

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Nancy Raca, Highland Planning
Date: October 4, 2024
Subject: **Summary of September 25, 2024, Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: October 23, 2024

Location: Ashford Office Park, 9030 U.S. 219, West Valley

Zoom registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GsFh_URzQZWh3zO0WoZpIA

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

Members

Charlie Davis, John Eberth, Lee James, Ken Kassel, Joe Patti, Raymond Raffel, Mary Reid, Kara Stimson, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan

Alternates: Jordan Buffalo, Adam Fisher, 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, Andrea Mellon

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

New York State Department of Health: Cynthia Costello

Observers: Tony Barton, Diane D'Arrigo, Kevin Sullivan, Melissa Sullivan, B. Sams, Abe Zeitoun, Joanne Hameister, Kelsey Shank, Tom Morahan, Kevin Greene

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 and U.S. DOE. CTF member Charlie Davis introduced Adam Fisher as his new alternate, which was acknowledged by the CTF, NYSERDA, and DOE.

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

Project Update

Kelly Woolley of CHBWV provided an update on project safety statistics, highlighting a total recordable case rate of 0.29 and no lost time cases since April 2023. He reviewed progress at the site, including deconstruction of the Process Mechanical Cell, the Load-in/Load-out Facility, the Chemical Process Cell Crane Room, and the Equipment Decontamination room.

All eight High Integrity Containers (HICs) have been shipped, as have two additional Chemical Process Cell specialty waste containers. 12 of 12 legacy oversized debris containers have been shipped.

At the end of this phase of deconstruction, there will be an at-grade pad with soil and a membrane on top of it. This will remain until Phase 1B.

CTF Discussion

Ms. Raca referred to the survey about transuranic (TRU) waste that the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) issued, which Ms. Raca distributed to the CTF in July. The survey asks for opinions on what kind of waste should be allowed at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. NYSERDA encouraged CTF members to be involved in any surveys or public comment opportunities about this, as there could be an argument for allowing waste from West Valley at the WIPP. A CTF member encouraged the CTF to review a report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) that looks at the issue of TRU waste disposal and recommends Congressional Action. NYSERDA concurred with this recommendation.

Hydro-Erosion Study

CTF member Ray Vaughan introduced Tom Morahan of NY Geology, who is performing the hydro-erosion study funded under the ECA grant awarded to the Town of Ashford. Mr. Morahan reviewed the parameters of the model he and Dr. Vaughan have developed. The model looks at both erosion and deposition of sediment. It also calculates and shows shear stress across stream channels. The goal will be to calibrate the model to Neptune's hillslope advance rate and assess the effects of climate change in which storms become more frequent and more intense, resulting in higher rates of erosion.

Mr. Morahan will return for the CTF's October meeting for further explanation of these forecasted rates of erosion.

Observer Comments

A CTF member commented that, in the interest of making the site as clean as possible, the team might focus on removing the waste with the longest half-lives first. One complication of this is that much of the waste is mixed with other waste and therefore may be difficult to separate.

Next Steps

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Raca, 9/25/24
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV, 9/25/24
Hydo-erosion modeling presentation	CHBWV, 9/25/24
GAO report	GAO, 9/25/24