

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: June 22, 1999

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: M. E. Rawlings, Team Leader
West Valley Demonstration Project
DOE-HQ, EM-32, 1188/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated June 22, 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

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
June 22, 1999
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- o Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included processing of Zeolite transfer from tank 8D-1 to tank 8D-2 utilizing all available mobilization pumps and sluicer equipment operation near end of transfer; decanting of liquids back to tank 8D-1; and concentrator feed makeup tank (CFMT) operations. Continuing work activities this week include liquid waste treatment system (LWTS) operations and supernatant treatment system (STS) operations.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o Removal of the contents of the Scrap Removal Room tank has resulted in filling fifteen 55 gallon drums with the slurried waste. About half of the original tank contents has been transferred. Pumping of the remaining waste will continue into next week.
- o Work continues on the repair to the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Shield Window. Sandblasting and painting of the window cavity was completed and a glove-box installed on the cold side of the window. The cracked hot-side cover glass has been removed and a new hot-side cover glass will be placed into the window cavity next week.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Remote Handled Waste

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. conducted the design review for the conceptual design of the Remote-Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) on June 15, 1999. The final conceptual design is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 1999, one month ahead of schedule.
- o Technical proposals were received from four prospective bidders for the first phase of the design-build turnkey contract for the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF). Letters for clarification were sent to each of the four prospective bidders. Responses are due June 22, 1999.
- o Six boxes of North Plateau Resin will be shipped to Envirocare on June 24, 1999.
- o The dismantling of Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 storage tent continues with removal of the inner liner of the tent.

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ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) is preparing for their corporate Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Assessment Team site visit the week of June 28, 1999. The purpose of the visit is the review the site's safety program prior to submitting the VPP application to DOE.
- o On June 15 and 16, 1999, the Ohio Field Office (Ray Powell) performed an independent technical review of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Facility Representative (FR) program. The program was found to be effectively implemented and exceeded the requirements of the DOE FR standard. There were no weaknesses or concerns noted, and several noteworthy practices were cited. Several recommendations were made for improving the program, which will be implemented by the DOE Ohio Field Office WVDP.
- o Tom Vero and John Drake briefed Mr. Jack Parrott of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the proposed path forward for meeting the characterization requirements for the General Purpose Cell as contained in their 1995 Safety Evaluation Report for WVNS-SAR-002.
- o Over the next two weeks, West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Emergency Management personnel will provide the 40-hour U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Emergency Response to Hazardous Material Incidence Training to representatives of the Cattaraugus County Emergency Response Organization as well as representative of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESSpent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o Transnuclear Inc. (TN) has revised the schedule for performing structural, criticality, containment, thermal, and shielding analyses for full load shipments of the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) casks utilizing the end cap concept for confinement of the damaged fuel. The TN-BRP criticality and containment analysis decision points have been accelerated to July 2, 1999, and July 20, 1999, respectively. Structural decision points (July 5, 1999, for TN-REG and August 11, 1999, for TN-BRP) remain unchanged. Initial results from TN for the TN-REG criticality analysis indicate that poison rods are needed for full loads to meet compliance-based (as opposed to risk-based). For the TN-BRP cask, TN indicates criticality analysis for full load will likely exceed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) criteria. A probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) approach will therefore be required to gain NRC acceptance for full loads of the TN-BRP cask and TN-REG cask without poison rods. The containment analysis for the TN-REG cask indicate that the acceptable leak rate of 7×10^{-5} scc/sec is required for half loads; full load value would be about half of that number. Containment is therefore not likely to be an issue for the TN-REG cask with 100 percent failed fuel. Preliminary results for the TN-BRP cask are expected the week of June 28, 1998.

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- o The purchase order for HAN-TEK to make the necessary modifications to the crane associated with the planned engineered lifts (PEL) of the 104 ton Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask was placed on June 15, 1999. A supplement will be issued to include the effort for evaluation of the impacts of full load shipments.
- o The Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) fuel grapples load test were completed on June 15 and 16, 1999, respectively, and the canister grapple tool load test was completed on June 16, 1999. These tests complete the set of load tests of Fuel Receiving and Storage Facility (FRS) equipment approximately six weeks ahead of schedule in the Milestones for the Spent Fuel Project.
- o Weld repair on the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask frame is on hold, pending final resolution of disposition by Transnuclear Inc. (TN) Engineering of the affected weld areas. Procurement has issued the request for quote (RFQ) to TN for purchase of a new Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) frame. TN's proposal is expected in July.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) signed the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) which outlines the proposed clean-up criteria for the West Valley Site. The SRM has been made available to DOE, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and Citizen Task Force (CTF).
- o On June 2, 1999, Citizen Task Force (CTF) members participated in a conference call with DOE and New York State to discuss the status of DOE and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. DOE and NYSERDA are considering a CTF request to meet with the negotiation mediator.

GENERAL

- o DOE and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) are scheduled to meet June 22 and 23, 1999, in West Valley, New York to continue discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project.
- o Susan Brechbill, appointed to succeed Leah Dever as DOE Ohio Field Office Manager, visited the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on June 21, 1999. She received a briefing and tour, had lunch with local stakeholders, and met with the DOE staff.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o Barry Lawson, mediator for DOE/New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) negotiations, will be at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on June 22, 1999, for a briefing and tour of the Project.

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- o On June 22, 1999, there will be a quarterly public meeting at the Ashford Office Complex. Agenda items include; a project budget update, status of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Project completion, the Annual Site Environmental Report, High-Level Waste Tank clean-out technologies, and an update on New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) projects.
- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is participating in the annual "Ride for Roswell" on Saturday, June 26, 1999, to raise funds for the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Over sixty WVDP riders will bicycle up to sixty-two miles of Western New York roads in memory of Bonnie Beach, a fellow employee who passed away last fall. The Roswell Park Cancer Institute, located in Buffalo, NY, is the nation's first cancer research, treatment, and education center. WVDP employees have raised more than \$5,000 in pledges.
- o On June 28, 1999, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Commissioner Jeffrey Merrifield will visit the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) for a site tour and Project briefing. Stakeholders have been invited to participate in the tour.
- o Tuesday, June 29, 1999, Jack Parrott, Jennifer Davis, and John Contardi, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will visit the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). They will be given an overview presentation on WVDP and a site tour. Additionally, there will be a general discussion on WVDP's overall strategy for stopping High-Level Waste removal.
- o John Drake will travel to Richland, WA on June 28 through July 2, 1999, to participate in the Tanks Focus Area, Annual Program Execution Guidance review meeting.