

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

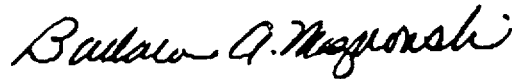
DATE: December 21, 1999

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: Mark E. Rawlings, Team Leader
West Valley Demonstration Project
DOE-HQ, EM-31, 1188/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated December 21, 1999.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.



Barbara A. Mazurowski, Director
West Valley Demonstration Project

Attachment

cc: J. D. Parrott, NRC-HQ
T. Jackson, NRC-Region 1
A. R. Griffith, EM-65, 2086/CLOV
OH/WVDP Staff
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

BAM:0161 - 69023 - 237.1

BAM/bma

NMSSCI Public

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
December 21, 1999
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

High-Level Waste Transfer Activities

- Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included: Liquid processing from Tank 8D-1 through the Supernatant Treatment System (STS) to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator and evaporator processing in the LWTS for volume reduction. Scheduled activities next week include STS Processing, evaporator processing in the LWTS, and continued troubleshooting of the Melter Feed Holding Tank (MFHT). Under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) System activities are scheduled for size reduction of four thermocouples.
- The melter is feeding and pouring with the 243rd canister, the 2nd in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Melter feeding and pouring will continue until December 24, 1999, and will standdown for the holiday weekend. Melter feeding operations will resume after the holiday weekend and continue for 2 - 3 days. There will be no melter feeding operations during New Years weekend 2000.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- The monitoring system is in place for assessing Permeable Treatment Wall Project operation and groundwater elevation data is being collected at monitoring points. Groundwater samples will be collected later in December 1999.
- The initial entry to the General Purpose Cell Crane Room was conducted on December 14, 1999. This entry obtained additional radiological information on the area, dimensional information on the shafts and door position, and performed a general cleanup of the airlock.
- Concrete placement for the conduits and footer associated with the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room enclosure crane access pad was completed this week and backfilling of the pad area started. The revised structural steel detail drawings were received and the first shipment of steel is scheduled for the week of Christmas.
- The fiberglass Nitric Acid tank was removed from the tank pad adjacent to the old Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility. The tank was found to have some contaminated resin in the bottom of the tank. It is anticipated that the tank will be cut open and additional surveys performed, and the tank dispositioned as the radiological surveys dictate.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

December 21, 1999

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o In support of the Lag Storage Area 4 Shipping Depot, the new gas line was tied in and tested, depot backfill was completed inside and out, depot east slab placed, and the connector west foundation was completed last week. This week, the contractor will start setting the Depot steel and place the office area slab.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESSpent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o A technical meeting was held with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on December 16, 1999, to discuss full-load shipments, including damaged fuel. Representatives from the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, West Valley Nuclear Services Company, and Transnuclear, Inc. presented information on the nature of the damaged and suspect damaged fuel, the basket structural analyses, the criticality analyses, and the containment analyses for the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna and Transnuclear Big Rock Point casks. NRC feedback on the approach to canning damaged fuel, and criticality and containment analyses for full loads with damaged fuel was positive. Further information regarding the basket structural analysis will be provided to NRC at a later date.
- o Han-Tek personnel removed the hoist gear shafts and have taken them off site for gear replacement. New hook and gear installation is planned for this week to complete final maintenance required for planned engineered lifts of up to full loads of the shipping casks. An Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspection will be performed by Han-Tek when this work is complete so that a load test can be performed.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- o The draft plan for a combined Ohio Field Office and Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project review of the Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) is currently under review. The West Valley Nuclear Services Company Radiation and Safety Committee approved PSAR is undergoing final revisions and is expected to be delivered to the U.S. Department of Energy shortly after the holidays ahead of schedule.

Site Support

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) provided a briefing to Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project on December 13, 1999, covering the Buttermilk Creek culvert repair effort. Engineering calculations by Hartman Engineering and drawing preparation by WVNS are in process. Detail design is scheduled to be complete by February 25, 2000.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

December 21, 1999

- o A contract has been awarded to Buffalo Drilling to perform the soil borings and instrumentation installation in support of the Lake Number 1 Dam stability analysis. Work is scheduled to start the week of December 20, 1999.
- o The Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad has replaced over 7,000 rail ties to date. The calendar year 1999 scope for refurbishment of the 1.8 mile West Valley Demonstration Project spur is complete, and the vendor has stated that it will meet Class 2 requirements as determined by the Federal Railway Administration (150 feet remain to be inspected, scheduled for next spring).
- o Good weather allowed the subcontractor to complete painting of the Lake II pump house access bridge by December 10, 1999. A walkdown of the bridge was completed on December 13, 1999, and field work is complete.
- o This year's scope of work for painting of the site water tank, pump house access bridge, and raw water clarifier tank was completed two weeks ahead of schedule.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On November 30, 1999, the Citizens Task Force (CTF) met to begin discussing their comments on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) draft Policy Statement on Decontamination and Decommissioning Criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). NRC's public release for comment of this draft Policy Statement took place on December 3, 1999. The comment period will be 60 days. During this comment period, NRC is planning to conduct a public meeting at the WVDP to discuss the Policy Statement and solicit additional comments. This public meeting is planned for January 5, 2000, at the Ashford Office Complex.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o A West Valley Demonstration Project quarterly public meeting is scheduled for December 21, 1999. Topics include a Project update, spent nuclear fuel shipping, the Remote Handled Waste Facility, and the High-Level Waste Record of Decision.