NYSERDA'S 79TH WASTE AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
October 21, 2026
Clean Copy of Transcript

Janice Dean:
Morning, Chuck. Just confirming you can hear us.

Charles Bell:
Yes, we hear you. Good morning. I call this meeting of the Waste and Facilities Management Committee to order. I note the presence of a quorum. Notice of this meeting was provided to the Committee members on October 13th and to the press on October 14th, 2026. 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 to the web. To confirm that we have a quorum, I would like each Member of the Committee to please introduce themselves. I am Chuck Bell, Chair of the Committee.

Lindsay Greene:
I'm Lindsay Greene:, Member of the Board, Member of the Committee.

Audrey Zibelman:
I'm Audrey Zibelman. I am Chair of the Board and Member of the Committee.

Charles Bell:
Thank you. And let's see. The first item on the agenda is the approval of minutes for the meeting held on October 22nd, 2025. A copy of the minutes was included with the October 13th, 2026 mailing. Are there any comments on the minutes?

Audrey Zibelman:
No.

Charles Bell:
Thank you. Hearing none, may I please have a motion approving the minutes?

Audrey Zibelman:
So moved.

Charles Bell:
A second?

Lindsay Greene:
And I'll second.

Charles Bell:
Thank you. All in favor?

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Members of the Committee:
Aye. Aye.

Charles Bell:
Any opposed? Thank you. The 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 Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, each of the Authority's Committees adopted Charter 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 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. 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?

Audrey Zibelman:
No, I have none.

Charles Bell:
Thank you. May I please have a motion recommending approval of the Waste and Facilities Management Committee Charter?

Audrey Zibelman:
So moved.

Charles Bell:
Thank you. All in favor?

Members of the Committee:
Aye.

Charles Bell:
Any opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried and the Charter is approved and recommended to the Board. Next on the agenda is a status report on West Valley. Brad Frank and Dan Cray will present reports on the West Valley Demonstration Act and the State License Disposal Area. Brad?

Brad Frank:
Good morning. I'm Brad Frank, one of the two Program Managers here in West. Today I'll be walking you through a status update of Phase 1B of the West Valley demonstration project. Next slide, please. The current phase of work here is known as Phase 1B. It's a continuation of the decisions that were made in 2010. This phase will focus on demolition of remaining subsurface cells in operating aisles, removal of the source area of the North Plateau groundwater plume,

excavation of the onsite lagoon system and true waste disposal. West Valley Cleanup Alliance, known as WVCA, won the contract for Phase 1B. The contract has a ceiling of $3 billion and is expected to run between 10 and 15 years. On the slide, you can see rough approximations where the various work activities will occur. One thing to draw your attention to is that the cost splits will vary during this phase of work.

Traditionally, most cost splits here at the site have been 90% federal, 10% state. In 2010, the consent decree was agreed to and signed between New York and DOE. This consent decree provided additional cost splits between the two agencies. The process building is below grade structure remains at a 90 / 10 split. Soils on the other hand and the North Plateau plume source area have a fifty/fifty cost split. As we move into Phase 1B, NYSERDA will see its cost associated with the WVCA rise significantly, and this is directly driven by the cost splits found in the consent decree. Next slide.

The structure outlined in red is known as the fuel receiving and storage facility or the FRS for short. It was the only above grade portion of the main plant remaining at the end of phase 1A. The facility is where the fuel was delivered by rail in the 1960s and 1970s for reprocessing. The pool was emptied of water in the early 2000s. Since that time, significant work has been undertaken within the facility to remove process piping, de-energizing the electrical circuits, and removing asbestos containing materials. Next slide. Here are two photos showing the FRS being demolished throughout the summer. The large yellow processors would bring down significant sections of steel and crews on the ground would work to appropriately size reduce them for disposal. Next slide.

Prior to beginning the large excavation that we eventually removed the plume source and the main plant process buildings below grade portion, WVCA, the prime contractor, has embarked on a significant sampling campaign. These samples were for both radiological contaminants and geotechnical studies. The radiological sampling will help determine the safety envelope for the large excavation. Think personal protective equipment, dust suppression, work rates, et cetera. The geotechnical studies are helping to drive the engineering for the subsurface wall that will need to be in place to support the excavation. This will provide structural stability, a water barrier, allowing the dig to reach depths of up to 60 feet. Next slide please. As of late September this year, we've shipped 100 intermodals via rail that equates to about 2,300 tons of waste since this contract has begun. Next slide. And I'll pause here for any questions.

Lindsay Greene:
Can you remind me where those rail cars are going?

Brad Frank:
Yes. The rail cars are headed to Clive, Utah for final disposal.

Lindsay Greene:
It is the southwest. Okay. That's what I thought. Okay. Thank you.

Brad Frank:
No problem.

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Charles Bell:
So does most of the waste that is generated through this phase of the project have a disposal pathway?

Brad Frank:
The vast majority does. Most of it will be going to Utah. Select items will be going to Nevada or Texas. However, we still have true waste remaining on site and that does not have a disposal path at this point because DOE declares our waste being commercial in origin and not defense related true.

Charles Bell:
Right. And is there still a debate or was that litigation because that is not a settled question, right?

Brad Frank:
Correct. That is not a settled question.

Audrey Zibelman:
Not a settled question whether it's defense or commercial?

Brad Frank:
Correct.

Charles Bell:
Thank you, Brad. And then the other question, which I think we frequently ask is the New York Division of Budget aware of there are increasing State financial responsibility for the cleanup process?

Brad Frank:
Yes. We've actually had a Division of Budget out here on site for a tour a year or so ago. So we showed them the lay of the land and how the costs are going to change through time and we routinely provide them updates as well as our NYSERDA financial department to have close ties with the division of budget as well. And on top of that, DOE is also well aware that the cost split's going to change through time. So they're working extremely close with the contractor to better predict when those changes are coming so that we can anticipate them and build them into our budget.

Charles Bell:
Thank you. Any other questions from the Committee? No. Okay. Thank you very much, Brad. I think now we're going to turn to Dan.

Dan Cray:
Thank you, Chuck. I'm Dan Cray and I'm the Program Manager for the State Licensed Disposal Area and retained premises at the West Valley site. I've been in my current position as program manager since October of 2025 following Andrea Mellon's retirement, and today I'm going to provide the Committee with a status update for the State Licensed Disposal Area or SDA for

short. Next slide please. Since the last SDA update, NYSERDA has continued to implement our routine environmental monitoring activities, inspections, and field maintenance activities at the SDA, which all indicate that the SDA is being managed by NYSERDA in a manner that is protective of the health and safety of the public, our workers, and the environment. To ensure that the SDA is operating in a safe and stable manner, environmental monitoring activities routinely performed at the SDA include water elevation monitoring, groundwater, surface water, and stormwater sampling, ambient gamma radiation monitoring, erosion monitoring, and various inspections of the geomembrane, the buildings, and the waste.

This slide provides images from a few of our routine monitoring activities and inspection activities conducted at the SDA to ensure that the facility is performing in a safe and a stable manner. At the top left is an image of our environmental monitoring contractor collecting a quarterly surface water sample. The purpose of the surface water monitoring program is to provide data of sufficient quality and quantity to allow for detection of radionuclides and surface water. The image at the top right shows our environmental monitoring contractor retrieving and deploying dosimeters to measure ambient environmental gamma radiation levels around the SCA perimeter.

And the bottom image is an image of a contractor cutting and collecting a coupon sample from the SDA geomembrane cover for laboratory analysis to evaluate for the physical integrity of the SDA cover due to weathering, IV degradation and other wear. Next slide please. This slide provides images from a few of our non-routine activities recently conducted at the SDA. At the top left is an image of a remote solar powered camera that was installed at the SDA North Slope for enhanced monitoring and observation of SDA activities and facilities. Moving over to the top right image is a picture of our operations and maintenance contractor rolling out the road at the southern end of the SDA as part of a green space and roadway restoration project. Back in December of 2024, NYSERDA completed a waste diposal project to package, ship, and dispose of approximately 380 cubic yards of low level contaminated soils and drummed waste offsite from the SDA.

And the heavy machinery that was used during this waste disposal project left much of the green space and roadway in need of repair. The purpose of this product was to restore it back to its original condition. And at the bottom are two pictures from the recently installed automated stormwater sampling system at the SDA. After the testing period is completed, the new system will be used to collect stormwater samples automatically based on specific precipitation and flow parameters. This system allows for the collection of stormwater samples during non-business hours, including nights and weekends, and keeps our field staff safe by not having to complete sampling during lightning or thunderstorms.

Next slide please. I'd also like to provide an update on the Trend 14 water infiltration control project. As noted during the past briefings for the Committee, an increase in the Trend 14 leach head elevation was observed back beginning in 2011. Water infiltration controls were implemented in response to the observed increase, including a placement of 174 feet of steel sheet piling to divert groundwater from entering into the trenches. In addition to the sheet piling, the ground surface was re-contoured and a geomembrane cover was installed to reduce the amount of rainwater and snow melt entering the soil and becoming groundwater. So this slide

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provides images of the Trench 14 water infiltration controls that took place back in 2021. At the top left is an image of the ground contouring and a new geomembrane cover installation. Moving over to the bottom left is an image of the steel sheet pile being driven into the ground to limit the groundwater flow into the trenches, and the two images to the right show the completed project.

Next slide please. Now the graph on this slide presents the effectiveness of the Trend 14 water infiltration controls that you saw in the images on the previous slide. To continually assess and evaluate the effectiveness of the water infiltration controls at the SDA, quarterly measurements are collected as part of our routine environmental monitoring activities to monitor the elevation of leachate within each trench. So the figure on this slide presents trench leachate elevations from 2010 through the current date. The water infiltration controls, which are noted by the yellow line on the graph, resulted in the leachate elevation changing from an increasing to a decreasing trend, and we are still seeing that trend continue through today. Since the installation of the water infiltration controls in 2021, Trench 14 leachate has continued to decrease and is currently at a level as of the measurement collected in September of 2026 is now less than where it was observed back in 2010.

The Trench 14 water infiltration control project has effectively eliminated or reduced the volume of water entering the trench. So this information combined with the extensive environmental monitoring data shows that NYSERDA is managing the SDA in a manner that is fully protective of public health and safety and the environment. And lastly, during our most recent part three radiation control permit review in February of 2026, DEC found that NYSERDA was in compliance and noted no threats of releases from the trenches, no erosion concerns and success of the infiltration controls at the SDA. Next slide please. I'd like to thank the Committee for your time and I'll pause for any questions.

Audrey Zibelman:
I've got a question. If you go back to your earlier slide, previous one, is there an ideal range that you want to get to in terms of –

Dan Cray:
Sure. For the water, the water, we should see it reach to the bottom level of the trench itself. And at that point we would call it dry.

Audrey Zibelman:
So what level is that? Is it...

Dan Cray:
I would have to take a look. I don't have the data in front of me as far as what the depth of the trench is in front of me, but I could take a look and I could get back to the Board on that.

Audrey Zibelman:
Yeah, that'd be interesting.

Charles Bell:
Do you have any questions?

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Lindsay Greene:
No, just impressive pacing.

Charles Bell:
Okay. Any more? Well, Dan, I was just going to say it seems implicit in what you presented that you're monitoring the SDA for any other incident of water infiltration. And so the Trench 14 is the one place where we've really had an issue with this. Have we noticed any infiltration into other areas of the SDA?

Dan Cray:
Trench 14 is the only one that we have noticed. We implemented those controls, and since then in 2021, we've seen that decrease back to levels where they should be back to the 2010 levels and we'll continue monitoring throughout with elevation monitoring that we do on a quarterly basis.

Charles Bell:
Great. Great. Well, thank you for your report. I think we appreciate the oversight and surveillance effort that you're making and keeping an eye on this to protect the public and the environments. And similarly for you, Brad, and for your team, thank you for the steady progress on cleanup of the site.

Lindsay Greene:
Yes. Good work. Thank you.

Brad Frank:
Thanks. Appreciate it.

Charles Bell:
Okay. The final agenda item is other business. Is there any other business?

Lindsay Greene:
I have none.

Audrey Zibelman:
None.

Charles Bell:
Thank you. Hearing none, may I please have a motion to adjourn?

Lindsay Greene:
So moved.

Charles Bell:
Second?

Audrey Zibelman:
Second.

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Charles Bell:
All in favor?

Members of the Committee:
Aye. Aye.

Charles Bell:
The meeting is adjourned.

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