

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Nancy Raca, Highland Planning
Date: July 1, 2024
Subject: **Summary of June 26, 2024, Meeting**

Next Meeting

Site Tour

Date & Time: July 24th, 2:50 p.m. – **Prior RSVP required**

Location: West Valley Demonstration Project

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

Members

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

Alternates: Kevin Boyle, Jordan Buffalo, John Hood, Shannon Seneca

Facilitator and Notetakers: Nancy Raca, Heike Jacob, Katrina Lim

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Steve Bousquet, Josh DesMarais

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): Jason Casper, Joe Ebert, Elizabeth Lowes, Joe Pillittere, Kelly Wooley,

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

New York State DEC: Patrick Concannon, Lynn Winterberger

Observers: Diane D’Arrigo, Peter Okrasa, Kevin Sullivan, Sean McCandless, Jim Werner, Anna Carr, Bill Logue, Joanne Hameister, Alyssa Warrior

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. Bryan Bower of U.S.

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

DOE announced that Ike White has left DOE to serve on the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB). Candice Robertson will lead the Office of Environmental Management (EM) at DOE going forward.

Pat Townsend proposed Shannon Seneca as the alternate CTF member for the League of Women Voters. Anthony Memmo proposed Jordan Buffalo as the alternate CTF member for the Seneca Nation. The CTF accepted both nominations.

Ms. Raca announced that there will be no regular CTF meeting in July. Instead, there will be a tour of the West Valley site for interested CTF members and alternates. RSVP to Ms. Raca is required in order to take part in the tour.

CHBWV West Valley Demonstration Project Update

Kelly Wooley of CHBWV presented a project update.

Safety: The Total Recordable Case Rate is 0.28 and Days Away Restricted or Transferred (DART) is 0.00. The last recordable injury was in June 2023.

Main Plant Process Building Deconstruction: Mr. Wooley shared a list of 48 completed areas in the deconstruction of the Main Plant Process Building. Major achievements include removal of Extraction Cells 1, 2, and 3, the Chemical Process Cell components and windows, and the ventilation exhaust cell and plenum. Mr. Wooley presented photos comparing the Main Plant in 2022 to its current status as of May 2024, showing noticeable differences as parts of the building have been removed.

Waste and Site Operations. The site has safely overpacked and shipped all eight High Integrity Containers (HICs). Two more Chemical Process Cell waste containers have been processed and overpacked; one will ship in June and one in July. Nine of 12 legacy oversized debris containers have been shipped, and the remaining three will be shipped in July (2 containers) and September (1 container).

Presentation: WVDP Transuranic (TRU) and High-Level Waste Storage

Joe Ebert, Field Production Project Manager at CHBWV, gave a presentation on TRU and high-level waste storage at West Valley. His presentation covered the nature of the waste management program at WVDP, the origin and history of WVDP TRU waste, the TRU waste management storage process, the high-level waste relocation project, and high-level waste inspection and maintenance.

Mr. Ebert's full presentation is available [here](#).

CTF members inquired about the potential consequences to the waste storage area in the event of a 500-year or 1000-year rainfall event. Mr. Ebert said he would look into this.* CTF members also asked about plans for the waste in case there is no permanent repository identified in the next 50 years. Bryan Bower of DOE responded that there are actions they can take to ensure integrity in the future, including placing the interior canisters into new storage casks.

**(Provided post-meeting) The HLW VSC Pad is located above the 100-year floodplain. Under all flooding scenarios, even the probable maximum flood, the VSCs are heavy enough that they will not topple over or slide on the concrete pad.*

Presentation: Western New York Service Center Development and Early History

Brad Frank of NYSERDA gave an overview of the history of the West Valley site. His presentation covered the origins of spent nuclear fuel reprocessing under the Atoms for Peace program in the 1950s. Mr. Frank referenced public reaction to the establishment of the site in 1961 and reviewed the reprocessing operations that took place from 1966 – 1972. He also discussed the products of the operation, including plutonium and uranium. The vast majority of the plutonium and uranium products were delivered to sites performing national defense activities. Reprocessing operations ended in 1972, and in 1980 Congress passed the West Valley Demonstration Project Act ordering DOE to solidify the HLW, dispose of the HLW and other wastes at the site, and decommission site facilities.

Mr. Frank's full presentation is available [here](#).

A CTF member asked how much has been spent to date to clean up the site. The answer is about \$3 billion.

Proposed Amendments to CTF Policy

CTF member Ray Vaughan reviewed two previously 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 discuss these amendments and decide whether to adopt them. He proposed that if the amendments are adopted, a letter could be sent to DOE and NYSERDA as well as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the NYS DEC.

CTF members discussed the proposal and concluded that further refinement was necessary to clarify the language and the desired process. Shannon Seneca and Kathy McGoldrick offered to work with Mr. Vaughan on the language of the proposal.

Observer Comments

Observers asked to clarify some points from the presentation, including whether there is contamination under the high-level waste storage pad. That area was excavated before the pad was placed.

Next Steps

Because there will be a site tour in July and a Quarterly Public Meeting in August, the next CTF meeting will be on September 25, 2024.

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Raca, 6/26/24
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV, 6/26/24
WVDP TRU and HLW Storage	CHBWV, 6/26/24
WNY NSC Development & Early History	NYSERDA, 6/26/24
Proposed policy amendments	Ray Vaughan, 4/24/24