

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

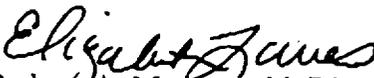
DATE: June 29, 1999

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 June 29, 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

BAM:0128 - 65630 - 237.1

BAM/sdm

44m5501Public

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT  
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT  
June 29, 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 a Zeolite transfer of approximately 46,000 curies from tank 8D-1 to tank 8D-2 utilizing all the available mobilization pumps, and processing excess liquids from tank 8D-1 through the supernatant treatment system (STS). Continuing work activities this week include water volume reduction of the STS effluent using the liquid waste treatment system, system checkout of the dual-arm camera assembly to be installed in the N-12 riser of tank 8D-1, and hands-on testing of the saws and grapples that are to be used to remotely size reduce vitrification expended material in the Vitrification Cell.
- o The Melter is currently in idle mode with the 242nd canister, the 13th in fiscal year 1999, under the Melter pour spout. Melter feeding and pouring operations last week resulted in filling the 241st canister.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o Pumping solids from the tank in the Scrap Removal Room (SRR) into drums continues this week. To date, approximately 75 percent of the solids were removed from the tank. This waste minimization effort has been accomplished by decanting the free water from the drums back into the tank and reusing the water to slurry the solids for pumping.
- o Work continues on the repair to the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Shield Window. The new hot side cover glass was delivered and installed. Work continues on the cold side with final installation and leak test planned for June 26, 1999, and filling with oil planned for June 28, 1999.
- o Design documents for the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) Crane Room Enclosure are being finalized this week and final review is scheduled for next week. Release of the drawings and specification is scheduled for completion by July 9, 1999.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) has developed a position on the need and approach for a Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) for the Remote-Handled Waste Facility (RHWF). WVNS has developed an aggressive schedule to provide a PSAR before start of the construction activity for the RHWF.
- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) formally accepted the Preliminary Hazards Analysis and Facility Hazards Categorization of the Remote Handled Waste Facility. WVNS issued these reports for use by the project.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

June 29, 1999

- o Drilling and placement for the dewatering wells that will be used during Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW) installation was completed June 18, 1999. Sheet piling for PTW installation is scheduled to arrive on June 30, 1999. PTW construction subcontractor bids are due to be received the week of June 28, 1999.
- o Low-Level Waste (LLW) Shipments: Waste will be sorted in the Contact Size Reduction Facility (CSR) during the replacement of Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4. On June 24, 1999, 610 cubic feet of North Plateau Resin was shipped. To date, 21 shipments with a cumulative total of 20,802 cubic feet have been shipped in fiscal year (FY) 1999. The next shipment is scheduled for July 15, 1999.
- 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. The new amendment will expand the radioisotopes and limits for U-233, U-235, and selected Pu for shipment to Envirocare. This amendment will be a positive impact for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). Work is underway to fully evaluate current analytical data against the new limits.
- o Removal of the inner liner/insulation and electrical fixtures/conduit have been completed for the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 Storage Facility Replacement. Removal of the outer fabric will be weather dependent.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH**

- o There were no occupational injuries or illnesses reported last week.
- o Corporate Westinghouse representatives are on site this week to evaluate the West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) implementation of the DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) guidelines. Recommendations from the review will be incorporated into the VPP application prior to submittal to DOE Ohio Field Office (DOE-OH).
- o The WVDP Safety Fair will be held on June 30, 1999, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. This year's activities will focus on site-related roles as they relate to safety, with many departments and teams providing exhibits. In addition, outside organizations such as the American Society of Safety Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Dival Safety, and Peak Performance, have been invited to provide employees with information relating to family and home, worker, and community safety. This event rounds out the Project's month-long celebration of National Safety Month.
- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Heat Stress Committee reviewed the heat stress section for the site Safety Manual and the new heat stress evaluation procedure. The heat stress section will be included in the Safety Manual and the evaluation procedure will be issued by July 14, 1999.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

June 29, 1999

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

- o Transnuclear Inc. (TN) submitted a revised schedule for performing analysis to support full load shipment. The revised schedule reflects work which can be performed in parallel. The Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) criticality and containment analysis decision points have been accelerated to July. The decision points for the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) and TN-BRP basket structural analysis are mid-July and mid-August, respectively.
- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project received verbal notice from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) confirming that NRC has renewed the Transnuclear Big Rock Point TN-BRP cask Certificate of Compliance (CoC). The CoC was renewed on June 18, 1999.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

- o On June 28, 1999, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Commissioner Jeffrey Merrifield visited the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) for a site tour and Project briefing. Four Citizens Task Force (CTF) members also participated in the tour.
- o On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) signed the Staff Requirements Memorandum (SRM) which outlines the proposed clean-up criteria for the West Valley Site. The SRM has been made available to DOE, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and Citizen Task Force (CTF).
- o A Citizen Task Force (CTF) meeting is being planned for July 1999, to provide an opportunity for the CTF to meet with the mediator who has been brought on board to assist in the DOE/New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project.

**GENERAL**

- o On June 22, 1999 a quarterly public meeting was held at the Ashford Office Complex. The public was provided a project budget update, a status of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Project completion, summary information from the Annual Site Environmental Report, information regarding High-Level Waste Tank clean-out technologies, and an update on New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) projects.

Predecisional Draft

- 4 -

June 29, 1999

- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) participated in the annual "Ride for Roswell" on Saturday, June 26, 1999, to raise funds for the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Over sixty WVDP riders bicycled up to sixty-two miles of Western New York roads in memory of Bonnie Beach, a fellow employee who passed away last fall. The Roswell Park Cancer Institute, located in Buffalo, NY, is the nation's first cancer research, treatment, and education center. WVDP employees raised more than \$5,000 in pledges.
- o 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.
- 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 National Spent Nuclear Fuel (NSNF) Program, will be lead 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.

#### MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o John Drake is participating in the Tanks Focus Area, Annual Program Execution Guidance review meeting this week in Richland, WA.
- o On June 30, 1999, Dan Sullivan will attend an Environmental Protection Agency sponsored workshop on Geographic Information System Modeling in New York City, NY.