

United States Government

Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office

West Valley Demonstration Project

# Memorandum

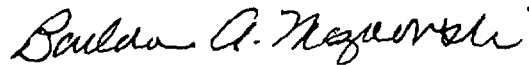
DATE: June 1, 1999

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 1, 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  
OH/WVDP Staff  
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
**June 1, 1999**  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE TRANSFER ACTIVITIES**

- o Progress continues toward high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included processing more Tank 8D-1 liquids through the ion-exchange columns of the Supernatant Treatment System (STS); and preparations for the next series of spent zeolite transfers. Continuing work activities this week include: performing a spent zeolite transfer; estimating the volume of solids remaining in Tank 8D-1; and preparations for volume reduction of STS effluent using Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS).
- o The Melter remains in idle mode with the twelfth fiscal year 1999 canister below the Melter pour spout. Melter operation will resume to support the annual Relative Accuracy Test Audit the week of June 6, 1999.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o The write-up for defining a stopping point for High-Level Waste removal from tanks was completed on May 28, 1999, and forwarded to the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) for review. The document includes technical practicality, economic practicality, Class C concentration, and performance assessment based limits for HLW removal from the tanks that are being considered. The report will ultimately be transmitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for their review and concurrence.
- o All equipment preparations for removal of the Scrap Removal Room (SRR) tank waste such as; drum fill lids, TRU drums and liners with HEPA vents, utility hoses, and other ancillary items have been completed and are staged for the SRR entry. Entry into the SRR is planned for this week.
- o Preparations have started on the repair to the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room (PMCR) Shield Window. The first entry into the Manipulator Repair Room (MRR) and PMCR was made on May 25, 1999. The failed camera in the PMCR was replaced and an inspection of the PMCR floor was performed to determine if any of the hydrochloric acid was on the cell floor. The inspection of the floor showed it to be dry. Additional inspections are being done with Environmental Affairs personnel with the video camera to assess the PMCR floor area.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Waste Operations

- o An intermodal shipping container is being brought on site to familiarize West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. personnel with this type of container. Representatives from the transporter and the company providing the intermodal will be on hand to answer questions.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

June 1, 1999

- o In support of Lag Storage Area 4 Storage Facility replacement, the bulk of the initial submittals were received. Contractor preparations for removal are near completion. Container Sorting and Packaging Facility (CSPF) operations will be on stand-by on June 9, 1999, to allow shutdown of the facility by June 14, 1999. Removal of fabric and steel structure is scheduled to begin June 15, 1999.
- o The scheduled shipment for this week to Envirocare has been rescheduled to next week, June 10, 1999. Next weeks shipment will be the first compacted Dry Active Waste to be shipped to Envirocare for disposal.

#### Remote Handled Waste Project

- o Sciencetech continues to work on revising the conceptual design for the Remote-Handled Waste Facility in preparation for the conceptual design review in mid-June. The Design Review team arrangements are being finalized and some review related materials are being sent to selected reviewers.
- o The Value Engineering Review recommendations in the material handling area are being incorporated into the conceptual design for the Remote-Handled Waste Facility.

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

#### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) was informed on May 25, 1999, that the Approval Record is awaiting final signatures by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) management and the issuance of Revision 5 to Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask Certificate of Compliance/Conformance (C of C) No. 9206 for the poison and filler rod elimination is imminent.
- o Transnuclear Inc. (TN) submitted a cost estimate and schedule for performing structural, criticality, containment, thermal, and shielding analyses for full load shipments of the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) casks utilizing the end cap concept for confinement of the damaged fuel. The schedule also includes preparation of revised Safety Analysis Reports (SAR) and shows TN-REG SAR submittal to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for review and approval in October 1999, and the TN-BRP SAR submittal to the NRC in November 1999. Decision points on proceeding with full loads are also shown. A conference call among the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), and TN is scheduled for June 2, 1999 to discuss the schedule and the path forward regarding full loads.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

June 1, 1999

- o Containment leak rate calculations performed by Transnuclear (TN) per the methodology of NUREG/CR-6487 show that 100 percent damaged fuel rods can be tolerated with half loads in the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask if the cask leak is  $1.0 \text{ E-5}$  or better. For the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) 75 percent damaged fuel rods can be tolerated with half loads. Calculation for full loads are still ongoing.

### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Commissioner's have voted on how they intend to proceed with applying Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Criteria to the West Valley site. The details of their selection will be presented in the Staff Requirements Memorandum to be prepared by NRC Commissioner's staff in the next few weeks.
- o On June 2, 1999, Citizen Task Force (CTF) members will participate 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 discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

### **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.
- o The West Valley Demonstration Project Safety Challenge finished on June 1, 1999. The Safety Challenge encouraged both contractor and DOE employees to participate in and/or perform a series of safety-related tasks with the goal of heightening safety awareness and improving safety performance. The DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project had 100 percent of the staff complete the challenge.
- o There were two injuries reported this week. One was a first aid and the other was a restricted work case.

Predecisional Draft

- 4 -

June 1, 1999

**MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- o The Relative Accuracy Test Audit to be observed by Mr. Bruce Bartz of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has been tentatively rescheduled for the second week in June. This test is being conducted as part of West Valley Demonstration Project's (WVDP) requirements to monitor nitrogen oxides from the vitrification process.
- o From June 1 through 4, 1999, Geoffrey Gorsuch and Lydia Boada-Clista, both from the Ohio Field Office, Office of Compliance and Support will be at West Valley to assist in performing surveys of the site's Occupational Medicine, Health, and Safety Plan; Confined Space Program; and Chemical Safety Program. In addition, Garry Yaffe from DOE's Savannah River Site (DOE-SRS) will be on site from June 2 through 7, 1999, to assess our Fire Protection Program.
- o On June 2, 1999, C. Eckert, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP), will be attending a meeting of the Ohio Radiological Control Managers in Miamisburg, OH. This will be a routine status meeting and C. Eckert will present an update of the current radiological activities at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).
- o Several members of the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) will be participating in an off-site "Leadership Forum" on June 3, 1999. The forum will include contractor management, as well as participants from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Discussion topics will focus on key objectives for fiscal year 2000.