

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force
From: Heike Jacob, Highland Planning
Date: January 30, 2026
Subject: **Summary of January 28, 2026 Meeting**

Next Meeting

Date & Time: March 25, 2026, 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: Charlie Davis, Kara Stimson, John Eberth, Jordan Buffalo, Joe Patti, Pat Townsend

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

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

Agency Participants and Observers

Department of Energy (DOE): Bryan Bower, Bill Frederick, Steve Bousquet, Jeff D'Agostino, Scott McCabe

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

West Valley Cleanup Alliance (WVCA): Jason Casper, Joe Pillittere

Observers: Bill Sundeen, Lynn Winterberger, Patrick Concannon, Kelsey Shank, Evertt Orr, Vanessa Schenavar, Sean McCandless, Derick Dietrich, Brian Frazer, Ken Picha, Diane D'Arrigo, Frank Zhang, Abe Zeitoun, David Skutt

Welcome/Administrative Updates

CTF Facilitator Heike Jacob opened the January 28, 2026 meeting as the facilitator and conducted a roll call. No administrative updates were reported from NYSERDA or DOE. Heike Jacob reviewed the meeting procedures.

Project Update

Jason Casper, WVCA, provided an update on the Phase 1B scope being completed under the new contract. He reported that safety performance under the new contract remains exceptional, with zero incidents to date, and emphasized that safety continues to serve as the foundation for all work activities.

Jason reviewed the Phase 1B scope, which includes demolition of the remaining near-grade and below-grade portions of the Main Process Plant. He explained that substantial concrete remains below grade, representing a significant upcoming workload.

Concurrent with demolition, the project will begin contaminated soil remediation and disposition in Waste Management Area 1 (WMA1). This work is expected to generate significantly more waste than previous above-grade demolition. He also noted that the team is evaluating approaches for disposition of legacy Greater Than Class C (GTCC) waste and will complete removal of remaining sludge in Tank 8D-4.

He described recent field preparation work, including completion of characterization and geotechnical sampling to better define radiological conditions and support design of the WMA1 barrier wall.

He also reported that demolition of smaller site structures over the past several months generated more than three million pounds of waste, including 28 degraded liners, 17 vitrification (VIT) vault lid sections, 15 SurePaks, and three vitrification vaults. The debris from these demolitions was loaded into 72 approved waste containers.

Jason reviewed other ongoing work activities, such as the design for the new fire loop and onsite rail upgrade and the work plan to remove the former Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) facility.

A CTF member asked about the amount of snow that fell on the site. Jason answered that there was quite a lot of snow, but that they were able to move it out of the work areas and continue with work.

Main Plant Process Building Demolition Lessons Learned

Bill Frederick and Scott McCabe, DOE, summarized lessons learned from the Main Plant Process Building Demolition. They emphasized that successful completion ahead of schedule and under budget was driven by extensive front-end planning, detailed work instruction packages, and strong engineering controls.

They highlighted the role of protected assumptions, prescribed demolition rates, and real-time air monitoring in maintaining compliance, as well as equipment adaptations that improved efficiency and reduced worker exposure. Adaptive dust suppression, fixatives, and stormwater controls were key to preventing off-site emissions. These practices are being carried forward into Phase 1B planning.

It was reported that demolition was completed May 16, 2025, one month ahead of schedule, at a total cost of \$164 million, \$42 million under budget. Approximately 28,850 tons of waste were shipped using rail and specialty containers.

A CTF member asked how many work days were lost due to inclement weather. DOE answered that they did not know the exact number, but very few full days were lost; the biggest disruption was a January 2023 wind event that caused a power outage and site shutdown.

Heavy snow, cold, or heat occasionally caused delays, but overall, work continued through most weather conditions.

CTF Business and Updates

WVDP Reauthorization

A brief update was provided on the West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act, which was introduced by Congressman Langworthy in November 2025. The West Valley Demonstration Project Reauthorization Act would extend cleanup authorization through 2037 while doubling annual federal funding from \$75 million to \$150 million.

A CTF member noted upcoming meetings in Washington, D.C. with Senator Gillibrand's office to discuss Senate-side support for the legislation.

Other Updates

A CTF member raised questions about potential downstream dredging activities being completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Cattaraugus Creek Harbor (<https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/glns/>). DOE noted established communication channels with the Army Corps if coordination is needed.

A CTF member noted that the Seneca Nation has opened a public comment period on draft water quality standards which closes on February 24.

Next Steps

Heike Jacob reminded members that the CTF end-of-year survey is due February 4 and encouraged suggestions for future agenda topics.

The next CTF meeting will be on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. The next Quarterly Public Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2026. 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; 1/22/26
WVCA Project Update	WVCA; 1/26/26
Main Plant Process Building Demolition Lessons Learned	DOE; 1/28/26