

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Nancy Raca, Highland Planning
Date: April 25, 2024
Subject: **Summary of April 24, 2024, Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Location: Ashford Office Complex and Zoom (register at

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eoEXKQYIR7maaZQ4F2x_dg)

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

Members

Charlie Davis, John Eberth, John Hood, Ken Kassel, Kathy McGoldrick, Anthony Memmo, Joe Patti, Raymond Raffel, Pat Townsend, Shannon Seneca, Ray Vaughan

Facilitator and Notetakers: Nancy Raca, Tanya Zwahlen

Agency Participants and Observers

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

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, Elizabeth Lowes, Joe Pillittere, Kelly Wooley

New York State Department of Health: David O'Hehir

Observers: Adam Fisher, Bill Logue, Kevin Sullivan, Abe Zeitoun, Conrad Sherman (EPA), Diane D'Arrigo

Welcome, Announcements, Administrative Business

CTF Facilitator Nancy Raca welcomed all present, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the meeting agenda.¹ There were no administrative updates from NYSERDA or DOE.

CHBWV West Valley Demonstration Project Update

Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

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

Safety: The Total Recordable Case Rate is unchanged at 0.57 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). To date, all extraction cells have been removed. The acid recovery cell, the chemical process cell, the hot cells, and the sample cells have all been removed. The team is making good progress while proceeding carefully and deliberately to ensure safety.

In April, the team has been removing the Extraction Chemical Room that was above the extraction cells and the stairs leading up to it on the east side. The team also used a grapple attachment to remove debris on the west side of the Main Plant as well as the 1C sampler. The 1C sampler, also known as the “Green Giant,” was placed in a special container for shipping. Overall, deconstruction of the MPPB is a little over halfway complete (about 54% by waste volume). Projected finish date is June 2025.

In response to a question, Mr. Wooley gave an update on the saw tool. He indicated that the team is testing the saw but has not yet decided whether to use it in the deconstruction.

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

Proposed Amendments to CTF Policy

CTF member Ray Vaughan presented a follow-up to his presentation in March related to the ECA grant-funded hydro-erosion study. Mr. Vaughan said that he, Shannon Seneca, Tom Morahan (the consultant conducting the study) and Tom’s colleague Jason, have submitted a proposal to present about the study to the New York State Council of Professional Geologists in November.

Mr. Vaughan also showed a slide presenting two proposed amendments to the principles laid out in the CTF’s 1998 final report:

1. The CTF expects that the site shall be capable of being characterized, modeled, analyzed and monitored.
2. The CTF expects that modeling done to characterize the site will provide a useful framework for working through any substantial differences in results from different models.

Mr. Vaughan proposed that the CTF decide whether to adopt these amendments at the June CTF meeting. The CTF facilitator will circulate Mr. Vaughan’s slide to the CTF for consideration.

Presentation on ECA Public Engagement Grant

CTF member Charlie Davis and CTF alternate member John Hood gave an update on the public engagement portion of the Town of Ashford's ECA grant. Mr. Hood explained that in addition to the hydro-erosion study, the ECA grant provides funds to support public outreach about the West Valley site. Mr. Davis and Mr. Hood have worked with the Town of Ashford and others to develop a draft presentation that could be used in this outreach. They presented the draft presentation and took comments and suggestions from the CTF.

The presentation covered a brief history of the site, the cleanup decision-making process, and possible alternatives in the SEIS for Phase 2. It also presented potential risks associated with erosion and the ways that communities can get involved.

The CTF offered suggestions for changes to the draft presentation, including clarifying some terms and location information about the watershed, celebrating the good work done to date at the site on the north side of the SDA, providing a clearer timeline, and simplifying some of the slides. CTF members will submit their comments on the presentation in writing to Mr. Davis and Mr. Hood.

The presenters clarified that the presentation is a product of the Town of Ashford, which is the grant holder, and that they are seeking input from the CTF on this draft. The hope is that CTF members will eventually use it to inform communities about the site.

The presenters also referenced a resolution they have drafted that municipalities could consider adopting to demonstrate their commitment and concern about the site. This is not a resolution for the CTF. This resolution has not yet been circulated.

Results of CTF Self-Evaluation Survey

The facilitator reviewed the results of the 2023 CTF self-evaluation survey. There were 11 responses. Results are available [here](#). As a result of the survey responses, Ms. Raca, Mr. Gordon, and Mr. Bembia noted that they are always interested in hearing feedback, and CTF members should feel free to contact them. Also, the CTF facilitator will reach out to each member to make sure she understands their needs and concerns.

Observer Comments

An online observer made a suggestion for the public outreach presentation. She encouraged the presenters to indicate the hazardous life of radioactive materials, in addition to the half-life of each.

Next Steps

The next CTF meeting will be on June 26, 2024. The group will consider a site visit for this summer.

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Raca; 4/24/24
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV; 4/24/24
Proposed policy amendment	Ray Vaughan: 4/24/24
2023 CTF Self-evaluation survey results	Raca: 4/24/24