

NYSERDA 69th Waste and Facilities Management Committee Meeting
June 28, 2022
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Pam Poisson:

Kelly, are we on?

Kelly Laniewski:

No.

Janice Dean:

Do we need to be seeing our video?

Kelly Laniewski:

Huh?

Janice Dean:

Do we need to be seeing our video up there or no?

Kelly Laniewski:

No.

Vice Chair Bell:

I call this meeting of the Waste and Facilities Management Committee to order. I note the presence of the Quorum. Notice of this meeting was provided to the Committee Members and the Press on June 14, 2022. I would also like to note that this meeting is being video conference and the Authority will be posting a video of this meeting on the web to confirm that we have a quorum. I would like to ask Janice Dean, Secretary to the Committee, please conduct a role call with each of the Committee Members and attendance.

Janice Dean:

Thank you. When I call your name, please indicate if you're present Chuck Bell.

Vice Chair Bell:

Present.

Janice Dean:

Richard Kaufman.

The Chair:

Present.

Janice Dean:

Shere Abbot.

Sherburne Abbott:

Present.

Janice Dean:

And Arturo Garcia-Costas.

Arturo Garcia-Costas:

Present.

Janice Dean:

You do have a quorum. Thank you.

Vice Chair Bell:

Thank you, Janice. The first item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting. A copy of the minutes was included with the June 14, 2022 mailing. Are there any comments on the minutes? May I please have a motion approving the minutes?

Arturo Garcia-Costas:

Moved to approve the minutes.

Vice Chair Bell:

Second?

The Chair:

Second.

Vice Chair Bell:

Thank you. When Janice calls your name, please indicate whether you're in favor by stating aye, or opposed by stating no.

Janice Dean:

Thank you, Richard Kaufman.

The Chair:

Aye.

Janice Dean:

Shere Abbot.

Sherburne Abbott:

Aye.

Janice Dean:

Arturo Garcia-Costas.

Arturo Garcia-Costas:

Aye.

Janice Dean:

And Chuck Bell.

Vice Chair Bell:

Aye.

Janice Dean:

The minutes are approved. Thank you.

Vice Chair Bell:

Thank you, Janice. The next item on the agenda is review and approval of the Waste and Facilities Management Committee Charter. This item will be presented by Peter Costello, Peter.

Peter Costello:

Thank you Chair pursuant to the Public Authority's Accountability Act of 2005. Each of the Authority's Committees adopted Charters setting forth each Committee's responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is to periodically review its Charter and determine what if any commitments need to be made. These recommendations would then be presented to the full board for approval at its upcoming meeting. Copy of the current Waste and Facilities Management Committee Charter was included in your meeting 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 include New York Power Authority, Long Island Power Authority, Dormitory Authority, and the Environmental Facilities Corporation. Management is not proposing any changes to the Charter this year. And we request your approval of the Charter and its current form. Happy to take any questions.

Vice Chair Bell:

Thank you, Peter. Are there any questions or recommended changes to the Charter? Okay. hearing none. May I have a motion recommending approval of the Waste and Facilities Committee Charter incorporating the changes that we just discussed.

The Chair:

I'll move it.

Arturo Garcia-Costas:

I'll second, second.

Vice Chair Bell:

When Janice calls your name, please indicate whether you're in favor by stating aye, or opposed by stating no.

Janice Dean:

Thank you, Richard Kaufman.

The Chair:

Aye.

Janice Dean:

Shere Abbot.

Sherburne Abbott:

Aye.

Janice Dean:

Arturo Garcia-Costas.

Arturo Garcia-Costas:

Aye.

Janice Dean:

And Chuck Bell.

Vice Chair Bell:

Aye.

Janice Dean:

Thank you. That motion carries.

Vice Chair Bell:

Thank you. Next on the agenda is a status report on West Valley Site Management Program activities. Paul Bembia will present the report, Paul.

Paul Bembia:

Brief update for the Committee. Excuse me. I have brief updates for the Committee on the two items that were discussed at the January Committee meeting. And those two items are the north slope of the State license disposal area and progress toward the demolition of the main plant process building at the West Valley Demonstration Project at the January meeting. Andrea Mellon informed the Committee that staff were closely monitoring an area of soil slumping that had occurred on the north slope of the State license disposal area. Andrea mentioned that a soil and slope characterization activity would be conducted this spring to provide information needed for a design to stabilize the slope. That characterization activity began in early May and was completed on June 9th. The work included the collection of soil cores to identify the soil types on the slope, the collection of samples for the analysis of the physical properties of the soils and installation of monitoring devices to provide information on the depth of soil movement and the presence of groundwater within the slope.

Various combinations of those activities were conducted at 21 locations across the north slope. And our engineering contractor is now evaluated the data and has concluded that the slumping is shallow and it's occurring in the top three to five feet of soil. The data confirm that the slumping is in the soil that was pushed onto the north slope of the SDA during the construction of the trenches is in Andrea described in January, the engineering firm is now preparing a design for stabilizing the slope. We expect the design to be completed and approved in August, and we'll be making every effort to complete the stabilization work this construction season. One additional note on this work. We have been working very closely with the department of environmental conservation on this item. DEC staff visit the site regularly to observe the slope in person. We also brief them every two weeks on work project a work progress and the schedule status de staff have provided valuable input to us on the monitoring and characterization work, and we've incorporated their suggestions into our work activities. We'll also be providing the design for stabilizing the slope to DEC for their review. And that completes my update on the north slope. And I will take any questions if you have any.

Vice Chair Bell:

Are there any questions or comments for Paul?

The Chair:

So, I did Paul, so this, the work that would be done would be paid for 100% by NYSERDA.

Paul Bembia:

Now this item is a cost split item under the consent decree. So NYSERDA pays 70% of the cost of the item and the department of energy pays the other 30%.

The Chair:

And so some, did you, have we budgeted at any, any of the estimated cost for this cuz you say you wanna do it this year?

Paul Bembia:

Yes, yes, sir. We, we have about \$1.4 million in the budget for this construction activity.

Vice Chair Bell:

Any other questions or comments? Okay, thanks Paul. You could continue.

Paul Bembia:

Okay. Thank you. So the next item is the progress at the West Valley Demonstration Project on the demolition of the main plant process building at the January meeting, Brad Frank reported on the work that was being conducted by the demonstration project to prepare the main plant process building for demolition at the time of Brad's report work was focused on reducing contamination in two areas of the main plant process building. Since Brad's report in January, the decontamination work in one of those areas is complete and work is now focusing on the final area and that final area is the product purification cell. And if you recall that's the cell that is being decontaminated using high pressure nitrogen to move remove the contamination on the walls. So work in the product purification cell is continuing to move forward in a safe and deliberate manner and that work should be completed this summer. Once that work is complete,

the demolition of the plant process building is expected to begin by the end of the year. And that is my update on that item. And I'll take any questions on this, if you have any.

Vice Chair Bell:

Are there any questions or comments?

Arturo Garcia-Costas:

Yeah. You know, just one quick question. Before we move to the, to the main demolition phase, is there some sort of communication to the public or to the surrounding stakeholders, landowners and, and the Seneca tribe that, that it's about to proceed to that stage?

Paul Bembia:

Yes. So the Department of Energy and NYSERDA at the site have a very extensive outreach program. So this project has been extensively discussed both at our citizen task force meetings and our quarterly public meetings. The Department of Energy also had two community meetings that were held at the, in the town of Ashford at the, at the fire department at the banquet facility. And the Department of Energy's planning a third community meeting, the first two were conducted still kind of during the restrictions of COVID and DOE wants to provide an opportunity for, you know, community Members who may not have been comfortable coming to a public meeting with those restrictions. So they do plan to hold another community meeting before the demolition begins. And again, we'll be continuing to brief the citizen task force and the public at our regular quarterly meetings.

Arturo Garcia-Costas:

Thank you, Paul.

Vice Chair Bell:

Thank you. Any other questions or comments for Paul? I guess I would just build on Arturo's question to ask, if NYSERDA has concerns or issues relating to the, the demolition of the main process building. Are you sharing those with department of energy as, as you go along there?

Paul Bembia:

We, we certainly are sharing any comments we have we're very involved in the reviews of the demolition plan procedures and we will NYSERDA will also be participating in or observing the department of energy's readiness review. So right now we believe that DOE has adequate work, work controls in place to take the building down safely. Those work controls and procedures and plans have to be implemented properly. And that's what the readiness reviews are all about. There's actually three levels of readiness reviews. There's two contractor readiness reviews, and then DOE conduct conducts its own readiness review and they sort of staff will be observing that department of energy readiness review.

Vice Chair Bell:

Thank you very much. Any more questions or comments? Okay, well hearing none Paul, I wanna thank you for your leadership on this and to all the staff Members at the West Valley site.

Thank you for your careful and diligent work. There our final item is other business. Is there any other business? May have a motion to adjourn, please?

Arturo Garcia-Costas:

Moved.

Vice Chair Bell:

Thank you, a second?

The Chair:

Second.

Vice Chair Bell: All in favor, please say aye.

Members of the Committee:

Aye. Aye.

Vice Chair Bell:

Any opposed? Meeting is adjourned. Thank you. Thank you.