

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Nancy Raca, Highland Planning
Date: January 29, 2025
Subject: **Summary of January 22, 2025, Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: March 26, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

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

Zoom registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_51sHvXD-QRqKHg3g7aOEgw

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

Members

Charlie Davis, John Eberth, Kathy McGoldrick, John Pfeffer, Ray Raffel, Kara Stimson, Ray Vaughan

Alternates: Jordan Buffalo, Adam Fisher, Shannon Seneca

Facilitator and Notetakers: Nancy Raca, Leanne Voit, Katrina Lim

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Bill Frederick, 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): Joe Ebert, Joe Pillittere

Observers: Patrick Concannon, Kelsey Shank, Cynthia Costello, Diane D'Arrigo, Abe Zeitoun, Sean McCandless, Tom Morahan, Kevin Sullivan, David O'Hehir, Frank Zhang, Janice Poling, Bill Logue, Elisabeth Asher

Welcome, Announcements, Administrative Business

CTF Facilitator Nancy Raca welcomed all present, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the meeting agenda.¹ Nancy reported that John Hood has left the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning. Bonnie Lawrence will suggest a new alternate once his position has been filled.

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

Nancy reviewed the CTF meeting schedule for 2025. This schedule is posted at www.westvalleyctf.org. Nancy also reviewed the report on CTF member attendance in 2024. Per a suggestion from Lee Gordon of NYSERDA, Nancy will follow up with any CTF members whose organizations did not have at least 50% attendance and ask if she can be of any assistance in helping them attend more meetings. Nancy will report back to the CTF in March on this outreach. Finally, Nancy reminded CTF members to take the online 2024 CTF self-assessment survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTF2024Eval>

Project Update

Joe Ebert of CHBWV presented a project update. The total recordable case rate is 0.29 and there have been no lost time cases since April 2023. Mr. Ebert showed many photos of the deconstruction of the Main Plant in progress. Deconstruction work began in September 2022 and is on track to be completed by June 2025. 52 of 56 areas have been completed. The remaining four deconstruction areas are the Process Mechanical Cell (East Wall), the East Mechanical Operating Aisle, the West Wall of the Off-Gas Cell, and the Product Purification Cell. These areas will be completed by April, after which crews will fill and grade the site and install a cover in preparation for transition to the new contractor and Phase 1b. Although it is challenging to work in the cold weather, the crew is able to continue.

In terms of waste operations, the team overpacked two waste tank farm pumps in December and will overpack one more in January or February. All three of these pumps will be shipped in the spring to Nevada. The site is approaching a total of more than 50 million pounds of construction debris removed and shipped.

Finally, Mr. Ebert reviewed the community support provided by WVDP and site employees in 2024, which included donations to the West Valley Fire Department, Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, and Mercy Flight. The annual food drive collected enough food for 9,500 meals, and employees donated \$6,734 to United Way and 350 toys for Toys for Tots. Employees also donated 278 volunteer hours to the community.

West Valley Soil Disposal

Andrea Mellon of NYSERDA gave a brief update on disposal of 300 cubic yards of soil and eight 55-gallon drums from the State Licensed Disposal Area (SDA). During the North Slope Stabilization project a couple of years ago, crews discovered legacy contamination from when the trenches overflowed in 1975. This waste was not chemically hazardous but was slightly radioactive. Radiation levels were very low and did not meet the Department of Transportation's requirements for placarding or labeling. This waste was shipped to the Clive, Utah, Energy Solutions facility in 32 intermodals.

ECA Grant Hydro-erosion Study Update

CTF member Ray Vaughan and consultant Tom Morahan presented an update on the modeling for the hydro-erosion study Mr. Morahan is conducting under the ECA grant. Tom demonstrated how the hydraulic modeling for the study area is set up based on the Army Corps of Engineers Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System, LiDAR data, and maps. Ray explained the nature of sediment erosion in different water level scenarios, pointing out that there are two modes of erosion they are accounting for in the study. As shear stress increases, the rate of erosion increases. In the first mode of erosion, tiny particles are pried out of the bed of the creek by the flowing water. As stream flow increases, erosion enters the second mode, in which chunks of the stream bed are removed.

Review of 2024 Summary and Goals for 2025

Nancy reviewed the 2024 activity report and noted requested changes from the CTF. A revised report will be posted at westvalleyctf.org.

The CTF discussed goals for 2025. These include a trip to Washington, DC, to meet with legislators and other officials as well as presentations on Western New York health metrics from Roswell, climatology, and a review of the planned transition from Phase 1a to 1b.

Next Steps

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Raca, 01/22/25
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV, 01/22/25
Erosion Study Update	Vaughan, 01/22/25
2024 Activities Summary	Raca, 01/22/25
2024 CTF Attendance Report	Raca, 01/22/25