

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the
Phase 1 Studies
on the Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship of the West
Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service
Center**

Updated October 2012

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Stakeholder:

"How do stakeholders raise and discuss issues with DOE/NYSERDA and how will stakeholder input be used in the Phase 1 Studies process."

DOE/NYSERDA:

"Stakeholder issues/comments/recommendations may be raised to DOE/NYSERDA at any time. Because this is a joint process between DOE and NYSEERDA, any discussion of stakeholder issues must occur with the two agencies collectively. DOE and NYSEERDA will jointly respond to comments submitted in writing and will endeavor to do so in a timely manner. Comments pertaining to the technical aspects of the studies will be provided to the appropriate Subject Matter Experts (SME) and the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) for consideration. Written public comments and associated responses will be posted to the Phase 1 Studies website at <http://westvalleyphaseonestudies.org/>.

DOE and NYSEERDA hold the authority and responsibility for decision making at the site. The Phase 1 Studies process is intended to facilitate interagency consensus on Phase 2 decisions by employing recognized scientific principles to evaluate a number of Potential Areas of Study (PAS). Stakeholder input during all aspects of the Phase 1 Study process will be given consideration by the agencies and by the experts ([ISP and SME) with regard to how the input may contribute toward facilitating interagency consensus in the Phase 2 decision process."

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Stakeholder:

"I have suggestions for additional members of the Independent Scientific Panel and Subject Matter Experts; how and when do I submit suggestions for experts? Will a timeline/schedule for all Potential Areas of Study (PAS) be provided so I can make recommendations at the appropriate time?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"DOE and NYSEERDA will approve all members of the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) and Subject Matter Experts (SME). Input on the ISP and SME groups can be provided to DOE and NYSEERDA at any time. The agencies will give consideration to, and respond to written stakeholder comments and recommendations on Subject Matter Experts. A timeline providing the general sequence and timing for a typical PAS, as well as the current status of ongoing PAS, is provided on the Phase 1 Studies website at <http://westvalleyphaseonestudies.org/>. Progress on the identification of Subject Matter Experts will be provided at public meetings and

via the Phase 1 Studies website. The agencies will routinely update information on the timeline and keep stakeholders informed of upcoming PAS work activities as far in advance as possible."

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Stakeholder:

"Who is ECS? Who is ITSI? Who is the Logue Group? Who is CHBWV? Who is SEC? Is the work of these contractors related? If so, how?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"Enviro Compliance Solutions (ECS) was selected by DOE and NYSERDA as the prime contractor for implementation of the Phase 1 Studies. The contract issued to ECS is a joint contract with DOE and NYSERDA and carries a 50% cost share for each agency. Innovative Technical Solutions, Inc. (ITSI) and the Logue Group are subcontractors to ECS. ITSI will support ECS during the implementation of the Phase 1 Studies and the Logue Group will facilitate and moderate the Phase 1 Studies public meetings and facilitate meetings of the Independent Scientific Panel or Subject Matter Experts as necessary.

CH2M Hill Babcock & Wilcox West Valley, LLC (CHBWV) is the contractor selected by DOE to implement the work associated with the WVDP Phase 1 Decommissioning-Facility Disposition Contract. Safety and Ecology Corporation (SEC) is the contractor selected by DOE to implement the work associated with its environmental characterization services contract. SEC will perform environmental characterization support services for the WVDP including work associated with the Phase 1 Characterization Sampling and Analysis Plan for the West Valley Demonstration Project (CSAP) and the Phase 1 Final Status Survey Plan for the West Valley Demonstration Project (FSSP). The CSAP and FSSP were requirements of the Phase 1 Decommissioning Plan for the WVDP and will support Phase 1 decommissioning for the WVDP and are not part of the Phase 1 Studies process. Only DOE has a contract with CHBWV and SEC. CHBWV and SEC have no working relationship with ECS and are not currently involved in the Phase 1 Studies process."

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Stakeholder:

"How do I find out about meeting dates, agendas, and call-in numbers? How can I get an advance copy of other meeting materials such as presentation slides? Where can I get information on meetings I have missed? How can I become part of the notification list? Where can I find DOE/NYSERDA responses to written comments? Where can I find Scope of Work documents?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"A website devoted exclusively to the Phase 1 Studies process has been established and can be found at <http://westvalleyphaseonestudies.org/>. The website is a repository for all important documents, updates, announcements, etc. Efforts will be made to ensure all meeting news and documents are available on the website in advance of the meetings. Also posted to the website will be information about the experts and contractors implementing the Phase 1 Studies. Technical reports, DOE/NYSERDA responses to written comments, and Scope of Work documents for Phase 1 Studies will be posted on the website. Registering on the website with contact information will allow stakeholders to join a notification list for Phase 1 Studies updates, including meeting information."

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Stakeholder:

"Will meetings be broadcast on the web?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"Webcasts have been used for some Phase 1 Study public meetings and will be used in the future where appropriate."

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Stakeholder:

"How can stakeholders interact with the experts? Are expert meetings open to the public?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

The process established by DOE and NYSERDA allows both the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) and the Subject Matter Experts (SME) to conduct their work in internal work sessions and meetings. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to interact directly with the ISP and SME at public meetings, to discuss stakeholder concerns and recommendations. The ISP and SME will attend public meetings as needed in person or via telephone to present and discuss their progress and recommendations."

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Stakeholder:

"How long will the Phase 1 Studies take? How long will Phase 1 Decommissioning take?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"DOE and NYSERDA have committed to making Phase 2 decisions by early 2020. As such, the Phase 1 Studies will be scoped to be completed by approximately 2018 (in 6 years) so the agencies have time to fully implement Phase 1 Studies results in their Phase 2 decisions.

Phase 1 Decommissioning of the WVDP is expected to take about 10 years to complete. A number of factors (including Congressional and State appropriations) may alter this schedule."

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Stakeholder:

"What is the role of the facilitator in the Phase 1 Studies process? Do stakeholders direct communications to the facilitator?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"The facilitator will serve two primary roles in the Phase 1 Studies process: (1) To moderate public meetings, ensuring ground rules are followed and ensuring effective communication between stakeholders, DOE/NYSERDA, experts, and contractors and (2) To facilitate discussion between and among expert groups (the Independent Scientific Panel and Subject Matter Experts) as necessary. Stakeholders will continue to submit written communications to the DOE (Moir.N.Maloney@wv.doe.gov) and NYSERDA (LMG@nyserda.org)."

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Stakeholder:

"Will stakeholders be involved in drafting public meeting agendas? How can stakeholders propose meeting topics?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"ECS will draft public meeting agendas at the direction of DOE/NYSERDA. DOE and NYSEERDA will consider suggestions by stakeholders for meeting topics."

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Stakeholder:

"Is there a comprehensive public participation plan for the Phase 1 Studies?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"The agencies are committed to a process that involves opportunity for meaningful public input throughout the Phase 1 Studies process. This commitment is outlined in the Guidance for Identifying and Conducting Phase 1 Studies on the Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship of the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center January 13, 2011 and the Second Supplemental Agreement. These FAQs reiterate this commitment."

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Stakeholder:

"Will there be other topics for discussion at the Quarterly Public Meetings? Will DOE/NYSERDA provide an overview and timeline for all West Valley activities?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"DOE and NYSEERDA will continue to update stakeholders on site activities other than the Phase 1 Studies at the Quarterly Public Meetings. Stakeholders may suggest agenda topics for upcoming meetings. DOE and NYSEERDA will continue to inform the public of ongoing and planned West Valley activities, including expected timetables."

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Stakeholder:

"How is the Characterization and Sampling Analysis Plan (CSAP) work being factored into the Phase 1 Studies?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

"The CSAP work is being implemented independently and is not part of the Phase 1 Studies process. The CSAP, which is part of the Phase 1 Decommissioning Plan for the West Valley Demonstration Project (DP) describes the radiological environmental data collection activities that will specifically support the implementation of the Phase 1 decommissioning actions described in the DP. The Phase 1 Studies are intended to facilitate interagency consensus concerning post-Phase 1 decommissioning, and the DP (including CSAP) requirements will have to be met as the starting point for the final decommissioning decisions."

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Stakeholder:

"How is the information provided in the report *The Real Costs of Cleaning Up Nuclear Waste: A Full Cost Accounting of Cleanup Options for the West Valley Nuclear Waste Site* being considered within the Phase 1 Studies process?"

DOE/NYSERDA:

“The report has been provided to the members of the Independent Scientific Panel (ISP) and is being provided to the Subject Matter Experts (SME) as the various working groups are established. It is therefore available as input for their consideration, as they deem appropriate, in the development of their recommendations.”

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Stakeholder:

“The process outlined in the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) publication *Understanding Risk Informed Decisions in a Democratic Society* is relevant to public participation in the Phase 1 Study process; how is it being used?”

DOE/NYSERDA:

“The Phase 1 Study process was not developed within the framework of the NAS process described in the publication. The process for the Phase 1 Studies is described in the Phase 1 Studies Guidance document. The agencies welcome public input and have incorporated numerous opportunities for such input as part of this process.”

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Stakeholder:

“How is climate change being considered within the Phase 1 Studies process?”

DOE/NYSERDA:

“A Climate Change workshop with full public participation was held on August 2, 2012. The workshop provided an opportunity for meaningful discussion of climate change considerations for the Phase 1 Studies. The climate scientists who supported this effort are preparing a report that identifies climate change considerations for the studies. Material presented at the workshop is available on the Phase 1 Studies website at <http://westvalleyphaseonestudies.org/index.php/isp?id=5>. The climate change guidance information, once finalized, will also be posted at this website location.”