

M-32

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
**September 14, 1999**  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

### **HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

#### **High-Level Waste Transfer Activities**

- o Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included decanting of liquids from Tank 8D-2 to Tank 8D-1, Zeolite transfer from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2 and transfer of liquids to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator for volume reduction. Work activities this week include continued zeolite transfers, decanting and LWTS operations.
- o 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 third and fourth in a series of water flushes were conducted to reduce radiation levels in the Vitrification Facility aisles. Based upon the success of these flushes, plans are being finalized to mechanically isolate the contaminated level indication steam and condensate piping from the remaining Vitrification Facility steam and condensate system. These actions may result in the ability to resume Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank (CFMT) operations.
- o The West Valley Nuclear Services Company Event Investigation Team has completed their review of this event and developed a long-term corrective action plan and reviewed it with Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP). The OH/WVDP Event Investigation Team is completing their reviews of this event and the contractors investigation this week.
- o The melter is currently in idle with the 242nd canister, the 13th in fiscal year 1999 under the melter feed pour spout.

### **PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o Hot Cells Services is on site and has begun refurbishment of the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) B and C shield windows and the B window in the General Purpose Cell (GPC).
- o The general arrangement drawings for the Bridge Mounted Manipulator Systems to be installed in both the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) and General Purpose Cell (GPC) were received from PaR, Inc. and are under review. The final bid was received from PaR on September 10, 1999.
- o The Tanks Focus Area (TFA) draft Multi Year Program Plan (MYPP) was reviewed and comments provided to the TFA. The West Valley Demonstration Project is partnered with TFA to develop technologies to enhance high-level waste (HLW) tank heel retrieval and for processing of HLW contaminated materials.

NMSSDIPublic

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

September 14, 1999

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- o Nineteen boxes of asphalt, two compactible and three noncompactible debris boxes were shipped to Envirocare last week for a total of 2,072 cubic feet of waste. To date, 36 shipments with a cumulative total of 34,048 cubic feet have been shipped in fiscal year (FY) 1999.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Company will be conducting a reengineering effort to improve the reporting and tracking of deficiencies. The reengineering workshop is scheduled for September 14 through 17, 1999. The purpose of the workshop is to develop a site-wide reporting methodology for the proper identification, documentation, and tracking of deficient items. A closeout meeting has been scheduled for September 20, 1999.

**PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES****Spent Nuclear Fuel Program**

- o Preparations continued for the U.S. Department of Energy meeting with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) management to solicit support for a technical meeting with NRC staff on shipment of full loads with damaged fuel. A draft presentation was prepared and is being reviewed. A comparison of full loads versus half load shipments was also prepared quantifying the benefits of full load shipments. The earliest meeting date is the week of September 20, 1999.
- o West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) along with Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company (LMITCO) are reviewing the schedule to determine the last date fuel can be shipped from the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and meet the October 31, 2001, deadline for receipt at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). This is a contingency schedule to address the concern that the Test Area North Hot Shops may not be available before June 1, 2001, due to the TMI-2 settlement agreement milestone.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

- o 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.
- o 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.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

September 14, 1999

- o 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 demonstration is a test designed to show that the grout is easily retrievable.

**MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- o Dan Stachelski will be attending the Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association conference in Washington, DC from September 13 through 17, 1999.
- o Herman Moore will be attending Management Development Training in Lancaster, PA from September 13 through 17, 1999.
- o Bill Hamel will be leading the Phase I Integrated Safety Management (ISM) verification review at the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project (MEMP) during the week of September 20 through 24, 1999.