

To: West Valley Citizen Task Force  
From: Heike Jacob, Highland Planning  
Date: April 30, 2026  
Subject: **Summary of April 22, 2026 Meeting**

## Next Meeting

Date & Time: June 24, 2026

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

Zoom registration: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_51sHvXD-QRqKHg3q7aOEgw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_51sHvXD-QRqKHg3q7aOEgw)

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

**Members:** Charlie Davis, Kara Stimson, Kathy McGoldrick, Jordan Buffalo, Joe Patti, Raymond Raffel, Pat Townsend, Ray Vaughan

**Alternates:** Joanna Panasiewicz, Todd Gates, Kevin Boyle

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

## Agency Participants and Observers

**Department of Energy (DOE):** Steve Bousquet, Jeff D'Agostino

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

**West Valley Cleanup Alliance (WVCA):** Jason Casper, Joe Pillittere, Robert Wade, Steve Kirschenmann

**Observers:** Diane D'Arrigo, Ed Heidelberger, Maria Maybee, Abe Zeitoun, Darcy Gates, Vanessa Schenavar, Sean McCandless, David Skutt, John Buckley, Jonathan Woolson, Irene Le, Karen Bunzer, Leah Perninen, Kahteraks Quinney

## Welcome/Administrative Updates

CTF Facilitator Heike Jacob opened the April 22, 2026 meeting and conducted a roll call. No administrative updates were reported from NYSERDA or DOE.

## Project Update and Cleanup Progress

Jason Casper, President and Program Manager of the West Valley Cleanup Alliance (WVCA), presented an update on the project and cleanup progress, beginning with the safety record and a review of the Phase 1B scope. WVCA noted that the third and final phase of radiological sampling has begun to inform the final design and placement of the retention wall needed for the excavation of the soil in Waste Management Area 1 (WMA-1). WVCA workers successfully completed a major filter changeout on the Waste Tank Farm's permanent ventilation system,

finishing the job safely, compliantly, and without any contamination or unplanned releases. Also, the replacement ventilation units inside the Head End Replacement Ventilation Unit Building (RVU) have been removed and loaded into intermodal waste containers to be shipped offsite. The high-level waste trench pipe removal is also complete. WVCA is continuing to work on the plan for removal of the RVU building, as well as the WMA-1 utility re-route designs, work document development, and procurement. WVCA is also continuing to work on the approach to the WMA-1 excavation and the work plan to remove the former Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) facility. WVCA stated that the FRS work plan will be finalized within the next week.

CTF members raised questions about how soil will be staged, whether materials will be separated by contamination level, and how water will be managed in trench conditions. DOE and WVCA indicated that all excavated material will be dispositioned and that water will be collected and treated onsite. A CTF also member inquired about a second vehicle impact with the Felton Hill Bridge. DOE confirmed that Buffalo Pittsburgh Rail has inspected the bridge and that site operations will not be impacted.

## Draft SEIS Comment Period Preparation

Ray Vaughan asked the agencies to confirm that the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Phase 2 decision would be published in mid-2027. NYSERDA confirmed that a preliminary schedule presented last year projected a DSEIS publication in mid-2026 and that the timeline will be extended. Work is progressing to accommodate refinements to the PPA model and conduct in-depth review of substantial technical work products as well as interagency review. The agencies will provide a more refined schedule to the CTF as further progress is made toward these milestones but it is not anticipated that publication of the DSEIS—and the start of the associated six-month public comment period—will occur before mid-2027.

Ray Vaughan suggested that the CTF could form a working group to prepare for the six-month public comment period and potentially engage outside experts for key issues. He referred to a draft CTF work product from 2022 that identified a number of key issues of concern to the CTF based on the SEIS Final Scope. CTF members were generally supportive of the creation of a working group to begin preparing for the public comment period.

The CTF Facilitator will redistribute the SEIS Final Scope, which summarizes the potential environmental issues that the SEIS will analyze, and contact the CTF members who expressed interest in taking part in the working group to schedule the first working group meeting.

## CTF Business and Updates

The next annual CTF trip to Washington DC to meet with members of Congress or staff and possibly with DOE Office of Environmental Management leadership, is scheduled to take place on June 9 and June 10, with the majority of meetings expected to occur on June 10. CTF members were encouraged to reach out to John Pfeffer if they are interested in attending.

## Observer Comments

Observers expressed concerns regarding contamination, legacy waste, and environmental health, underscoring the cultural and ecological significance of water and the need for careful stewardship during cleanup activities. Observers also emphasized the importance of maintaining the full six-month public comment period for the SEIS, regardless of potential regulatory changes, and reinforced the need for ongoing transparency and inclusive engagement.

## Next Steps

The next CTF meeting will be on Wednesday, June 24, 2026. The next Quarterly Public Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026. Members are encouraged to send agenda items or requests for additional presentations in advance.

### Meeting Documents Available on the CTF Website

<b>Description</b>	<b>Generated by; Date</b>
Meeting Agenda	Jacob; 4/16/26
WVDP Project Update	WVCA; 4/20/26