

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

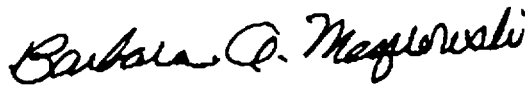
DATE: November 9, 1999

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 9, 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 9, 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, controlled decanting of excess liquid from Tank 8D-2 to 8D-1, and waste transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank.
- Scheduled activities next week include evaporator processing in the Liquid Waste Treatment System, continued liquid management in both Tanks 8D-1 and 8D-2, and Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank 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.
- Size reduction of a thermocouple and a nozzle D level detector under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) system was completed last week. Continued VEMP activities are scheduled for this week.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Caustic and Nitric Pad demolition continues with jack-hammering of the berm area, which began on November 4, 1999. Once the pad/berm removal activities are completed, BAS personnel will remove the pedestals.
- Hot Cells Services completed the installation of the extraction table and shield door for the Process Mechanical Cell C window. Decontamination and Decommissioning Operations is completing installation of the containment tent. Actual removal of the window is planned for November 10, 1999.
- PaR Systems, Inc. has started the design of the Bridge Mounted Manipulator Systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and the General Purpose Cell. Initial efforts are focused on the design of the mast. A status meeting is planned at PaR Systems for the week of November 8, 1999.

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- o Mock-up work for the repair of the General Purpose Cell Crane Room (GCR) shield door continues. The gear boxes and base plates were installed in the mock-up and the initial walk through on the debris collection techniques was completed. The results of this walkthrough are being incorporated into the initial draft of the GCR clean-up work order.
- o Construction of the crane access pad for the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room enclosure continued this week. The majority of the excavation for the crane access pad has been completed and preparations for the installation of the retaining walls is in progress.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o Twelve intermodals filled with low-level soil were shipped to Conway, PA via trucks last week. Six intermodals were shipped and loaded to the railcar on November 2, 1999. This railcar left Conway en route to Envirocare on November 5, 1999. The second six intermodals were shipped and loaded to the rail car on November 4, 1999. This railcar left Conway en route to Envirocare on November 6, 1999. The final five intermodals are scheduled for shipment on November 9, 1999, to Conway, PA. Work is in progress to determine when these railcars will arrive at Envirocare. These railcars will be tracked and the updated location will be provided by the carrier on a twice-daily basis.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- o West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is continuing to prepare for the DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) on-site review scheduled for the week of November 15, 1999. The DOE-VPP on-site Review Team is: Roy Gibbs, DOE-EH, (Team Lead); Sanji Kanth, DOE-EH; Rex Bowser, DOE-EH; Matt Fitzgerald, Contractor; Vernon McDougal, OSHA; and Jeffrey Aboussie, President, Operating Engineers Union, Local 513, Weldon Springs. The Ohio Field Office has been invited to send a representative as an observer tentatively identified as Bud Schmidt.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o The Semi-Annual meeting for the West Valley Demonstration Project Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) program was held on November 8 through 9, 1999, at the WVDP. Representatives from Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) and WVDP presented the SNF project accomplishments for fiscal year (FY) 1999 and planned activities for FY2000.
- o On October 28, 1999, a conference call was held with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to resolve programmatic issues with regard to NRC's support of the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) and Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask

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relicensing. During this call the U.S. Department of Energy and the NRC agreed that an Interagency Agreement would be the appropriate mechanism for providing funding to the NRC. Both parties also agreed to expedite development of the Interagency Agreement. A draft Statement of Work was prepared and sent to the NRC for review on November 1, 1999. Technical meetings will be scheduled as soon as the Interagency Agreement has been signed.

- The quarterly DOE/New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Spent Fuel Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10, 1999, at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- A series of meetings focusing on the transfer and exchange of technical details pertaining to the Remote Handled Waste Facility conceptual design are scheduled for the weeks of November 8 and 15, 1999. As part of these meetings, the subcontractor will be conducting a design and operability review of the conceptual design.

Site Support

- A kick-off meeting with the railroad spur refurbishment subcontractor was held on November 1, 1999. Mobilization and work should begin this week.
- All required information from Hartman Engineering relative to the repair of the Buttermilk Creek culvert has been received. This information is being incorporated into a report on possible repair alternatives to be completed early next week.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The next Citizen's Task Force (CTF) meeting is scheduled for November 30, 1999. At this meeting, the CTF is planning to discuss the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) draft Policy Statement on Decontamination and Decommissioning Criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). The CTF's review of this draft Policy Statement is contingent on NRC's public release for comment of this draft Statement targeted for mid-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 scheduled for December 15, 1999.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- Gerald Boyd, DOE-HQ, EM-50, visited the site November 1, 1999, for briefings on technology deployments at the West Valley Demonstration Project, including the Permeable Treatment Wall and the Remote Handled Waste Facility.

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- o Ted Pietrok, DOE Richland; Kurt Gerdes, DOE Headquarters; and Tom Brouns, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory visited the site November 5, 1999, to discuss Tanks Focus Area activity at the West Valley Demonstration Project.
- o Bill Hamel will be attending the Integrated Safety Management System Workshop in Knoxville, TN on November 9 and 10, 1999.
- o John Drake will travel to Rockville, MD on November 16, 1999, to meet with U.S. 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 through 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. The draft schedule will be forwarded to the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management for their consideration.