

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

**Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project**

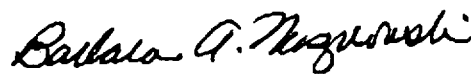
DATE: February 1, 2000

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 February 1, 2000.

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
February 1, 2000
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

High-Level Waste Transfer Activities

- Progress continues towards high-level waste tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included: two waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank (CFMT), boil down of liquids in the CFMT, and welding and decon of waste canister 241. Scheduled activities next week include waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to CFMT and continued CFMT boil downs.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 246th canister, the fifth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Installation of the steel for the Process Mechanical Crane Room Enclosure continued this week with all of the floor steel being installed. The installation of the building columns and roof steel will continue this week. The contractor is now working six 10-hour days to stay on schedule. Hot Cells Services has begun fabrication of the liners for the shield windows. The bids for the fabrication of the rolling hatch were received and reviewed.
- Design continues on the Enclosure for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room Extension. The construction specification is approximately 90 percent complete. The final design details are being completed.
- Work on the West Mechanical Operating Aisle (WMOA) piping and duct work sampling began January 24, 2000, following a pre-job briefing. Radiological surveys and inspection of painted pipe (for the presence of lead) are under way. Sampling of pipe and duct work will follow review of survey information and utility isolations.
- Initial work has begun on Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) of the Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) Cooling Tower. Meetings are scheduled with Engineering, Radiation Projects, and D&D Operations to discuss tell-tailing of pool water lines feeding the Cooling Tower and the return line to the FRS pool. The initial need is to verify that lines are drained; tell-tailing will also allow us to obtain a swab of the interior of the piping.
- The draft proposal for the Permeable Treatment Wall project to be submitted to EM-50's Accelerated Site Technology Deployment (ASTD) Program was transmitted to Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project for review and comment. Initial contacts with the Subsurface Contaminants Focus Area will be made this week to coordinate soliciting other

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sites for subsequent deployment of this technology. Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) requested West Valley Nuclear Services Company consider deployment of their dual-arm work platform for future West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Decontamination and Decommissioning activities. Deployment at the WVDP would be tied to an ASTD submittal that ANL is preparing.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- In support of the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 Shipping Depot construction project, the contractor placed the connector main slab, formed the external piers, and placed the internal caissons for the LSA-4 column modification, installed siding on the depot south wall, and completed approximately 75 percent of the depot office masonry.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- A conference call was held on January 27, 2000, among the U.S. Department of Energy, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS), Transnuclear Inc. (TN), and Structural Integrity Associates (SIA) to discuss borated stainless steel (BSS) material properties testing to supplement information obtained from a literature search. SIA reported bend bar testing, Charpy-type impact fracture toughness tests, and subsequent microstructure analysis would be required. SIA will complete the design of a fracture toughness program by February 4, 2000. TN has drafted a procedure for removal of basket plates for testing and will transmit it to WVNS by February 4, 2000. TN is awaiting response to the Request for Quotes (RFQs) for replacement plates (both stainless steel and BSS) for the plates to be removed for materials testing. TN submitted a schedule for the material properties test program which shows completion of testing in mid-April 2000 and completion of the report in mid-May 2000. TN also submitted draft schedules for replacement of the entire BSS baskets with regular stainless steel.
- A meeting has been scheduled with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for February 14, 2000, to discuss the results of the borated stainless steel literature search and the proposed test program. A premeeting to review the NRC presentation has been scheduled for February 10, 2000.
- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that revised Safety Analysis Reports (SARs) for full loads for both casks will not be submitted in March 2000, as planned. DOE stated that the earliest date for submittal of revised SARs would be mid-April 2000. Changes to the Interagency Agreement, revision to the NRC review schedule for the cask SARs, and the potential submittal of the revised SARs prior to completion of the borated stainless steel (BSS) materials property testing will be discussed with the NRC at the February 14, 2000, meeting.

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- Han-Tek, the crane manufacturer representative, is scheduled to witness the load test and perform a post-load test review of the crane this week. Equipment needed for the load test (weights, weight sled, slings, etc.) has been identified.
- Fuel Handler certification training began on January 24, 2000. The training participants include five operators, three quality assurance engineers, and a radiation protection technician. The training is scheduled to last five weeks.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) and Butler Construction have agreed to accelerate the Remote Handled Waste Facility design schedule to support an early start of construction (i.e., October 2000). The final decision to begin construction isn't expected to be made until early this summer. Butler/Raytheon is continuing to develop system description documents which form the basis of preliminary design.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company is currently gathering radiological data from the archives on the Chemical Processing Cell concrete pedestals. Rough order of magnitude cost estimates indicate that shipping the pedestals "as-is" is a more attractive option compared to decontamination of the pedestals. Additional data analysis will help to determine if further sampling and lab analysis is needed to support the ship as-is option.

Site Support

- For use during the design process, a half-scale mock-up of the proposed repair to the Buttermilk Creek culvert is being fabricated at an off-site vendor. The fabrication is scheduled to be completed by February 4, 2000.
- In support of the Lake No. 1 Dam stability analysis, the fourth bore hole for the inclinometer located on the upper slope of the dam has been completed, including the installation and grouting of the casing. Drilling and installation of the piezometers continues. A meeting was held with Hartman Engineering and P. J. Carey & Associates at which the number and location of the piezometers were finalized, and additional soil testing was agreed upon.
- Piping and electrical installation, in support of the utility room condensate tank replacement project, continues. Physical construction work should be complete February 18, 2000.

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, HEALTH and QUALITY ASSURANCE

- The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP), with the assistance of Ohio Field Office - Office of Compliance and Support (OH/OCS), will be conducting an Annual ISMS Review. This effort will be conducted the week of February 14, 2000. The

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team will be composed of three OH/OCS representatives and five OH/WVDP representatives. The team leader is Bill Hamel.

- o On January 31, 2000, DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) received a recommendation from DOE EH-62, Office of Epidemiologic Studies, that the current moratorium on the destruction of epidemiologic records be lifted for approximately 152 cubic feet of Project records currently covered by the freeze. The moratorium was applied to some records which have no epidemiological significance and to some records whose long retention periods do not require inclusion under the moratorium to ensure their preservation. The recommendation is the result of a EH-64 records review requested by the Project in November 1999 and has been forwarded to DOE SO-31, Office of Information, Records, and Resource Management for concurrence. DOE Headquarters approval would allow the destruction of specific records currently under the moratorium, reducing agency records costs.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On January 5, 2000, personnel from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hosted a public meeting at the Ashford Office Complex to provide information and discuss with the public NRC's Draft Policy Statement regarding decommissioning criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project and West Valley site. NRC entertained many public comments, answered questions, and discussed issues such as institutional controls, agency jurisdictions, and details of the Licence Termination Rule. A transcript of the meeting is available to the public can be found on NRC's internet web site. DOE has documented with the NRC via letter dated February 1, 2000, our intention to provide written comments on the Policy Statement within the next 30 through 60 days.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o The Citizen's Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been postponed and will be rescheduled for mid- to late April 2000.