



November 7, 2012

Ms. Barbara Warren
Citizens' Environmental Coalition
33 Central Avenue, 3rd Floor
Albany, New York 12210

Dear Ms. Warren:

SUBJECT: Memorandum, Barbara Warren, et al. to Lee Gordon and Moira Maloney, "The Climate Change Expert Panel & Next Steps," dated September 6, 2012

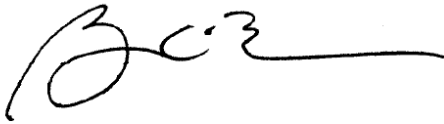
Thank you for your input on the Climate Change workshop received via the referenced memorandum. With respect to your concerns about the forthcoming Climate Change Guidance, the scope of this guidance is identified in the *Scope for Workshop on Climate Change and Phase 1 Studies at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center*, provided as Appendix A to the *Climate Change Workshop Handbook*, August 2, 2012, available at www.westvalleyphaseonestudies.org. This Guidance will be provided to the various Subject-Matter Expert working groups so that the climate change topic is appropriately addressed as part of the Phase 1 Studies. The climate experts also reviewed a number of background documents on West Valley in order to familiarize themselves with the site and some of the technical aspects of the Phase 1 Studies. This background document review included, but was not limited to: the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship at the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center, January 2010* (FEIS), including public comments on the FEIS; and the *Guidance for Identifying and Conducting Potential Phase 1 Studies on the Decommissioning and/or Long-Term Stewardship of the West Valley Demonstration Project and Western New York Nuclear Service Center, 01/13/2011*.

While climate change was not explicitly analyzed in the FEIS, the FEIS erosion analyses did include scenarios representing a potential future shift to a wetter climate, including increased precipitation intensity (see the FEIS, Appendix F, Paragraph F.3.1.6.4, located on pages F-47 and F-48). The Phase 1 Studies Erosion Working Group recommendations specifically call for an analysis of the sensitivity of erosion projections to climate change.

With respect to your comments regarding federal agency-specific climate change strategies and plans, please refer to the attached August 16, 2012 Department of Energy response to similar comments received on August 6, 2012. The New York State Climate Action Plan Interim Report can be found on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) website, at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/80930.html>. NYSERDA West Valley Site Management Program staff will continue to follow climate change adaptation work being done at the State level for consideration as the Phase 1 Studies move forward.

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The Climate Change Guidance will be made available on the Phase 1 Studies website, once it is finalized by the climate experts. Current plans are to have it available for discussion at the November 14, 2012 Quarterly Public Meeting.



Bryan C. Bower, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
West Valley Demonstration Project



Paul J. Bembia, Director
West Valley Site Management Program
New York State Energy Research & Development
Authority

PJB/BB/amd

Attachment:

1. Letter, Bryan C. Bower, DOE-WVDP, to Barbara Warren, Citizens' Environmental Coalition, "Climate Change," dated August 16, 2012.

ec: Anne Rabe, Center for Health Environment, and Justice,
Joanne Hameister, Coalition on West Valley Nuclear Wastes,
Judith Anderson, Environmental Justice Action Group of Western NY, Inc.,
Diane D'Arrigo, Nuclear Information and Resource Service,
Lynda Scheekloth, Sierra Club, Niagara Chapter,
Patricia Shelly, Downstream Denizen (Buffalo, NY),
Kathy Boser, Concerned Citizens of Cattaraugus County,
Laura Haight, New York Public Interest Research Group,
Vincent Agnello, Niagara Watershed Alliance,
Jessica Azulay, Alliance for a Green Economy,
Lee Gordon, NYSERDA-WV,
Moir Maloney, DOE-WVDP,
Bill Logue, Logue Group,
Lynette Bennett, CHBWV,
Dhananjay Rawal, ECS,



Department of Energy
 West Valley Demonstration Project
 10282 Rock Springs Road
 West Valley, NY 14171-9799



August 16, 2012

Ms. Barbara Warren, Executive Director
 Citizens' Environmental Coalition
 33 Central Avenue
 Albany, NY 12210

SUBJECT: Climate Change

REFERENCE: E-mail (358105), B. Warren to M. N. Maloney and L. M. Gordon,
 "Climate Change," dated August 6, 2012

Dear Ms. Warren:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) thanks you for your continued interest in the Phase 1 Studies (PIS) process for the West Valley Demonstration Project and the Western New York Nuclear Service Center.

Concerning your August 6, 2012 request for the following documents in the referenced e-mail:

- Final High-Level Analysis of Agency Vulnerability to Climate Change
- Agency Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The document, "*Final High-Level Analysis of Agency Vulnerability to Climate Change*", is an internal DOE planning document and is not intended for public release. However, this document may be available through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. The document, "*DOE Climate Change Adaptation Plan*", is currently being reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and has not yet been approved for public release. This document will be posted to the DOE website once approved by OMB later this calendar year.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Moira Maloney at (716) 942-4255.

Sincerely,

Bryan C. Bower, Director
 West Valley Demonstration Project

cc: P. B. Underwood, DOE-EMCBC, Office of Legal Services
 M. P. Krentz, DOE-WVDP, AC-DOE
 M. N. Maloney, DOE-WVDP, AC-DOE
 Z. Z. Zadins, DOE-WVDP, AC-DOE
 P. J. Bembia, NYSERDA, AC-NYS
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