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United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

**Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project**

DATE: September 21, 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 21, 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
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
September 21, 1999
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 transfer of liquids to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator for volume reduction. Work activities this week include will include water management through the Supernatant Treatment System and the LWTS systems.
- Progress continues on flushing of contaminated lines in support of recovery from the "Radioactive Liquid Backup into Steam Lines" event on August 10, 1999. The fifth in a series of water flushes was conducted to reduce radiation levels in the Vitrification Facility aisles. Based upon the results of the post-flush survey, a post-flushing path forward will be developed which will address the blowdown of the flush lines, removal of all flushing assemblies, and removal of Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank (CFMT) bubbler steam purge. These actions will result in the ability to resume CFMT 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. The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project Event Investigation Team is finalizing their report which is scheduled to be issued on September 28, 1999.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 242nd canister, the 13th in fiscal year 1999 under the melter feed pour spout.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- In support of the O2 roof sampling effort, fall protection was evaluated and a radiation survey of the roof was performed to determine sampling locations. Roof sampling is expected to begin this week.
- The proposed path forward methodology for Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) of the Caustic and Nitric Tank Pads was prepared. The path forward calls for removal of the berm, pedestal material, and contaminated soil.
- Hot Cells Services completed the draining of the oil in the Process Mechanical Cell B and C windows and completed the removal of the cold side cover glass from both windows. Work to begin removal of the cold side shield glass has started and should be completed early this week.

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- The bid proposal was received from PaR Systems on the Bridge Mounted Manipulator Systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and the General Purpose Cell. The technical evaluation of the proposal has started and should be completed by early next week.
- Construction of the mock up of the General Purpose Cell Crane Room continues and should be completed early this week. The High Efficiency Particulate Air Filter (HEPA) vacuums are on order with delivery anticipated by the end of September 1999.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Railroad spur refurbishment continues with removal of overburden materials from the track behind the Utility Room. Bids have been received (from two bidders) and are being evaluated.
- Dewatering of the Permeable Treatment Wall area isolated by the sheet piles began September 11, 1999, and has been completed. Water levels will be checked prior to excavation which is expected to begin at the end of the week.
- Preparations are underway to ship approximately ten boxes of compacted debris to Envirocare on September 23, 1999. This shipment will total an excess of 35,000 cubic feet shipped in fiscal year (FY) 1999. To date, 36 shipments with a cumulative total of 34,048 cubic feet have been shipped in FY 1999.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- Mr. Bruce Bartz, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Air, will be on site Wednesday, September 29, 1999, to conduct an annual inspection.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) conducted a reengineering effort to improve the reporting and tracking of deficiencies. As a result of this reengineering effort, WVNS will develop a single site-wide reporting methodology for the proper identification, documentation, and tracking of deficient items.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- Prototype testing of a cask sleeve to help prevent contamination of the cask while in the pool and reduce worker exposure was successfully completed last week on September 15, 1999. A new spray ring for cask decontamination was installed in the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area decontamination stall.

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Remote Handled Waste Facility

- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project is coordinating with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Ohio Field Office pertaining to their involvement in the review and approval of the Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Safety Analysis Report.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The next Citizen Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 21, 1999, and will focus on institutional controls that may be applied at West Valley following site closure. A guest speaker from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Grand Junction Office is scheduled to present DOE's experiences throughout the Complex.
- The next public quarterly 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 (EIS) closure scenarios, a public demonstration is planned for September 21, 1999, to display a potential application of a grout mixture for managing radioactive wastes in place. This test is a demonstration designed to show that the grout is easily retrievable.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- Bill Hamel is leading the Phase I Integrated Safety Management (ISM) verification review at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project (MEMP) on September 20 through 24, 1999.