

**NYSERDA'S 76th WASTE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING
October 23, 2024
Clean Copy of Transcript**

Janice Dean:

Hi all. I just wanted to make sure Brad Frank is on the presenter level.

Brad Frank:

I'm here, Janice.

Janice Dean:

Okay, great. Yeah, I can't see you from my where I sit. Thanks very much, Chuck. I believe that should be everyone if you want to get started anytime.

Charles Bell:

Okay. I call this meeting of the Wasting Facilities Management Committee to order, and I know the presence of the quorum notice of this meeting was provided to the Committee members on October 15 and to the press on October 16, 2024. I would also like to note that this meeting is being video conferenced and that the Authority will be posting a video of this meeting on the web to confirm that we have a quorum. I would like each Member of the Committee to please introduce themselves. I'm Chuck Belk, Chair of the Committee.

Sherburne Abbott:

Shere Abbott, Member of the Committee.

Lindsay Greene:

Lindsey Greene, Member of the Committee.

Chair Kauffman:

Richard Kauffman, Chair of the Authority.

Charles Bell:

Thank you. And then Albany, we've got everyone here, right? Correct. Thank you. The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the April 29, 2024. Meeting. Copy of the minutes was included with the October 15 mailing. Are there any comments on the minutes? Hearing none. May please have a motion approving. The minutes

Lindsay Greene:

Moved.

Charles Bell:

Second?

Sherburne Abbott:

Second.

Charles Bell:

All in favor, please say aye.

Members of the Committee:

Aye.

Charles Bell:

Any opposed? Thank you. Motion's carried. The next item on the agenda is the review and approval of the Waste and Facilities Management Committee Charter Pursuant to the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, each of the Authority's Committees adopted Charters setting forth each Committee's responsibilities. One of these responsibilities is to periodically review its Charter and determine what if any amendments need to be made. These recommendations are then presented to the full board for consideration and approval. A copy of the current Committee Charter was included in your meeting package. Counsel's Office continually monitors relevant guidance from the Authority's' Budget Office, the Comptroller's Office legislation, and other Authority practices to determine whether to recommend any modifications other Authority's reviewed include the New York Power Authority, Long Island Power Authority, Dormitory Authority, and the Environmental Facilities Corporation. Having conducted this review management is not recommending any changes to the Waste and Facilities Management Committee Charter at this time. Are there any questions or suggested changes to the Charter for the Committee? Hearing none may please have a motion recommending approval of the Waste and Facility Management Committee Charter.

Lindsay Greene:

So moved.

Sherburne Abbott:

Second.

Charles Bell:

Thank you. All in favor, please say aye.

Members of the Committee:

Aye. Aye.

Charles Bell:

Any opposed? Motions carried. Thank you very much. Next on the agenda is the status report on the West Valley Site Management Program activities. Brad Frank will present the report for Brad.

Brad Frank:

Thank you and good morning. I'm Brad Frank. I'm one of the program managers here in West Valley. Next slide please. I'd like to start off with a quick recap of where we are. The demolition of the main plant process building started in September of 2022. It's expected to take about 30 months to complete and the demolition will bring the facility down to grade later. In the slide deck, we're going to talk about the work that's going to follow the above grade and go below this

ground surface. The above grade work is expected to be complete during the summer of 2025. The picture you see here is from February of 2024 and the last time we spoke was in April. So I'm going to take several slides here and walk you through some of the major events that have happened over the last few months. Next slide please.

Since our last discussion in April, there's been tremendous progress made with demolition. The photo in the lower right is from March. The larger photo was taken in September. The larger photo you can easily see through the building and you can now see the hills on the eastern side of the valley. The great weather through the spring and summer allowed the crews to meet or exceed production estimates all while safely and compliantly demolishing the former fuel reprocessing plant. Slide number six is going to highlight our shipping and disposal statistics to better highlight the progress we've had over the last several months. Next slide.

In the next several slides, I'm going to walk you through the removal of one of the most contaminated and high dose items removed from the facility. To date, it's referred to locally as the vent washer. It's essentially a ventilation scrubber that sprayed water through the main ventilation system to knock down particulates before they reached a plant stack in its associated heap of filters. This resulted in the washer becoming extremely contaminated in emitting a significant radiation dose. The removal of this item required significant planning and training for the crews involved. The photo on the left shows vent washer as it looked upon removal from the main plant is the bluish metal object suspended by the large telehandler. Just below the letter A, the photo on the right shows the washer being wrapped in yellow plastic placed into a steel container. Letter B. Next slide. On the previous slide we showed the washer partially packaged. In both of these photos, the washer contained within a large yellow shipping container on the left. The container is loaded onto an oversized flatbed for shipment over the road. The container and its contents weighed over 250,000 pounds on the right. The container and haul truck await final inspection before proceeding to Nevada from the removal of the vent washer from the main plant to its eventual disposal in Nevada. There are teams of qualified experts planning and mitigating risk. The team here in West Valley has shown repeatedly that they can effectively tackle these complex problems. Next slide. Since our last discussion over 8,000 tons of debris have been shipped offsite, though that 8,000 tons was contained in 432 intermodal such as the ones depicted in the photo specialty containers have also continued to be shipped with 26, leaving the site since April. The prior slide showed one of those such specialty containers. Next slide. All the work we've discussed thus

Far is what I would call phase one A decommissioning here in West Valley. Now that is bringing the main plant down to grade the ground surface. Phase one B decommissioning here in West Valley is when we go below the ground surface below the main plant. That's going to be the subsurface subsurface demolition of the cells and operating aisles and a significant amount of contaminated soil below the main plant that's expected to take 10 to 15 years of dedicated work here in West Valley and cost roughly 1.5 billion for the removal and disposal. DOE is currently in the procurement process to select the next contractor to conduct the phase one B work and they're expected to make their announcement in late 2024 or early 2025. Next slide. I also have an update for the Committee

On the site spillway. The site's historic water supply originated roughly a mile and a half southeast of the site. You can see the dotted circle in the photo to the bottom right. That's roughly where the lakes and dams are and the site is in the upper left of that photo. So there's underground pipes to bring the water from those lakes to the site and that water was needed during the reprocessing days as part of the process to recover the uranium and plutonium from the fuel. Since the 1960s, there's been numerous over toppings of the spillway resulting in significant erosion on the spillway. The most recent repair was conducted in 2014. It was eroded in 2015, so the repair lasted about a year. So DOE has stepped back, they've relooked the design completely and they're now looking to incorporate reinforced concrete and not just have an earthen structure. The reinforced concrete will certainly give us the robustness we need to withstand the frequent over toppings that occur here. The construction should be complete in September, October of 2025. We currently have the US Army Corps of Engineers assisting with the design. Next slide. I'll stand by here for any questions from the Committee.

Charles Bell:

Any questions, comments for Brad?

Lindsay Greene:

Yes, thank you Brad. And feel free to, I'm touring next Monday, so feel free to defer some of my questions to them. The water sort of containment issue that you were just walking through that looked like that was surface water, if there's separate stuff that is necessary or planned to be done as part of the subsurface work that may deal with groundwater exposure?

Brad Frank:

Yeah, the spillway that we just saw on the last slide is clean water from local streams and it was used by the site's operator back in the sixties and seventies to bring fresh potable water into the site. It's currently used for some augmentation water, but it is clean water there and it's about a mile and a half from the actual demolition.

Lindsay Greene:

Okay, got it. So the risk there is with more frequent storm and so forth flooding coming down and flooding the sun. Is that the risk?

Brad Frank:

The risk is the lakes and dams and on the lakes and dams or the dams that are associated with those lakes, our rail spur runs. So we want to make sure that we're protecting the rail spur and with the increase in down or rain that we're having regionally here, we want to make sure that spillway is certainly robust enough to maintain at least for the next 20 or 30 years. So that rail line is fully operational if we decide to take a large action as part of phase two.

Lindsay Greene:

Got it. So that's just general sort of waterway site management, not necessarily related to the specifics of what West Valley needs Exactly. Like just good storm protection. Got it. That was what I was asking awkwardly. Thank you.

Chair Kauffman:

So the whatever phase two, the subsurface, that's still covered by our agreement with DOE?

Brad Frank:

Correct. That is still fully covered out of the consent decree with the various cost splits associated with that's Questions.

Charles Bell:

Brett, could you please remind us when was the main process plant building built?

Brad Frank:

1962 to 1963. Went into operation in 1966.

Charles Bell:

Thank you. And the reason that there is contamination below the surface in the soil is that the pipes or the processes leaked damages into the soil. Is that correct?

Brad Frank:

Correct. During the operating days from 1966 to 1972, there were several significant leaks that occurred within the main plant process building, some of which those leaks found their way through construction joints down into the soil below the main plant.

Charles Bell:

Great. Thank you so much. I just hope they have that context.

Brad Frank:

No problem.

Charles Bell:

Okay. Questions or comments for Brad? Thank you so much for your report. Final agenda item for the Committee is other business. Is there any other business? Hearing none. May please have a motion to adjourn.

Sherburne Abbott:

So moved.

Chair Kauffman:

Second.

Charles Bell:

All in favor say aye.

Members of the Committee:

Aye.

Charles Bell:

Opposed? Meeting is adjourned.