

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Heike Jacob, Highland Planning
Date: October 15, 2025
Subject: **Summary of September 24, 2025, Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: October 22, 2025, 6:30PM

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: Kara Stimson, John Eberth, Lee James, Kathy McGoldrick, Jordan Buffalo, Raymond Raffel, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan

Alternates: Shannon Seneca, Kevin Boyle, Adam Fisher, Joanna Panasiewicz, Todd Gates

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

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, William Frederick, Stephen Bousquet

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA): Lee Gordon, Brad Frank

West Valley Cleanup Alliance (WVCA): Peggy Loop

Neptune (contractor): Paul Duffy

Observers: Lynn Winterberger, David Skutt, Steven McDonnell, Kevin Sullivan, Diane D'Arrigo, Janice Poling, Sean McCandless, Frank Zhang, Jim Werner, Cynthia Costello, Abe Zeitoun, Paul Black, Bill Sundeen

Welcome, Announcements, Administrative Business

CTF Facilitator Heike Jacob opened the September 24, 2025 meeting as the facilitator and conducted a roll call. DOE announced that Joel Bradburne has been appointed Acting EM11, replacing Roger Durrell as Acting Head of the Office of Environmental Management. No administrative updates were reported from NYSERDA.

Project Update

Peggy Loop, WVCA, provided an overview of current work under Task Order 2 of the new contract. Safety performance remains strong with zero recordable injuries over the last twelve months. Crews are focused on demolition of the remaining near- and below-grade components of the Main Plant Process Building, including legacy liners, containers, and pump storage vaults. Radiological and geotechnical soil sampling is underway to determine contamination levels and inform the design of a subsurface barrier wall. Planning and design work is progressing for

rerouting the site's fire loop and utilities to ensure safe and reliable operation during future excavation activities. Additional efforts include the disposition of legacy waste; removal of shielding structures and vaults no longer in use; upgrades to roadways, walkways, and landings to maintain worker safety; and ongoing environmental monitoring. Preparations are also being made for the removal of the former fuel receiving storage facility, which remains a priority for the current phase of work.

CTF Business and Updates

Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA)

Paul Duffy of Neptune presented on the Probabilistic Performance Assessment (PPA), a long-term modeling tool that evaluates potential future risks from radioactive material in the subsurface of the West Valley site. The model accounts for how contaminants may move through soil and groundwater, how erosion could expose buried waste, and how people, plants, and animals could be affected over thousands of years. Unlike deterministic models that use single fixed values, the PPA uses probabilistic ranges to better represent uncertainty. The site is divided into 10 Waste Management Areas and more than 450 decision units, with about 60 radionuclides tracked that meaningfully contribute to long-term risk.

The model evaluates exposure through a “resident farmer” scenario, assuming future individuals might live on the site, grow food, use local water, and spend time in areas where waste has been exposed. It also considers off-site transport of contaminants through creeks to the Lake Erie watershed. Exposure pathways include ingestion of food, water, and soil, inhalation of gases and dust, and external gamma radiation. These pathways are used to estimate long-term (chronic) radiological dose.

The PPA is being used to support Phase 2 SEIS decision-making. Alternatives being modeled include no action, full site-wide removal, full in-place closure, and hybrid options where selected high-risk units are removed prior to closure. By ranking decision units according to their contribution to risk, the PPA helps identify which areas may have the greatest impact on health and safety if addressed. Neptune is also developing white papers on erosion, groundwater, and health modeling, along with a public-facing website and player version of the model that will allow the public to explore data and assumptions once the SEIS comment period begins.

Discussion and Questions

A CTF member raised questions about erosion modeling assumptions, probability distributions, and the use of historic data to forecast future erosion, cautioning against deterministic choices in input data, which could bias results, and emphasizing the need for transparency. The CTF member also questioned whether past erosion rates are a reliable predictor of future stream widening.

Paul Duffy of Neptune explained that the model incorporates ranges of values to capture uncertainty and applies conservative assumptions, often resulting in more aggressive timelines for erosion than might occur naturally. He noted that a detailed erosion white paper compiles both historical and site-specific data to support the model.

A CTF member emphasized that treaty rights must be fully considered in all decision-making and noted that some maps shown during presentations did not include Seneca Nation lands, despite their proximity to Cattaraugus Creek and other waterways. They stressed that all maps and models should clearly identify the Nation, as well as downstream receptors such as Lake Ontario, to reflect potential impacts. They reiterated that treaty rights have been violated in the past and that DOE and contractors must ensure decisions do not further infringe on the Seneca Nation's rights to free use and enjoyment of their land.

Additional concerns were raised about providing detailed waste inventory data by trench or decision unit. DOE and Neptune confirmed that topical white papers and a public-facing player version of the model will be released with the draft SEIS to allow detailed review of waste inventory data by decision unit. In addition, a detailed waste inventory by trench was completed by the Exhumation Working Group during Phase 1 Studies and is available at wvphaseonestudies.emcbc.doe.gov.

CTF Business and Updates

CTF members met with Senator Borrello, Congressman Langworthy, and Assemblyman Sempolinski to discuss increasing PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) funding for the Town of Ashford. All three officials expressed support for developing a proposal to update PILOT payments, which have not been increased since 1997.

DOE addressed questions regarding a potential federal government shutdown, noting that some carryover funds are available to maintain operations, but final decisions will depend on federal direction.

Next Steps

The next CTF meeting will be on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. The next Quarterly Public Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2025. Members are encouraged to send agenda items or requests for additional presentations in advance.

Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

Description	Generated by; Date
Meeting Agenda	Jacob, 9/12/25
WVCA Project Update	WVCA, 9/18/25
PPA Model Overview	Neptune, 9/23/25
Probabilistic Performance Assessment Issues	Vaughan, 9/24/25