

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

**Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project**

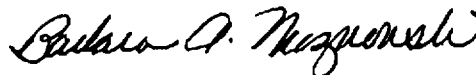
DATE: July 6, 1999

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 July 6, 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
OH/WVDP Staff
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
July 6, 1999
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- o Progress continues toward high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. The dual arm camera mast has been placed in the test tower and will undergo operational checkouts this week. The dual arm camera mast is tentatively scheduled for installation in Tank 8D-2 by the end of July 1999. Completed work this past week included processing of approximately 22,286 gallons of excess liquid from Tank 8D-1 through the ion exchange columns. The liquid was then transferred to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator for volume reduction. Continuing work activities this week include continued Supernatant Treatment System (STS) and LWTS activities.
- o The Melter is currently in idle mode with the 242nd canister, the 13th in the fiscal year 1999 under the Melter pour spout.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o A new pump and pumping configuration was installed in the Scrap Removal Room (SRR) for use in pumping the remaining material from the tank. In parallel with this effort, Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Operations and Radiological Control are preparing a method and equipment to remove the solidified material in the tank.
- o The refurbishment of the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room (PMCR) Shield Window was completed on June 30, 1999. Modifications to the scope of work for the window refurbishment contract have been made to incorporate the refurbishment of the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) B and C windows and the hot oil flush for the General Purpose Cell (GPC) B window.
- o Design review comments on the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room (PMCR) Enclosure are being addressed as they are received. A meeting was held on June 30, 1999, to start detailing out the path from the completion of the design, to placement of the construction contract and to identify and begin addressing the "hard spots" along the path.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o Waste is being sorted in the Contact Size Reduction Facility (CSRF) and compacted in Waste Reduction and Packaging Area (WRPA). To date, 21 shipments with a cumulative total of 20,802 cubic feet have been shipped in fiscal year 1999. The next shipment scheduled for the July 15, 1999, consists of twelve boxes of sweeping compound and compacted dry active waste.

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- o A conference call was made on June 18, 1999, with Envirocare to discuss an additional amendment to the Radioactive Materials License. The amendment is currently out for public comment and approval is expected by July 8, 1999. Envirocare has requested that all existing profiles be revised to reflect the anticipated amendment.
- o All dismantled materials associated with Lag Storage Area (LSA)-4 Replacement (i.e., liner, electrical fixtures, and valley cables) have been relocated to the demolition hardstand for final radiological survey and dispositioning. The outer fabric was removed last week. The steel structure is scheduled for removal this week.

Remote Handled Waste

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. issued the draft Project Management Plan, with attachments, to Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) for review on June 30, 1999.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- o There were no recordable injuries reported this week.
- o A review of West Valley Demonstration Project's (WVDP) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) occurred the week of June 28, using a team assembled by Westinghouse. The review, which was conducted to determine any necessary program enhancements prior to the DOE review expected in October, focused on the draft application and reference documents, and included a site tour and employee interviews. The team was enthusiastic about the site safety culture and provided recommendations for improving the program.
- o Over 600 employees participated in the annual Safety Fair on June 30, 1999. The event included 23 displays, primarily presented by site employees, showing implementation of the site safety programs.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o Transnuclear Inc. (TN) submitted preliminary results of criticality calculations for the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask. The results indicate full loads may be feasible with 90 percent credit for the boron content of the basket. The calculations included the effect of missing rods. The mixed oxide (MOX) fuel has not been modeled. Full loads of the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask would not require poison rods if 90 percent credit is allowed for the actual boron content in the basket. The decision points for the TN-REG and TN-BRP basket structural analysis are July 5 and August 11, 1999, respectively.
- o The licensing engineer from Westinghouse Safety Management Solutions continues to work on developing a path forward for resolving the full load vs. half load and damaged fuel issues with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

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- o On June 29, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) notified Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) that the Director of the NRC Spent Fuel Project Office (William Brach) has returned Revision 5 to the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask Certificate of Compliance (CofC) to the NRC staff for clarification of an item prior to his signature and issuance. This revision to the TN-REG cask CofC eliminates the requirement for the poison and filler rods.
- o The five-year renewal of the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask Certificate of Compliance was approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on June 18, 1999.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On July 14, 1999, the Citizen Task Force (CTF) will meet at the Ashford Office Complex (AOC) to discuss U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Staff Requirements Memorandum, meet with the mediator who has been brought on board to assist in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project, and receive a presentation on DOE's vision of a possible closure option.
- o U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) met June 22 and 23, 1999, in West Valley, New York to continue discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20 and 21, 1999.

GENERAL

- o U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) personnel performed verification activities of the current and proposed West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) off-site records storage facilities in response to records storage issues identified during the recent DOE Headquarters High Level Waste Quality Assurance Audit. A corrective action plan has been developed to resolve the issues.
- o Tom Vero, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) and David Shugars, West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) will be participating on an internal audit of the National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program (NSNFP) scheduled for July 12 through 23, 1999. The audit team, composed of personnel from the High Level Waste (HLW) Program and NSNFP, will be led by audit team leaders from the HLW Program. The audit will evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the NSNFP QA Program implementation as applied to quality assurance and technical activities associated with DOE-owned Spent Nuclear Fuel. The scope of the audit will also assess the Quality Assurance (QA) oversight of NRC SNF storage license activities.