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United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

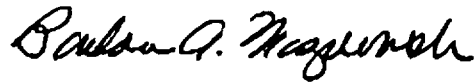
DATE: September 28, 1999

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 September 28, 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  
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
September 28, 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 decant of excess liquid from Tank 8D-2 to 8D-1.
- Progress continues on flushing of contaminated lines in support of recovery from the "Radioactive Liquid Backup into Steam Lines" event on August 10, 1999. Final water flushes and removal of contaminated steam piping were conducted successfully. Final preparations are being made to resume vitrification operations.
- The West Valley Nuclear Services Company Event Investigation Team has completed their review of this event and has developed a long-term corrective action plan. Currently they are in the process of implementing corrective actions in response to their plan. The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project Event Investigation Team finalized and issued their report on September 27, 1999.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 242nd canister, the 13th in fiscal year 1999 under the melter feed pour spout. Resumption of the melter is tentatively scheduled for this week.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Samples of the O2 Facility roof material were taken this week which will be shipped off site for chemical and radiological analysis next week. Progress continued on preparing for acid flushing of the O2 Plant clarifier, including welding of pipe caps onto discharge lines.
- Efforts continue to update the Waste Disposition Plan for the Caustic and Nitric Pad Demolition Project. Plant drawings were reviewed to identify lines that need to be isolated. The scope of work for excavating the concrete pads has been prepared and reviewed by Purchasing, Construction, and Main Plant Operations; and a Purchase Request for this scope is being prepared.
- Hot Cells Services completed the removal of the cold side shield glass from the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) B and C windows. The four glass slabs have been sent back to Hot Cells facility in the state of Washington for polishing. Preparatory work associated with removal of the PMC B window assembly has been initiated.
- The technical evaluation was completed on the proposal from PaR Systems on the Bridge Mounted Manipulator Systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and the General Purpose Cell. The best and final proposal is due from PaR early next week.

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- Fabrication of the mock up of the General Purpose Cell Crane Room was completed at the Vitrification Test Facility. Initially this mock up will be used to determine the techniques to decontaminate the room and install shielding to for the repair of the shield door, which will begin in early October 1999. The mock up will also be used to develop the methods to repair the door.
- Decontamination and Decommissioning Support and Plant Engineering completed the initial design of the new women's locker room. This new locker room will replace the portion of the existing women's locker room in the Main Plant that must be removed to allow construction of the enclosure for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room Extension.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

- One shipment was made to Envirocare for disposal last week, September 23, 1999. This is the last shipment for the Fiscal Year (FY). To date, 37 shipments with cumulative total of 35,630 cubic feet have been shipped in FY1999.
- Over fifty percent of the vertical support columns for the Lag Storage Area 4 steel structure have been set. Horizontal connectors are being delivered on site. The project is on schedule to be completed by the end of October 1999.

### ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- U.S. Department of Energy and West Valley Nuclear Services Company, including a subject matter expert, conducted an electrical safety audit the week of September 20, 1999. Generally, the electrical safety program at the West Valley Demonstration Project was found to be very good.

### PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

#### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- Additional negotiations with the Buffalo and Pittsburgh (B&P) Railroad on the proposal for rail service from the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) to Ashford Junction to Machias were held last week. Revised prices for completion on the rail upgrade work by June 1, 2000, were received. Concurrent with this activity, evaluation of bids for refurbishment of the WVDP 1.8 mile rail spur were completed and bidders are expected to submit their best and final offer this week. Refurbishment of the rail could be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting.

#### Remote Handled Waste Facility

- DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project has reviewed the purchase order for the design and construction of a Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) and has given

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West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) approval to award the subcontract. The primary purpose of the RHWF is to process high dose/high contamination WVDP wastes for off-site disposal. WVNS is expected to issue the award this week.

### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The next Citizen Task Force meeting is scheduled for October 19, 1999, and will focus on engineering design changes for closure options under consideration for the high-level waste tanks and Process Building.
- The next quarterly public meeting is scheduled for September 28, 1999. Agenda items include installation of the Permeable Treatment Wall on the North Plateau, progress on the Environmental Impact Statement, and general Project activities.
- As part of DOE's effort to further evaluate possible Environmental Impact Statement closure scenarios, a public demonstration was held on September 21, 1999, to display a potential application of a grout mixture for managing radioactive wastes in place. The grout was poured into a large tank containing non radioactive debris designed to simulate how this approach might apply if it were selected in closing the Process Building or high-level waste tanks. This was the first part of a two-part test designed to show that this grout mixture is easily "reversible" (i.e., retrievable) after it has been poured. The second part of this test, the retrievability of the grout, is planned for mid-October.

### **MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- Dan Stachelski will be attending the Behavioral Safety Now Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, the week of October 5, 1999.
- Bruce Bartz of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, will conduct an inspection to determine the compliance status of the West Valley Demonstration Project's air emissions programs on September 29, 1999.
- A meeting has been tentatively arranged with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on October 13, 1999, on the Transnuclear Big Rock Point and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna casks. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss NRC's expectations for shipment of damaged fuel. A presentation for the technical meeting has been prepared, as well as supporting information for an initial meeting with the NRC management.
- Representatives from the Office of Enforcement and Investigation (EH-10) will be at the West Valley Demonstration Project on October 5 and 6, 1999. The purpose of this visit will be to investigate the "Radioactive Liquid Backup into Steam Lines" event on August 10, 1999.

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- On September 28, 1999, representatives from the Tank Focus Area will be on site to discuss West Valley Demonstration Project's technology needs.
- On September 29, 1999, representatives from the Sub-surface Focus Area will be on site to discuss the Permeable Treatment Wall installation and possible wall expansion.