Lee Gordon of NYSERDA postponed discussion of the proposed revisions to the CTF ground rules pending further information related to a comment from a CTF member. He requested that CTF members send comments on the revisions to himself or Nancy by October 15.

CHBWV West Valley Demonstration Project Update

Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

Safety: As of May 2023, the Total Recordable Case Rate is at 0.59 and Days Away Restricted or Transferred (DART) is 0.29. The last recordable injury was in June 2023.

Main Plant Process Building Deconstruction: Mr. Wooley showed photos from the removal of the Chemical Process Cell penthouse enclosure, the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) ventilation stack, and the Chemical Process Cell storage racks. Parts of the upper east wall and the north wall were also removed. Mr. Wooley also showed photos of waste loadout of demolition debris and deconstruction of the Chemical Process Room and Sample Storage Cell.

Tank Sampling: The sample obtained from Tank 8D-4 was analyzed and results were as expected, apart from higher alpha and lower Cesium-137. In addition, analysis of the archived 2012 sludge sample showed some anomalies, so clarification on how the analysis was conducted is being sought. Tooling to remove equipment was completed, and a second prototype core sampler is being fabricated to test with a sludge simulant. In response to a CTF question, Kelly noted that Tanks 8D-1, 8D-2, and 8D-3 are all dry now.

Emergency Exercise: The facility held a simulated emergency exercise that included outside responders and simulated news coverage. The exercise went well.

In response to a question from the CTF, Kelly reported that naturally occurring radon has caused some alarms to sound over the last month. All of these alarms have been nuisance alarms, but the facility observes all appropriate safety protocols every time. Ray Raffel, CTF member and CHBWV Senior Radiation Technician offered to do a presentation to the CTF about the site's response to radiological air monitoring alarms.

In response to a question from the CTF about levels of helium or radon underground, DOE and NYSERDA responded that they do not monitor for helium but that they do detect radon.

CTF Discussion

The CTF discussed the process for selecting future presentation topics. The Ground Rules specify that there should be a consensus of the CTF about future presentation topics, although "consensus" is not specifically defined.

It was proposed that consensus should be determined based on the organizations present at the meeting. The facilitator will conduct a roll call of organizations and their representatives at the beginning of each meeting, and each organization will have one vote for purposes of determining consensus.

A discussion ensued regarding a potential presentation from Roswell Park (Dr. Mary Reid and Dr. Shannon Seneca) on health statistics for Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, and Erie Counties. Some CTF members felt that a general presentation on health statistics unrelated to West Valley may be outside the scope of the CTF and could lead to confusion. Others felt that an overall look at the state of health in the Tri-County area would be helpful background information. Ultimately, the CTF reached a consensus to add a presentation from Roswell Park on health statistics to a future agenda.

A CTF member asked a question about a situation at Hanford Site and its applicability to West Valley. Specifically, Hanford demolition crews had planned to do work in the basement area of a building based on vertical radiation readings, but later horizontal readings led them to change their plans. The CTF member asked whether horizontal readings had been taken below the MPPB. DOE responded that they would have to check with a subject matter expert and report back on this topic.

The CTF agreed to hear a presentation from Ray Raffel on radiological air monitoring alarms at the October meeting.

The CTF expressed consensus in having Paul Bembia present at a future meeting about West Valley site background and history.

The CTF expressed consensus in having a presentation at a future meeting on the basics of radiation and regulatory and administrative radiation worker/general public dose limits (“Radiation 101”). A CTF member noted that if the presentation includes any comparison of current or predicted future doses to dose limits, it should also (for perspective) include the highest of the predicted doses in the 1996 DEIS, DOE/EIS-0226D, particularly the 300,000 mrem/yr predicted future dose that's shown in Appendix D, Fig. D-8, page D-41.

Observer Comments

An observer commented that it would be helpful to have information on health risks associated with specific radiation doses.

Next Steps

The next CTF meeting will be on October 25th.

Immediately preceding the October CTF meeting, NYSERDA will hold a meeting in the regular CTF meeting room (Conference Room C-1) for CTF members to meet Doreen Harris, NYSERDA's President and John Williams, Vice President for Policy and Regulatory Affairs. Nancy will circulate details about this meeting to the CTF.

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Raca; 09/27/23
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 09/27/23