

**United States Government**

**Department of Energy**

# memorandum

**Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project**

*M-32*

**DATE:** November 30, 1999

**SUBJECT:** Weekly Activities Report

**TO:** Mark 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 November 30, 1999.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

*Barbara A. Mazurowski*  
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  
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
November 30, 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, waste transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank (CFMT), and boil down of liquids in the CFMT. Scheduled activities next week include Evaporator Processing in the LWTS and CFMT boil down. Under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing system, activities are scheduled for size reduction of a thermocouple this week.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 243rd canister, the 2nd in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Continued melter operations are scheduled in the next two weeks.

### **PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Work continues on the Caustic and Nitric Acid Pad demolition. The berm at the south pad has been removed and the curb, berm/pedestal expansion joint, and the sump of the south pad have undergone removal of localized contamination. Additional soil samples have been taken and are being evaluated.
- A videotape of the Acid Recovery Pump Room (ARPR) conditions was produced during the initial sampling of the ARPR cement debris and piping. The sample results will be used to determine the total number of samples required for characterization of the waste streams present in the ARPR.
- The work order to make the initial entry in the General Purpose Cell Crane Room is in sign-off. The replacement drive was bench tested this week and three additional Decontamination and Decommissioning operators were given a walkthrough of the project in the mock-up.
- Preliminary design work continues on the enclosure for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room Extension. The summary design criteria is out for green sheet review.

### **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- The Shipping Depot and the Passage Way between Lag Storage Area (LSA) 3 and 4 construction work continues. Foundation walls were poured last week and the building sidings for both facilities are expected to be delivered to the site this week.

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- The last five intermodals containing North Plateau low-level waste soil were received at Envirocare on Monday, November 29, 1999. This is the last shipment under this campaign. The next campaign will start in spring of next year.

## PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The Interagency Agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the shipment of spent nuclear fuel from the West Valley Demonstration Project to the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory is expected to be signed by NRC this week. Based on NRC's comments in the Statement of Work, it appears NRC will grant an exemption to 10CFR71.13b, i.e., a "-85" designation for the revised cask Certificate of Compliance/Conformance for full loads will not be required. A technical meeting is being scheduled for the week of December 6, 1999.
- Contractor personnel will return to the site on December 6, 1999, to complete modifications to the 100-ton Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) crane for up to full load lifts. Discussions were initiated with Site Operations and Radiation Protection regarding removal of the seized crane hook nut prior to contractor personnel's return.
- A presentation on the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipment was provided at the Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on November 16, 1999. The presentation was focused on providing overview of the upcoming shipment, transportation planning process, and establishing communication with both States and Tribal Governments. A similar presentation was provided to the Midwestern High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 30, 1999.

### Remote-Handled Waste Facility

- The Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) for the Remote-Handled Waste Facility was presented to the West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) Radiation and Safety Committee (R&SC) for review. A meeting will be held on December 9, 1999, to brief the R&SC members with the proposed resolution of their PSAR review comments. This is the final review prior to the PSAR being sent to DOE for a joint DOE Ohio Field Office and DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project review.

### Site Support

- Work is progressing on the refurbishment of the on-site railroad spur with work expecting to be complete December 3, 1999. An inspection by the Federal Rail Administration to determine certification is required by the contractor.

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- o Buttermilk Creek culvert repair options have been reviewed and the preferred alternative selected consists of an extensive internal rib repair of the culvert with external grouting.

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o The next Citizens Task Force (CTF) meeting is scheduled for November 30, 1999. At this meeting, the CTF is planning to discuss 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 Statement is targeted for early December (a draft is presently available on the NRC Internet Website). Once the draft Policy Statement is officially released, NRC is offering a 60-day public comment period. NRC is also planning to conduct a public meeting at the WVDP to take comments. This public meeting is planned for January 5, 2000, at the Ashford Office Complex.

#### **MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- o Steve Bossart and members of the EM-50 Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Focus Area will visit the site Tuesday, November 30, 1999, to discuss D&D efforts at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and possible opportunities for cooperation with the Focus Group.
- o Bryan C. Bower will be participating in the Quality and Safety Management Fall Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada, on November 30 through December 1, 1999.
- o Ahmad Al-Daouk will be presenting an overview of the Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments at the Mid-west High-Level Waste Committee meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 30, 1999.
- o Mr. Todd Jackson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), will be on site next week to conduct routine oversight assessment of the project. Operational areas to be reviewed will include recent organizational and personnel changes, vitrification operations and melter status, recent significant events, high-level waste tank operations, self-assessments and program reviews, low-level waste shipping plans and preparations, radioactive waste management, and decommissioning planning.