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United States Government

Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office

West Valley Demonstration Project

# memorandum

DATE: November 16, 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 16, 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  
November 16, 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 to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator, evaporator processing in the LWTS for volume reduction, 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 two waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT), Evaporator Processing in the Liquid Waste Treatment System, continued liquid management in both Tanks 8D-1 and 8D-2, and CFMT boil down.
- 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 to begin later this month.
- Completed size reduction of a thermocouple and a conductivity probe under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) system. Continued VEMP activities are scheduled for next week.

## **PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Sheet pile removal for the Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW) has been completed and the last few feet of the PTW will be filled with media and capped.
- The Underground Storage Tank Bioventing System is back in operation following the successful installation of an additional line from the exhaust stack to the system's condensate tank.
- Jackhammering of the berm for Caustic and Nitric Tank Pads continues. The south berm area is 90 percent removed. Movement of the tent to the north pad is anticipated for this week to begin removal of the north berm.
- The shield window shim plates for Process Mechanical Cell Window C were removed on November 9, 1999, and the window was successfully removed on November 10, 1999. Disassembly of the window is in progress.

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- The subcontractor has started to mobilize for the refurbishment of the site's railroad spur and BAS Construction has started working to remove material from the spur prior to the subcontractor's refurbishment activities.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Eleven boxes of Dry Active Low-Level Waste is scheduled to be shipped to Envirocare on November 18, 1999. This will be the last shipment for this calendar year. The shipments will commence in early Spring of next calendar year.
- In support of the Shipping Depot construction, underground utilities within the footprint of the building were located and marked. Trenching for the depot foundation footers began on November 9, 1999. Depot and connector building steel is scheduled to be delivered to the local paint shop by November 18, 1999. Connector foundation for Lag Storage Area 3 and 4 activities are scheduled to begin by the end of November.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- The DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) on-site review is being conducted this week. The on-site review team is composed of: Roy Gibbs, DOE-EH, (Team Lead); Sanji Kanth, DOE-EH; Rex Bowser, DOE-EH; Bud Schmidt, DOE-OH; Matt Fitzgerald, Contractor; Vernon McDougal, OSHA; and Jeffrey Aboussie, President, Operating Engineers Union, Local 513, Weldon Springs.
- On November 16 and 17, 1999, two representatives from the Department of Energy Laboratory Accreditation Board will be on site for the biannual dosimetry assessment. The assessment will focus on the Project's external and extremity dosimetry programs.

### Safety Analysis and Integration

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) is conducting the Triennial Radiological Protection Program Assessment the week of November 15, 1999.
- On November 11, 1999, West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) transmitted a recommendation to Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) to revise the site's authorization basis to include the Environmental Management Program as one of the site's authorization basis programs. Following OH/WVDP approval, the Authorization Agreement between DOE and WVNS for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) will be revised accordingly.

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- West Valley Nuclear Services Company attended the Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Workshop this week sponsored by DOE and the Oak Ridge Operations Contractors. The theme of this workshop was "Making ISM a Reality." The purpose was to draw on ISM experiences across all segments of DOE so that the contractor community can benefit from the knowledge gained across the complex. The focus was on the institutionalization of ISM and the role of the worker in effective implementation of ISM at the activity level.
- Revision 12, Draft A, of WVDP-227, which incorporates the Permeable Treatment Wall and the Radiation Protection Laboratory into the facility list, is being routed for final signature.
- Unreviewed Safety Question Determination training was conducted for Safety Analysis and Integration and High-Level Waste Systems Engineering.

#### Remote Handled Waste Facility

- An off-site meeting on the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report for the Remote Handled Waste Facility was held on November 15, 1999, to consolidate team review comments.

### **PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

#### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- A draft Statement of Work (SOW) associated with full-load shipments was received from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on November 15, 1999. The Department of Energy is preparing comments on the SOW and will send a revised SOW to NRC. Once the DOE and NRC agree to the SOW, an Interagency Agreement will be signed. Technical meetings will be scheduled as soon as the Interagency Agreement has been signed.
- The Semi-Annual Spent Fuel meeting among DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, DOE Headquarters (EM-20), Bechtel/Babcock and Wilson Idaho, and West Valley Nuclear Services Company was held November 8 and 9, 1999, at West Valley. Topics discussed included Fiscal Year 2000 planned activities and interfaces, public relations, and issues/concerns. Detailed plans for the first technical meeting involving all organizations associated with the cross-country shipment were discussed.
- Presentations on the West Valley Spent Nuclear Fuel shipments to Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory are planned for the Northeast Council of State Governments meeting to be held November 16 and 17, 1999, in Harrisburg, PA and the Midwest Council of State Governments meeting is to be held November 29 and 30, 1999, in Indianapolis, IN.
- The Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Quarterly Spent Nuclear Fuel Status meeting was held November 10, 1999, which included personnel from Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, Ohio Field Office, DOE Headquarters, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and West Valley Nuclear Services Company.

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**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 late November (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 tentatively planned for January 5, 2000, at the Ashford Office Complex.

**MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- o On November 9, 1999, Moira Maloney attended the Quarterly RCRA 3008(h) Order Meeting at New York State Department of Environmental Conservation office in Buffalo, NY. The meeting went well; no issues or concerns were raised.
- o Bill Hamel will be attending the Phase I Integrated Safety Management System Review in Fernald, OH on November 15 through 19, 1999.
- o T. J. Jackson, B. C. Bower, and A. M. Al-Daouk will attend the Northeast Council of State Governments Meeting, November 16 and 17, 1999, in Harrisburg, PA. A presentation on the West Valley Spent Nuclear Fuel shipments will be made by Ahmad Al-Daouk.
- o John Drake will travel to Rockville, MD on November 16, 1999, to meet with Nuclear Regulatory Commission personnel regarding West Valley Demonstration Project plans for criticality analyses relative to cleanup of the General Purpose Cell.
- o Joseph May will be participating in an Environmental Management Integration Transportation Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT on November 16 and 17, 1999. The objective of the meeting is to develop a draft shipping schedule for the shipment of DOE spent nuclear fuel and high-level waste canisters to the Federal Repository. Following this meeting, the draft schedule will be forwarded to the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management for their consideration.