

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

11-32

DATE: June 8, 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 8, 1999.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

Elizabeth James for
Barbara A. Mazurowski, Director
West Valley Demonstration Project

Attachment

cc: J. D. Parrott, NRC-HQ
T. Jackson, NRC-Region 1
OH/WVDP Staff
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
June 8, 1999
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- o Progress continues toward 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; and operation of the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) for water management activities. Continuing work activities this week include preparation for the next Zeolite transfer.
- o The melter continues to idle. Off-gas analyzer repair, replacements, and functional checkouts are being conducted. Melter will resume operations to support the annual Relative Accuracy Test Audit.
- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) submitted their strategy for defining the stopping point for high-level waste (HLW) vitrification to Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) for review and comment. OH/WVDP is currently performing a technical review of the strategy and will provide comments to WVNS by the beginning of July 1999.
- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) has submitted a plan which outlines the anticipated workscopes and necessary planning required for deactivation of the High-Level Waste Tank Farm and Vitrification Facilities. The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) is currently performing a technical review of the plan and will provide comments to WVNS by the end of July 1999.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o Removal of asbestos in the old Low-Level Waste (02) Facility was completed this week.
- o Preparations for entry into the Scrap Removal Room (SRR) have been completed and entries to perform transfer of tank waste into drums will commence this week. Completion of waste transfer is expected by Tuesday, June 15, 1999.
- o Preparations for entry into the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room (PMCR) have been completed with removal of the PaR manipulator tubes and application of a contamination fixative.

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WASTE MANAGEMENTWaste Operations

- o Sorted waste for disposal will be compacted in the Waste Reduction and Packaging Area. The next low-level waste shipment to Envirocare is scheduled for June 10, 1999. To date, 18 shipments with a cumulative total of 15,716 cubic feet have been shipped for disposal in fiscal year 1999.
- o Preparations for Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 demolition are near completion. Container Sorting and Packaging Facility (CSPF) operations will be curtailed on June 9, 1999, to allow shutdown of the facility by June 14, 1999. Dismantling of LSA-4 is scheduled to begin June 15, 1999.
- o Scientech has completed revising the conceptual design for the Remote-Handled Waste Facility in preparation for the conceptual design review on June 15, 1999. The remaining design review material, including the revised Preliminary Process Hazard Analysis, was transmitted to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on June 4, 1999.
- o Four proposals were received June 2, 1999, for the first phase of the design and build turnkey contract for the Remote-Handled Waste Facility. The Evaluation Team will meet June 10, 1999, to review the technical proposals. Preparation of the addendum to the Request for Proposal for the design and build turnkey contract is continuing.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESSpent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o Procurement issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purchase of a new Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask frame. A representative of Transnuclear Inc. (TN) will visit the vendor performing weld repair on the existing Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask frame for disposition of problem weld areas.
- o A top level schedule of preparations for receipt of the West Valley Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) at Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEEL) was received from Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company (LMITCO). The Buffalo and Pittsburg (B&P) Railroad informed West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) they will not be able to submit a proposal until July 1999 for upgrades of the rail lines from the WVDP to Machias, however, the work should still be completed before November 1999.

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. Details of the SRM will be available to DOE, New York State Energy

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Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and stakeholders following NRC approvals for public release.

- 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 On May 17 and 18, 1999, Barbara Mazurowski met with DOE Headquarters and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) management at the Ashford Office Complex (AOC) to continue discussing obligations and responsibilities for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). The next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 1999, in Albany.
- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) submitted their Voluntary Protection Plan (VPP) application for senior management review. They will submit the application to DOE by July 15, 1999, for a concurrent Ohio Field Office and Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) review. The goal is to have an on-site review by the VPP/EH Team in October.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o Bryan Bower is attending a Transuranic (TRU) waste meeting in Richland, WA on June 7 through 9, 1999, to discuss size reduction of material for shipping.
- o Ahmad Al-Daouk is at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project on June 7 through 10, 1999, to participate on a Year 2000 (Y2K) assessment of their systems.
- o Barbara Mazurowski is participating in the Ohio Field Office Summit in Ashtabula, Ohio on June 8 and 9, 1999.
- o Jack Krajewski and Tim DiGiulio, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), will visit the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on June 9, 1999, to discuss Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requirements associated with closure of the high-level waste tanks.
- o Representatives from the Office of Waste Management, Office of Environmental Management (EM) will conduct an audit of the High-Level Waste (HLW) Quality Assurance Program activities related to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) HLW vitrification process on June 14 through 18, 1999. The audit will be performed in accordance with

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agreements contained in the Memorandum of Agreement for acceptance of DOE Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste between EM and the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

- o Larry Ling, DOE Savannah River, and Bob Bernero, consultant, will visit West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on Tuesday, June 15, 1999. The propose of the visit is to initiate discussions pertaining to their involvement in reviewing the WVDP strategy for defining the stopping point for high-level waste (HLW) vitrification. Mr. Bernero was formerly the Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- o Mr. Jack Parrot of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be on site June 16, 1999, for a presentation on West Valley Demonstration Project's (WVDP) path forward in addressing the NRC restriction on proposed activities in the General Purpose Cell. The restriction was originated as part of the NRC review of the Safety Analysis Report for Low-Level Waste Processing and Support Activities.
- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) will host a Regulatory Roundtable on June 16, 1999, to discuss progress and the path forward to Project completion with various regulatory agencies. Participants include U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation representatives.
- 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.