United States Government **Department of Energy**

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: January 11, 2000

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: Mark E. Rawlings, Team Leader
West Valley Demonstration Project
DOE-HQ, EM-31, 1188/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated January 11, 2000.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

Elizabeth James for
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
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
January 11, 2000
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: liquid transfer of 6,171 gallons from Tank 8D-3 to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator, two waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank (CFMT), and boil down of liquids in the CFMT. Scheduled activities next week include continued CFMT boil downs, waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to CFMT and size reduction of a "D Nozzle" under the Vitrification Expended Material Processing (VEMP) system.

- The melter is currently in idle with the 246th canister, the fifth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

- The Ohio Field Office and West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) are performing a full Conduct of Operations Assessment of the WVDP from January 10 through 21, 2000. The areas that will be examined include all 18 chapters of DOE 5480.19; the Conduct of Operations Graded Approach Matrix; Process Safety Requirements Implementation; WVNS' Rule Program; and Operational Implementation of RW-0333P Requirements.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Hot Cells Services is on site to begin refurbishment of the General Purpose Cell Shield Window B.

- Evaluation of the data from the initial entry to the General Purpose Cell Crane Room continues. Due to the significant amount of corrosion found on the motor baseplate, the repair plans are being modified to include the replacement of the baseplate. Fabrication of the vacuum cleaner knock-out pots and floor shielding plates continues and should be complete by the end of the week.

- Acid cleaning of the 02 Plant Clarifier was completed on December 22, 1999. Sodium hydroxide was added to neutralize the acidic solution from December 23 through 31, 1999. The clarifier was covered and immersion heaters were added to reduce ice buildup and improve mixing and the transfer pump was used to recirculate the solution. The liquid has been transferred to the interceptor.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Work continues in support of the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 Shipping Depot construction project. The contractor completed erecting the depot structural steel, started boring interior caissons, and placed connector external piers last week. This week, the contractor will work on connector siding and roofing installation, connector opening into LSA-3 structural frame, and the Depot siding and roofing.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad has completed replacement of cross ties between Ashford Junction and the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). Approximately 14,000 ties were replaced. Required track replacement has been completed between Ashford Junction and Machias. Approximately 6,000 linear feet of track was replaced. The track between Ashford Junction and Machias has been raised, surfaced, aligned, leveled, and gauged. Track replacement and track bed work between Ashford Junction and the WVDP spur will resume about March 1, 2000. All work required to upgrade the rail line to a Federal Rail Administration Class 2 line is scheduled to be completed by July 2000.

- Conference calls were held on December 22, 1999, and January 6, 2000, among the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), and Transnuclear Inc. (TN) to discuss possible sources of borated stainless steel material properties information requested by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at the December 16, 1999, meeting on the full load structural analysis. Results of literature searches and discussions with borated stainless steel suppliers and users were discussed. TN's opinion was that there may not be sufficient additional information available to preclude additional materials testing. TN will contract with Structural Integrity Associates to review the information and develop a fracture toughness test program, if necessary.

- Transnuclear Inc. (TN) continues to prepare cask Safety Analysis Report (SAR) revision for full loads for submittal to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Revised SARs for both casks are scheduled to be submitted for U.S. Department of Energy/West Valley Nuclear Services Company/Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory review by February 2, 2000. SAR submittal to the NRC for review is planned for March 2000. Additional information was provided to TN regarding rods removed from Big Rock Point (BRP) assemblies for the BRP criticality analysis.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- The Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (RHWF-PSAR) was issued to the DOE for a joint Ohio Field Office and West Valley Demonstration Project review on January 4, 2000, several days ahead of an already aggressive schedule. A kickoff meeting for the DOE Ohio Field Office and Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project review of the RHWF-PSAR was held on January 10, 2000.

Site Support

- Initial drafts of design drawings for the Buttermilk Creek Culvert repair alternative are complete. Engineering calculations by Hartman Engineering continue to be worked.

- In support of the Lake Number 1 Dam Stability Analysis, the first bore hole for the inclinometer located at the crest of the dam has been completed, (100 feet deep) including the installation and grouting of the casing. Drilling on the second bore hole using a track mounted drill rig will commence this week.

- All interferences associated with the utility room condensate tank replacement have been removed or relocated. The condensate tank and pump base have been placed on the existing foundation and are being grouted.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- On January 5, 2000, personnel from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters, and DOE Ohio Field Office were on site for a Project overview presentation and site tour. At 7:00 p.m., NRC hosted a public meeting at the Ashford Complex to provide information and discuss with the public NRC's Draft Policy Statement regarding decommissioning criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project and West Valley site. NRC entertained many public comments, answered questions, and discussed issues such as institutional controls, agency jurisdictions, and details of the Licence Termination Rule. A transcript of the meeting will be available to the public sometime during the week of January 17.

Environment, Safety, and Health

- The Ohio Field Office and the West Valley Demonstration Project are conducting a joint self assessment of the Nuclear Criticality Safety (NCS) Program from January 10 through 12, 2000. The Self-Assessment is part of the complex-wide NCS improvement initiative.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- On January 11, 2000, Christopher J. Eckert, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP), will travel to Washington, DC to attend a U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters-sponsored training course. The course addresses emergency exercise scenario development.