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United States Government**Department of Energy****Ohio Field Office****West Valley Demonstration Project**

Memorandum

DATE: January 18, 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 January 18, 2000.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

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

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
January 18, 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), and boil down of liquids in the CFMT. Scheduled activities next week include continued CFMT boil downs, waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to CFMT and size reduction of Spent Level Indication Equipment under the Vitrification Expended Material Processing (VEMP) system.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 246th canister, the fifth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.
- The Ohio Field Office and West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) are performing a full Conduct of Operations Assessment of the WVDP from January 10 through 21, 2000. The areas that will be examined include all 18 chapters of DOE 5480.19; the Conduct of Operations Graded Approach Matrix; Process Safety Requirements Implementation; WVNS' Drill Program; and Operational Implementation of RW-0333P Requirements.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Hot Cells Services arrived back on site on January 10, 2000, to begin work on the General Purpose Cell B shield window. Hot Cells has drained the oil from the window and has started removal of the first two pieces of shield glass.
- The ball screws and nuts for the General Purpose Cell Shield Door repair were received. Additional mock up activities are planned for next week to refine the floor decontamination methods and methods for the installation of the shield plates.
- The four stainless steel tanks remaining on the 02 Pad will be removed in the Spring. Transfer of the neutralized solution to the old interceptor was completed on January 7, 2000. Approximately 500 to 600 gallons of solids and slurry remain in the clarifier. The old interceptor has been filled to capacity, therefore, future transfers will wait until capacity is available. Operations are being secured around and within the Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility.
- Completed a preliminary walk-down of the old Facility Receiving and Storage Cooling Tower Control Building and Radiation Monitoring Building. As a result of the walk-down, potential Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) has been identified. Further analysis of the potential ACM is required.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

- In support of the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 Shipping Depot construction project, the contractor completed installation of the connector siding and roofing, framing the connector opening into LSA-3, forming the column modification external piers, boring and excavating the column modification internal caissons. In addition, the contractor started the depot siding and roofing, setup the office masonry scaffolding and weather tent, and completed approximately 50 percent of the office masonry.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The majority of classroom training material on Spent Fuel Operations has been assembled and bound for operator use. This includes the Systems Training Lesson Plan and Study Guide, reference drawings, and applicable material. Facility training classes will start January 24, 2000, with morning classroom sessions, and Facility Receiving and Storage Area skill and familiarization instruction in the afternoon.
- A conference call was held January 14, 2000, among the Department of Energy, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, West Valley Nuclear Services Company, Transnuclear Inc. (TN), and Structural Integrity Associates (SIA) to discuss borated stainless steel material properties information obtained from a literature search. SIA reported there is significantly more information on the material used in the TN-Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask (Grade A) than for the TN-Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask (Grade B). SIA feels limited Charpy fracture toughness testing on the TN-REG basket material will be required to confirm the material properties are consistent with American Society for Testing Material. More extensive testing would be required for the TN-BRP basket material. SIA will develop a proposed fracture toughness program by February 4, 2000, which could be used for discussion with the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. TN will develop a plan for removal of basket plates by that date.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company has hired Dr. Spencer Bush, a metallurgy expert often used by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dr. Bush will review the borated stainless steel materials issue and the fracture toughness testing program being developed by Structural Integrity Associates.
- Transnuclear Inc. continues to prepare cask Safety Analysis Report (SAR) revisions for full loads for submittal to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Department of Energy (DOE) originally planned to submit revised SARs for both casks by March 2000. DOE is evaluating delaying the SAR submittals, and will revise the schedule after a meeting is held with the NRC to discuss additional material testing.

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Remote Handled Waste Facility

- Butler/Raytheon's preparation of the Remote Handle Waste Facility (RHWF) System Design Descriptions is underway. Additionally, Sciencetech has completed the draft RHWF Decontamination and Decommissioning report, which is currently under review.

Site Support

- Engineering calculations by Hartman Engineering for the Buttermilk Creek culvert design have been completed. Work has begun on rigging and installation methods for the ribs in support of the design effort. Fabrication of the half scale mockup which is to be used as a design aid is in process and scheduled to be completed in early February.
- In support of the Lake No. 1 Dam stability analysis, the second bore hole for the inclinometer located at the base of the dam has been completed, including the installation and grouting of the casing. Preparations for the third bore hole have begun.
- The new utility room condensate tank and pump base have been grouted in place on the existing foundation. Piping installation has been initiated.
- Relocation of the women's locker room, in support of Head End Cell work, continues. The floor in the speed space has been removed and the new floor is down. Delivery of the floor covering for the shower area and locker room is expected the week of January 17, 2000. Work is continuing in the shower area with the installation of the shower stalls. Pipefitters started work on installing the hot and cold water lines.

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, HEALTH and QUALITY ASSURANCE

- The Ohio Field Office (DOE-OH) and the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) are conducting a joint review of WVNS-SAR-023, Rev. 0, Draft B, "Preliminary Safety Analysis Report for the Remote Handled Waste Facility." West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) provided an overview presentation on the Safety Analysis (SAR) program in general, and this Preliminary SAR in particular, on January 10, 2000. Comments will be provided to WVNS by February 22, 2000.
- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP), with support from Ohio Field Office, Office of Compliance and Support (OH/OCS), will conduct an annual Integrated Safety Management Systems review during the week of February 14, 2000. The team will be comprised of seven OH/WVDP staff and three OH/OCS representatives.

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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 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.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o Lisa Maul will be at the Ohio Field Office on January 19 and 20, 2000, participating in training on the Federal Appropriations Process.