

**NYSERDA'S 75<sup>TH</sup> WASTE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
April 29, 2024  
Clean Copy of Transcript**

**Sherburne Abbott:**

They unmuted. We are.

**Doreen Harris:**

We we're good to go here.

**Charles Bell:**

I called this meeting of the Wasted Facilities Management Committee to order notice of this meeting was provided to the Committee Members on April 16, 2024 and to the press on April 17, 2024. I would also like to note that this meeting is being conducted by video conference and the Authority will be posting a video and transcript of this meeting on the web. To confirm we have a quorum, I would like to ask the Committee to please introduce themselves. I'm Chuck Bell, Vice Chair and Chair of the Committee.

**Arturo Garcia-Costas:**

Hi, I am Arturo Garcia-Costas, Member of the Committee.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Shere Abbott, Member of the Committee.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Richard Kauffman, Chair of the Authority.

**Charles Bell:**

Thank you very much. In the interest of time, we're going to shorten today's agenda. The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the January 24, 2024 meeting. A copy of the minutes was included with the April 16, 2024 mailing. Are there any comments on the minutes? May it please have a motion approving. The minutes

**Sherburne Abbott:**

So moved.

**Charles Bell:**

Second.

**Arturo Garcia-Costas:**

I second.

**Charles Bell:**

All in favor, please say aye.

**Members of the Committee:**

Aye. Aye.

**Charles Bell:**

Any opposed? Thank you. The minutes are approved. Next on the agenda is an update on the Western New York Nuclear Service Center. Brad Frank and Andrea Mellon will present the reports. Brad.

**Brad Frank:**

Alright. Can we have the next slide, please? All right. Morning, Brad Frank with NYSERDA here in West Valley and I'm going to be giving you a quick update on progress at the main plant process building demolition activities. Since our last update, we last spoke in September of this past year, so there's been a lot of progress over the interim months. But before I get into the details, I just want to let you know that the current schedule shows the project about 50% complete and it should conclude in the summer of 2025. Of note, this current contract that we're working to only brings the building down to grade. The Department of Energy is currently working through the procurement process for the next phase of work, and that phase will involve removing the below grade cells of the main plant and that could last anywhere from 10 to 15 years and is currently valued or has a ceiling on. Its the contract of \$3 billion. Next slide please.

The fall months of 2023 were focused on setting the conditions for removing several large tanks from within the main point. In order to reach the area containing the tanks, crews had to first remove the eastern wall of the chemical process cell. The photo on this slide is from September letter A shows some of the eastern wall being removed. The small photo on the bottom right attempts to show the wall intact. This wall ranges in thickness from three to four feet and has anywhere from two to three mats of rebar as you work your way through it. Letter B attempts to highlight the fifth floor of the structure and show that it's systematically removed as access is gained. So as the crews work their way through the lower floors of the main plant, they're able to reach higher and get to that fifth floor and slowly take it back. Next slide. During December, the demo contractor removed the 1960s. Vintage guardhouse for those of you on the Committee, have taken tours of the site in years past. This is a structure where you would've signed in and processed through security. A new guard house has been completed this past fall and has proven to be an excellent improvement to the site's infrastructure. The photo on the left shows the initial moments of demolition and the photo on the right shows the area completely restored. Next slide.

This photo is from February of 2024 and you can see much of the eastern wall within the chemical process cell has been removed. And if you look just below the letter B, you can see one of the newly exposed tanks that's now ready for removal. The building was essentially built around these tanks in the sixties, which is again is why the contractor had to remove exterior portions of the building to gain access. Next slide.

Some winter highlights continued here for you. The photo on the left shows the tank removed from the building being prepared for waste packaging and disposal. On the right, you have a photo of a smaller tank being placed into a waste container for disposal. Within the box there's wooden cribbing and this prevents the vessels from rolling around within the box and keeps them secured for transport to the disposal site. Before these tanks were removed from the building, it's important to note that several years of work were performed on them. If they were first characterized, the liquids were then drained and then a grout mixture or foam was then added to the tanks to ensure liquids could not enter the tanks or vessels during demolition. Next slide.

Rail shipments from site have been ongoing since its inception of a demolition here in 2022. The site is currently averaging one rail shipment every other week. The shipping numbers on this slide are current as of March 20, 2024. I've attempted to highlight the changes since our last update. Of note, 210 intermodal have been shipped since last September of representing over 4,000 tons of demolition debris and 19 specialty containers have also been shipped. Items that go into specialty containers, a great example would be the vessels that we had on the previous slide. They're shipped out in specialty containers and that's been roughly 180 tons of material shipped. Next slide please. I'll pause here for any questions or comments from the Committee.

**Charles Bell:**

Are there any questions for Brad? Hearing none. Back to you, Brad. Thank you.

**Brad Frank:**

Thanks for your time.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank you, Brad.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Thank you Brad.

**Unknown Speaker:**

Anything from Andrea? Andrea?

**Charles Bell:**

Okay. Next we're going to hear from Andrea Mellon.

**Andrea Mellon:**

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to brief the Committee on two projects that were recently completed at the state license disposal area. Next slide please.

To recap the trench 14 contaminated water or leachate level project. As you can see here in trench 14 is highlighted with an arrow pointing towards it and it's highlighted in white. Trench 14 had a historic leachate level decreases from 1992 through 2011. And this trend was due to a geo membrane cover placed on top of trench 14 in the early 1990s along with a subsurface bentonite wall west of trench 14. So groundwater that's traveling from the west toward the east towards trench 14 could not enter into trench 14 and rain and snow could not come into trench

14. However, that increase change in 2011 when levels began to rise in 2016 through 2020, NYSERDA completed an investigation of the source area of this increase and this investigation included collecting and analyzing soil samples from in and around the area of trench 14. And this helped us to identify the source area of the groundwater infiltration flow path. Next slide please.

We're on slide number three and in the center of the photo on the left, you'll see gray box that's showing the source area of this increase. And this is the NRC license disposal area hard stand and the hard stand itself is not covered, was not covered with a geo membrane. So rain and snow were allowed to enter into the hard stand, percolate down, and then travel south and into trench 14. And in order to stop that movement of the water towards trench 14, there was a two-step process to stop the groundwater. And the first was to install a subsurface sheet pile while that you see in the upper right hand corner being installed along the south side of the NRC license disposal area, hard stand along the east side of the hard stand and then connecting to the previously installed <inaudible> wall from the 1990s. Next slide please. The second step was to install a geo membrane cover over top of the hard stand. So the photo you see here on the left is showing the installation of that geo membrane cover. And then the photo on the right is showing enlarged area of the hard stand. And once the cover, the geo membrane cover was installed, fabric was put over top of the hard the geo membrane to prevent it from deteriorating. And then stone and soils were placed on top so that we could drive upon the hard stand slide please.

We're on slide number five and this is showing the trench leachate elevations through time. As I mentioned, there was a long-term decreasing trend from 1992 through about 2008 when the leachate levels stabilized. And then from 2011 through 2021, the leachate levels increased by about 11 and a half inches. After the completion of the trench 14 infiltration control project, we have seen a decrease of about eight inches. And we're currently forecast to be down at the 2011 levels, excuse me, by about fall of 2025 and the area around trench 14. The groundwater mining locations have shown a decreasing trend as well and that means that the, the total volume of groundwater in the northern area of trench 14 is much less than prior to the trench 14 infiltration control project and the decreasing leachate levels in trench 14 along with the decreasing groundwater elevations in the northern area of surrounding trench 14 provide tangible proof of the success of this project. Next slide please.

The last project that I'd like to speak with you about is the North slope stabilization project. And you may remember that we spoke about soils slumping in the fall of 2021 and in the winter of 2022. And I completed an enhanced monitoring of the soils focusing on the soils to determine if there was shallow soil movement or if it was a deeper, more competent soil movement. And based on the investigation, it was superficial soils that had been pushed over the side of the slope during the construction of the SDA trenches. We also spoke about the design and the removal of about 3000 cubic meters of soils and placing them into two staging areas, one for soils that were not believed to be contaminated, one for soils that were believed to be contaminated with legacy contamination. We completed the north slope stabilization project in December of 2022 with the area re-vegetated in the spring of 2023. And in the fall of 2023, we completed the soil sampling of those two stage soil piles. Next slide please. We're on slide number seven and this is the soil staging piles. We actually removed a little under 3000 cubic meters of soils with 2,600 of those cubic meters in the uncontrolled or not contaminated soil pile, which is the photo you see in the

center. The remaining 200 cubic meters are staged in the radiologically contaminated soils that are in the upper right hand side. Next slide please.

Also, in 2023, NYSERDA completed 14 new survey locations to monitor the slope stability and the data collected to date has indicated that the slope remains stable. Also, in 2023, as I mentioned, we collected over a hundred soil samples from the uncontaminated soil pile from different locations and different soil depths. And the results of the analysis confirmed that this soil pile is free of radioactive contamination and will remain on site for future reuse. We collected and analyzed over 170 samples from the potentially radioactively contaminated pile. The local results confirmed that this pile is slightly contaminated and this is consistent with what we know from a historical data and information about where the soil was removed. We are currently evaluating options to dispose of the radioactively contaminated soil pile during the fall of 2024 at a licensed and permitted disposal facility. Next slide please.

So these are just a few shots of before, during, and after the north slope stabilization project. The photo on the left upper left is showing the soil slumping that you saw in the late fall of 2021, early winter of 2022. The photo at the bottom center is showing the north slope stabilization project with the stone being put in place to armor the slope. And the photo on the right is showing an aerial from the drone showing the extent of the north slope stabilization project. And I want to mention here that this project was completed safely and successfully in under 18 months and provides another example of how important detailed work processes, designs, and reviews are in ensuring that the work is completed on time, on or under budget and with no industrial or radiological contamination. Next slide please. Are there any questions?

**Charles Bell:**

Thank you. Are there any questions for Andrea?

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Oops, sorry. Can I ask you one? So it's my understanding this is from the first project for the geo membrane. It's my understanding that the materials development, that the advances in materials have really contributed to the efficacy of this, of the, is it possible that the leachate, you'll see even better reductions because of the use of these new materials?

**Andrea Mellon:**

The geo membrane covers have evolved through time and we do a five-year check of our geo membrane cover for UV degradation to allow us to determine the life of the geo membrane cover. So the newer covers are lasting much longer than the covers 20 years ago. So yes, it's entirely possible we'll see additional improvements in the longevity of the covers and that will allow us to help manage the water or the contaminated leachate in the trenches.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

So where's the leachate going?

**Andrea Mellon:**

So I think you had a presentation earlier from Paul Bembia about a year ago on this. The leachate is actually percolating down below the trenches expected condition. It is going into a very dense clay where it is retarded from moving further down, but it is moving downward.

**Charles Bell:**

Okay. Any more questions? Alright. Thank you so much, Andrea, for all the hard work there at the state license disposal area. And thank you also. Thank you also, Brad, for your report. The next item concerns an executive session Section 105 of the Public Officer's Law authorizes the Members to convene an executive session in order to discuss a proposed sale acquisition or lease of real property. May I please have a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing a proposed sale acquisition or lease of real property?

**Sherburne Abbott:**

So moved.

**Charles Bell:**

I may have a second.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Second.

**Charles Bell:**

Thank you. All in favor, please say aye.

**Members of the Committee:**

Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Charles Bell:**

Any post? Motion is carried. The Committee will now enter into executive session with the officers and the secretary of the Committee. During that time, the webcast will remain up. Upon our return, we will reconvene the meeting in open session. No formal action was taken during the executive and private session. The 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.

**Charles Bell:**

Second.

**Arturo Garcia-Costas:**

Second.

**Charles Bell:**

All in favor, please say aye.

**Members of the Committee:**

Aye.

**Charles Bell:**

Any opposed? Meeting is adjourned. Thank you.