

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Nancy Raca, Highland Planning
Date: April 5, 2024
Subject: **Summary of March 27, 2024, Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Location: Ashford Office Complex and Zoom (register at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x_HuvKFIQTyNPL8qixql8A)

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

Members

John Hood, Kathy McGoldrick, Raymond Raffel, Mary Reid, Kara Stimson, Ray Vaughan

Alternates

Kevin Boyle, Shannon Seneca

Facilitator and Notetakers: Nancy Raca, Tanya Zwahlen

Agency Participants and Observers

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

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

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

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

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

Observers: Thomas Morahan, Kit Cross, Abe Zeitoun, Conrad Sherman (EPA), Sean McCandless, Janice Poling, Diane D'Arrigo, Barbara Warren, Wayne Barber

Welcome, Announcements, Administrative Business

CTF Facilitator Nancy Raca welcomed all present, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the meeting agenda.¹ She announced that there is only one response to the CTF survey so far and encouraged CTF members to take the survey so results can be discussed in April.

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

CHBWV West Valley Demonstration Project Update

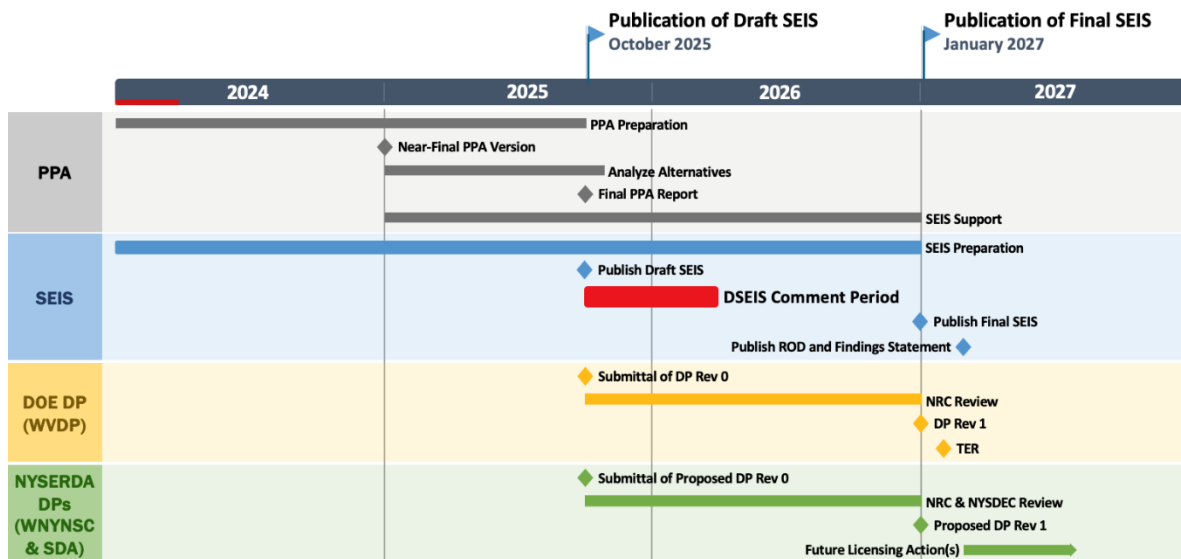
Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

Safety: The Total Recordable Case Rate is unchanged at 0.58 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 deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building (MPPB) since January. This included work on Chemical Process Cell east wall and the Hot Cell west wall areas. A total of nine tanks were safely removed from the Liquid Waste Cell area without damage, including the pictured tanks 7D-2, 3D-2, and 7D-14. The north side wall of Extraction Cell #1 was deconstructed, as was Sample Cell #2. In addition, the Extraction Cell Room and the upper east wall were deconstructed.

Waste and Site Operations. The site safely processed and overpacked two Chemical Process Cell waste containers for shipment in May. The remaining four High Integrity Containers (HICs) were overpacked and shipped the week of March 18. Seven of 12 legacy oversized debris containers have been shipped, and the remaining five will be overpacked and shipped during the summer.

Phase 2 Decision Milestones Update



Phase 2 Decision – Schedule and Milestones

West Valley Citizen Task Force – March 27, 2024



Lee Gordon provided an update on the Phase 2 Decision schedule and milestones (seen above). The schedule shows the next four years, to 2027. The Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA) will continue through 2025. A near-final PPA version will be ready in January 2025. It will

be used to analyze the alternatives in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Alternatives will be analyzed in 2025 through October. At this time, a final PPA report will also be complete. After the PPA, Neptune will help write chapters of the SEIS to document the model.

The SEIS preparation is ongoing and will continue through 2026. The Draft SEIS will be published in October 2025. Public comment will be open for six months after the Draft SEIS is published. The Final SEIS will be published by January 2027. A Record of Decision (ROD) and Findings Statement will be published in early 2027.

The DOE Decommissioning Plan for the West Valley Demonstration Project will coincide with the DEIS. Submittal of the NYSERDA Decommissioning Plan for the Western New York Nuclear Service Center (WNYNSC) and State Licensed Disposal Area (SDA) will occur in late 2025. A revision of each plan will occur in January 2027. The NRC Technical Evaluation Report (TER) will be complete in early 2027. Future licensing actions by NYSERDA will occur in 2027 or later.

In response to a question from the CTF, Lee Gordon said that the final PPA report will reference all the supporting technical papers, which will also be available for review.

A CTF member asked if public comments on the DSEIS will be visible. Three public hearings will take place at which the public can hear any spoken comments. Written comments and the responses to those comments will be available in the Final EIS.

A CTF member asked how the agencies consider comments. In 2018, comments were characterized and sorted by topic to identify common themes. Then the agencies and their contractors considered each comment in each group and decided how to address them.

Lee also clarified that the Neptune documents and PPA will be available with the DEIS.

Presentation: Interim Progress Report on ECA Grant

Ray Vaughan presented an interim progress report on Town of Ashford's ECA grant. The team includes Thomas Morahan, Ray Vaughan, Shannon Seneca, and Kit Cross. Ray provided a background on the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site and the West Valley Demonstration Project Act.

Franks Creek and Erdman Brook run alongside both burial grounds, and these two creeks are actively eroding. At some point in the future, they will cut into the sides of the burial grounds and start carrying waste downstream.

Two DOE-NYSERDA EIS studies show vastly different predictions of erosion encroachment at 1,000 years. Ray shared a 1996 estimate that showed extensive erosion and a 2005 Draft EIS estimate that showed less erosion.

The purpose of the erosion study funded under the ECA grant is to get another, independent estimate of erosion.

At this time, DOE and NYSERDA, in cooperation with Neptune, are updating their erosion study. They will be modeling and creating predictions. The benefit of the ECA grant-funded

independent study being done in parallel with DOE-NYSERDA's is that this will provide a framework for working through the differences.

Tom Morahan of NY Geology explained that they are developing a model to estimate long-term erosion scenarios out to 10,000 years. This study is looking at cohesive sediments, rainfall, climate change, and snow melt. The team considered several models and decided to use the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hydraulic Engineering Center River Analysis System, or HEC-RAS. They will use a two-dimensional model to consider different assumptions around sediment and water flow using NYSERDA's LiDAR data.

The team has developed a geological cross section of the site.

The current flow model shows a two-year storm event, a 500-year event, and a 24-hour event water depth. The more intense the storm is, more water depth will build across the site. Higher areas will be drier than lower areas.

The next steps are to develop the quasi-unsteady flow model, update the model with climate change data, develop sediment erosion data, and develop a report.

Paul Bembia asked how the team will estimate future topography. Tom responded that given the time and budget for this study, it's going to be difficult to provide anything more than a very simple estimate of that. The significance is in determining the questions that need to be asked, and this is one of those.

Consideration of CTF Ground Rules

Nancy Raca introduced a discussion about the CTF ground rules. Lee Gordon provided a recap of the process over the past several months, reminding the CTF that in previous discussion there seemed to be consensus on changes to four of five areas addressed. For the fifth area, which had to do with how DOE and NYSERDA would consider CTF recommendations pertaining to the NEPA and SEQRA process, the group had not yet reached consensus.

Based on feedback received from the CTF, NYSERDA is no longer proposing to change the language in that section but would like to retain the original language. The CTF agreed to accept the changes as proposed, retaining the original language about CTF recommendations.

NYSERDA and the CTF facilitator will create clean copies of the ground rules and put them on the CTF website.

Other Topics

A CTF member asked for a presentation from DOE about TRU and high-level waste and how it might be handled in the future. Steve Bousquet noted that there has been no change in plans for these wastes but that he could give a presentation on waste storage maintenance at the June CTF meeting. He referred interested CTF members and observers to the [2021 GAO report on the CTF website](#).

Ray will present at the April CTF meeting about progress on the public outreach process of the ECA grant.

Ray Raffel noted that he and John Pfeffer are planning a trip to Washington, DC for this Spring, possibly in May. Dates are being determined but anyone interested in going should contact John or Ray. Nancy Raca will circulate the presentation from the last DC visit for CTF revisions. Ray Vaughan indicated that, schedule permitting, he is interested in attending.

Observer Comments

There was some discussion about who can make final decisions about the disposal of TRU/high-level waste. DOE believes that Congressional action is required.

An observer asked whether the public could get any site-related documents before the public comment period. Lee Gordon stated that NYSERDA and DOE are following the NEPA and SEQRA process, which call for release of these materials with the Draft EIS. In the meantime, we will continue to offer technical updates from Neptune at quarterly public meetings and in Thursday morning conversations with Neptune staff following the quarterly public meetings.

Next Steps

The next CTF meeting will be on April 24, 2024.

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Raca; 3/27/24
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 3/27/24
ECA Grant Presentation	Ray Vaughan: 3/27/24
Decision Milestones	Gordon: 3/27/24