

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: August 3, 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 August 3, 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  
August 3, 1999  
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

- o Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included water management, decanting Tank 8D-2 liquid back to Tank 8D-1. Decanting activities will continue this week in preparation of waste transfers to vitrification.
- o The melter remains in idle mode with the 242nd canister, the 13th in fiscal year 1999, under the melter pour spout. Melter operations are tentatively scheduled to restart on September 8, 1999.
- o Vitrification Expended Materials Processing System (VEMP) successfully size reduced a thermowell two weeks ago. The second thermowell is scheduled for size reduction this week.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o The Scrap Removal Room (SRR) tank and the six drums of decanted water have been removed from the SRR and placed in storage by Waste Management. The six drums of decanted water will be transferred to the interceptor at two drums per month due to the nitrite concentration (approximately 300 parts per million). The remaining 18 drums of solids/liquids are being stored in the SRR until SOP 09-21 "LAG Storage Operations" is revised to allow storage of Transuranic (TRU) waste in Lag Storage Area 3.
- o Removal of cold side duct work and outside piping associated with the old O2 Plant began this week.
- o The Request for Proposal on the Bridge Mounted Manipulator systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and the General Purpose Cell was prepared and sent to Power Manipulator Systems. A vendor surveillance trip is tentatively planned for mid August.
- o A containment tent was installed and the initial entry into the Shuttle Transport Room performed on July 29, 1999. Initial survey results indicate that contamination and airborne radiation levels were found to be extremely low.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- o Fourteen boxes of miscellaneous debris were shipped to Envirocare last week, July 19, 1999, for disposal. The next shipment is scheduled for August 5, 1999. To date 23 shipments with a cumulative total of 24,834 cubic feet have been shipped in fiscal year 1999.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

August 3, 1999

- o Work continues on the Lag Storage Area 4 storage facility replacement. The anchor bolts from the previous tent structure were removed from the cement slab. The layout and installation of the new anchor bolts has begun this week and will continue for two to three weeks. Delivery of the new building is expected in late August. The contractor has scheduled the erector sub-contractor for the last week in August to coincide with the arrival of the new structural steel.

#### Remote Handled Waste

- o A prebid meeting with the technically qualified bidders for design and construction of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) was held July 28, 1999. Firm fixed price proposals are still due August 11, 1999.

### PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

#### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o Effort continued on the criticality, containment, and structural analyses for full load shipment. A conference call was held on July 22, 1999, which included representatives of the West Valley Demonstration Project, Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, and Transnuclear, Inc. to discuss the results and initiate planning for the upcoming U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission meeting (to be held in late August).
- o Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company began preparation of the bounding Probabilistic Risk Assessment, which will be coupled with the Transnuclear, Inc. analysis to justify full load shipments.
- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. is preparing to ship the rejected cask shipping frame to Idaho National Engineering Laboratory for their use in mockup training. A quotation was received from Transnuclear Inc. for the replacement frame and is being evaluated.

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On July 28, 1999, The West Valley Demonstration Project transmitted Draft Chapter 6 (Receptor Characteristics and Parameters) of Methods for Long-Term Assessments in the Strategic Decision on closure of the West Valley Site to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review.
- o The next Citizen Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 21, 1999, and will cover Institutional Controls that may be applied at West Valley following site closure. A guest

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

August 3, 1999

speaker for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Grand Junction Office is tentatively scheduled to present DOE's experiences throughout the complex to date on this topic.

**GENERAL**

- o On July 20 and 21, 1999, Barbara Mazurowski and Dan Sullivan attended a meeting in Amherst, NY between the U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to continue discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The next meeting between U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority is planned for August 18 and 19, 1999, in Ellicottville, NY.
- o On August 2 - 5, 1999, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) West Valley Demonstration Project is sponsoring an Environmental Management Integration (EMI) workshop evaluating the disposition of high-level waste (HLW) glass/slurry contaminated components. The workshop includes over twenty participants, including DOE Savannah River; DOE Idaho; DOE Richland; DOE Headquarters, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management; and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; as well as, contractors from the various sites. The workshop will culminate into recommendations which will be presented to the Environmental Management Executive Committee later this year to gain their approval.
- o On Wednesday, August 4, 1999, Christopher Eckert, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, will travel to Miamisburg, OH to assist the Ohio Field Office, Office of Compliance and Support in performing a security assessment of the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project.
- o On August 12, 1999, Barbara Mazurowski, Dan Sullivan, Jim Turi, Ralph Erickson, Mark Rawlings, and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority will visit the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at White Flint to discuss NRC resources needed for the West Valley Demonstration Project Environmental Impact Statement and the scheduling of these resources.