

NYSERDA WASTE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

June 26, 2023

Clean Copy of Transcript

Charles Bell:

I called this meeting with the Waste and Facilities Management Committee to order, and I know the presence of a quorum notice of this meeting was provided to the Committee Members on June 12 and to the press on June 20, 2023. I would also like to note that this meeting is being video conferenced, and the Authority will be posting a video of this meeting on the web to confirm that we have a quorum. I would like for each Member of the Committee to please introduce themselves. I'm Chuck Bell, Chair of the Committee.

Sherburne Abbott:

Shere Abbot. I'm the Member of the Board, Member of the Committee.

Chair Kauffman:

Richard Kauffman, Chair of the Authority.

Charles Bell:

And, and we don't have anyone in New York City, do we? New York City. Frances.

Frances Resheske:

Frances Resheske, Member of the Board.

Charles Bell:

Oh, thank you so much. The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the January 25, 2023 meeting. The copy of the minutes was included with the June 12, 2023 mailing. Are there any comments on the minutes? Hearing none. May I please have a motion of approving the minutes? Second?

Chair Kauffman:

Second.

Charles Bell:

All in favor, please say Aye.

Members of the Committee:

Aye. Aye.

Charles Bell:

Any opposed? No. Okay. Thank you very much. Minutes are approved. The next item on the agenda is the review and approval of the Waste and Facilities Management Committee Charter pursuant to the Public Authority's Accountability Act of 2005. Each of the Authority's Committee's adopted Charters setting forth each Committee's responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is to periodically review its Charter and determine what, if any amendments need to be made. These recommend. These recommendations are then presented to, to the full Board

for consideration and approval. A copy of the current Committee Charter was included in your reading package. Council'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 by Council include the New York Power Authority, Long Island Power Authority, Dormitory Authority, and the Environmental Facilities Corporation. 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? None. hearing none. May I please have a motion recommending approval of the Waste and Facilities Management Committee Charter?

Sherburne Abbott:

So moved.

Chair Kauffman:

Second.

Charles Bell:

All in favor, please say aye.

Members of the Committee:

Aye. Aye.

Charles Bell:

Any opposed? Okay. Thank you. Motions carried. Next on the agenda is a status report on nuclear coordination activities. Alyse Peterson will present the report.

Alyse Peterson:

Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. Since time is short today, I'll just be giving you a quick update on the Indian Point Decommission of physical decommissioning actions continue for 2023 with demolition of the Unit two and three steam domes and removal of the Unit two condensate storage tank, and several oil tanks that are no longer needed to support the decommissioning activities. Two ongoing critical path activities that govern the overall decommissioning schedule are the transfer of spent fuel out of the spent fuel pools into dry cast storage and segmentation of both reactor vessels. Unit two spent fuel transfer began in August of last year and was completed this past February. That transfer included 896 fuel assemblies requiring 28 storage casts in the unit three spent fuel pool. Right now, there are 1,280 fuel assemblies that will require 41 storage casts. Holtec has now completed installation of the new fuel transfer crane that I briefed you on previously.

And unit three fuel transfer began in earnest last week. It is expected to be completed by the end of November. Reactor vessel segmentation activities began earlier this year, and they include removal and packaging and shipment for disposal of internal components. Core plates and reactor vessel heads Unit three segmentation is progressing and is approximately 30, 30% complete. Now. Holtec is also currently working with DEC on a remedial investigation work plan that will characterize environmental conditions at one section of the site. With environmental sampling and analysis anticipated to begin there later this year. The site will be

done piecemeal as sections are cleared and available to, to survey. To date, full tech has shipped approximately 186,000 cubic feet of low level radioactive waste generated by the depression activities. All low level waste from the site is being shipped to the Waste Control Specialist facility in Texas.

And I receive reports from that facility each year as part of our low local waste reporting program. In addition to continuing to track physical decommissioning activities NYSERDA under our role as the State's nuclear coordinator and federal liaison continues to respond to potential technical financial and regulatory issues across the Board as they arise, of course. But, and I'll end this brief report with a note of thanks and praise for the assistance that our West Valley staff is provided to the State agencies that are serving on the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board. In addition to sharing their significant expertise in decommissioning west Valley staff recently hosted a tour of the West Valley site. So that State staff from the Departments of Public Service, Homeland Security and Emergency Services Security Department of State and Empire State Development, could see the decommissioning at West Valley firsthand and see the activities, controls, security measures, et cetera. Those agencies have expressed great appreciation for that opportunity and for West Valley staff's efforts. So that does conclude my brief report. Sorry. are there any questions I can answer before I hand off to Paul?

Charles Bell:

Thank you. Are there any questions or comments for Alyse?

Chair Kauffman:

Yeah, I, I, that's okay. Alyse, thank you very much. So I just, I just want to go back again cause this is, there's so much work going on now that I just want to be, want to be reminded of. What is our, what is NYSERDA's obligation here? There's some problem that arises with transfer waste are is, you know, is that, for example, what is, what liability do, does NYSERDA have?

Alyse Peterson:

As far as low level radioactive waste or any

Chair Kauffman:

Of the other projects? Any, any of the activity that takes place on site?

Alyse Peterson:

We, that, that there is not a liability for, for <inaudible>. We act as a coordinating body. We serve on the decommissioning Board providing advisory services as appropriate. And we act as a liaison to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requesting the NRC presence at, at, at meetings and director expertise to, to assist the, the Board in its activities. But our obligations and liabilities there, there really aren't any.

Peter Costello:

Yeah, so I would agree with everything. Just that's the facilitation and coordination. Say the only, the only exception would be that we do have, we own the outfall Yeah.

Alyse Peterson:

Which we currently lease to Energy, and they will, we sit back and then energy transfer that to whole tech. So that would come back to the Authority pending other disposition planning that will take place later in decommissioning.

Chair Kauffman:

So the, the other question I have is, do we monitor the, you know, presumably they have a project plan for decommissioning and how they're doing relative to what they said they were gonna do. And then the other thing is the financial aspect. Cause you mentioned the word financial, you know, there was the decommissioning fund you know, how they're doing against financial budget as well as the operating budget.

Alyse Peterson:

Yes. We, we do monitor, monitor that regularly. There is a monthly meeting with Holtec to discuss project status. And that includes all technical aspects and also financial.

Chair Kauffman:

And so right now, is it on, are both things on track to

Alyse Peterson:

Yes.

Chair Kauffman:

Okay, great. I don't have any other questions. Thank you.

Charles Bell:

Okay. Any other questions, comments? Okay. Thank you so much, Alyse, for your report.

Alyse Peterson

You're welcome.

Charles Bell:

Next on the agenda is a status report on West Valley Site Management program activities. Brad Frank will present the report. Brad, Brad

Brad Frank:

Afternoon everyone. Brad Frank here. I'll be providing a brief update today on the main plant process billing in its current status slide, please. My last discussion with the Committee, I ended with this slide today. I wanna begin with it. This is how the main plant appeared in late December of 2022. The next four slides will demonstrate the progress between February and May. Next slide, please do The month of February, the demolition crews work to complete the removal of three extraction cells. That's highlighted by the three letter as you see on the photo. As access was gained to the extraction chemical room, letter B, it too was removed. In the photo, you can see two water misters spraying water at the point of impact. Now this method has continued to prove effective at reducing the spread of contamination as demolition progresses. Next slide, please.

Here's a photo from March. In this photo, you can see demo crews loading a shield window into a waste container. Letter B, the waste containers wrapped in plastic sheeting, yellow plastic sheeting, and the sheeting will be removed once the window's secured in the container. Now this method allows the heavily contaminated window to be handled without contaminating the actual waste container and avoiding time consuming decontamination of the box prior to shipment to its disposal area. Letter A in the photo is highlighting several weeks of work on the chemical process cells. West wall the wall is five feet thick, an area showing significant scarring have had three feet of material removed when the photo was taken. Next slide please.

Here again in April we have two water misters spraying, but we also have the end effector on the excavator also applying water. So we have three sources of water at the point of demolition. This helps to ensure the material to be removed is heavily saturated with water before hitting it with the hydraulic hammer. Letter B is where the processed chemical room, the hot acid cell used to reside before they removed in April letter C, you can see continued progress on the removal of the exterior portions of the CPCs, the chemical process cells west wall, again, five feet thick. Next slide. Here's a photo from May. It's a little tough to see. The sun was, wasn't at the perfect angle but the wall to the chemical process cell, the west wall, 80% of it has now been removed. So you're looking directly into the chemical process cell at this point. And for those of you who had tours in years past this is where the high level waste was stored before it was removed from the building. Next slide.

All right. I'd like to briefly talk about some sampling results from our air sampling stations at the outermost ring of samplers here at the site. So, I'll first start off with a little bit of background. Prior to demolition DOE conducted extensive modeling of potential air emissions from their demolition activities, the modeling showed that the radiation dose from emissions would be about 0.80 milligram for the entire 30 month activity. To put this into perspective, the EPA limit for air emissions for radionuclide is 10 milligram per year. And the average radiation dose to an individual living in the US from natural background radiation and manmade radiation sources is roughly 620 milligram per year. I'll, I'll now return to the data. The data for the fourth quarter of 2022 is the first quarter where demolition activities were conducted over the entire quarter. Sampling results show concentrations of key radionuclides at below the detection limit. At 15 of the 16 monitoring stations at the 16th station, there was very low detections of two radionuclides from the demolition activities, americium and plutonium. These results are just above the detection limits and equate to a radiation dose of 0.007 milligram per the calendar quarter. This is lower than the modeling projected for that quarter is well below the EPA, a limit of 10 milligram per year. These results were presented during the quarterly public meeting here in West Valley in May.

Next slide, as of May 25th the site has shipped 332 intermodal roughly 6,000 tons of debris and 19 specialty containers or 150 tons of specialty objects. The intermodal in this photo are headed south from West Valley in route to Salamanca, New York where they hit the main line and then are shipped out to Clive, Utah and Energy Solutions. Next slide. I'll pause here for any questions from the Committee.

Charles Bell:

Any questions or comments for Brad? Okay, I think we're good, Brad. Thank you.

Brad Frank:

Thank you.

Charles Bell:

Okay. I think we want to compliment you on having the air monitoring technology. That was very impressive to see that and to also see the very low level of emissions that's been achieved at the, the activities that the site. So thank you so much for that. Final agenda item is other business. Is there any other business for the Committee? Okay. Hearing none may please have a motion to adjourn. Second.

Chair Kauffman:

Second.

Charles Bell:

All in favor, please say aye.

Members of the Committee:

Aye. Aye.

Charles Bell:

Any opposed? The meeting is adjourned.