

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Heike Jacob, Highland Planning
Date: March 27, 2025
Subject: **Summary of March 26, 2025 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: April 23, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

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

Zoom registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_51sHvXD-QRqKHg3q7aOEgw

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

Members: Lee James, Kathy McGoldrick, Jordan Buffalo, Joe Patti, John Pfeffer, Ray Raffel, Mary Reid, Patricia Townsend, Ray Vaughan

Alternates: Shannon Seneca, Kevin Boyle

Facilitator and Notetakers: Heike Jacob, Leanne Voit, Katrina Lim

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, William Frederick, Jeff D'Agostino, Josh DesMarais

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

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

Observers: Conrad Sherman, Cynthia Costello, Dee Gray, Derick Dietrich, Derrek Asberry, Diana Shannon, Frank Zhang, Kelsey Shank, Lynn Winterberger, Patrick Concannon, Rachel Murphy, Rick Miller, Steven McDonnell, Todd Gates

Welcome, Announcements, Administrative Business

CTF Facilitator Heike Jacob opened the March 26, 2025 meeting introducing herself as the new facilitator, as Nancy Raca has accepted a position elsewhere. She also conducted a roll call and reviewed the meeting agenda. Membership changes were also reported with John Hood and Tony Memmo stepping down with Jordan Buffalo taking Tony's place. Heike also reported that she reached out to those who have had less than 50% attendance in 2024, and that a lot of it was due to Zoom issues and also staff capacity at those organizations.

DOE announced that Candice Trummell, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, has left DOE, and Dae Chung is now acting in her position. Dae Chung has visited the site several times and is very familiar with the site.

Project Update

Jason Casper of CHBWV provided an update on the progress of the main plant process building demolition. The total recordable case rate is 0.56 and there have been no lost time cases since

April 2023. Out of 56 identified areas, only one remains—the Product Purification Cell (PPC). The off-gas cell demolition was completed successfully. Jason also gave a detailed explanation of the demolition process and how contamination is being managed. Significant progress has been made on the PPC demolition, bringing Phase 1 closer to completion.

Over 1,290 containers of building debris have been shipped off-site, including 215 rail cars and 25,000 tons of waste. Additionally, 87 specialty containers have been shipped, with only a few remaining. Four legacy pumps are being removed and will be shipped off-site. The 8D-4 tank sludge sampling has been completed, and the team is awaiting analysis results. Tooling for future tank sampling has been stored for potential re-use.

CTF Business and Updates

Review of the 2024 Survey

The usefulness of CTF surveys was discussed, with concerns raised about the limited response rate—only 7 out of 15 members responded. There was discussion regarding the survey format and the types of questions being asked. It was decided to resend the survey with a stronger emphasis on its importance. Additionally, there was a suggestion to conduct individual check-ins with CTF members to informally gather feedback on the CTF activities and process.

Future Presentations and Meetings

Plans for a D.C. trip were discussed, tentatively scheduled for late April or early May, with John Pfeffer coordinating schedules and preparing a lobby packet. A presentation on health statistics by Roswell Park Cancer Institute is planned for the fall. There was also a discussion about a climatology presentation by UB geologists. Shannon Seneca will reach out to the UB geologists to see if they are interested in presenting at the June meeting. DOE will present a refresher on the transition from Phase 1A to Phase 1B decommissioning and Phase 2 progress at the April meeting.

Membership and Transition Updates

The group discussed adding youth representation to the CTF and suggested involving local schools. Joe Patti announced that he is planning to retire soon and that new representatives for the business community and the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company will need to be found. Jason Casper was announced as the future President of the West Valley Cleanup Alliance. The transition from CHBWV to the West Valley Cleanup Alliance is scheduled between February 24 and June 23. The agencies shared that the SEIS process is on track for Phase 2 decisions in 2027.

Next Steps

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Jacob, 3/24/25
CHBWV Project Update	CHBWV, 3/20/25
Survey Results	Jacob, 3/24/25