

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

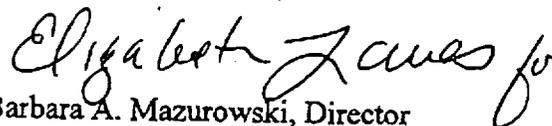
DATE: December 7, 1999

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: Mark 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 December 7, 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 I  
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**  
**December 7, 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: liquid processing from Tank 8D-1 through the Supernatant Treatment System (STS) to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator, evaporator processing in the LWTS for volume reduction, and boil down of liquids in the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT). Scheduled activities next week include STS Processing, Evaporator Processing in the LWTS, and CFMT boil down. Under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) system activities are scheduled for size reduction of a thermocouple this week. This week marked the first time a container of material that has been processed through VEMP was transferred out of the Vitrification Facility.
- o The melter is currently in idle with the 243rd canister, the 2nd in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Continued melter operations are scheduled to begin later this week.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o The acid flush of the clarifier in the former Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility (LLWTF) began this week and is expected to take approximately two weeks for completion. A work order was issued to remove the existing fiberglass Nitric Acid tank from the tank pad adjacent to the LLWTF Building.
- o The video tape of the Acid Recovery Pump Room (ARPR) was viewed this week. A significant amount of debris (i.e., brooms, extension cords, 55-gallon drums, 5-gallon pails, possible HEPA filters, etc.) remains in the room. Further review and evaluation of the video tape will be performed, which will aid in finalizing the sampling design.
- o The procedure for the removal of the first two pieces of cold side glass from the General Purpose Cell B shield window was received and is in review.
- o The schedule from PaR Systems on the fabrication of the Process Mechanical Cell and General Purpose Cell Bridge Mounted Manipulator System was received. The plan shows completion of design by the end of December, completion of the fabrication and assembly of the first unit by early May, with delivery planned for the last week in May.
- o An entry into the General Purpose Cell Crane Room is planned for next week. This entry will obtain additional radiological information on the area, obtain dimensional information on the shafts and door position, and perform a general cleanup of the airlock.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH**

- o The Fire Protection Program Manual (WVDP-177) is being revised to incorporate the requirements associated with the DOE approval letter granting WVNS limited authority on code exemptions and equivalencies.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- o Construction work continues in the Lag Storage Area 4 shipping facility. The contractor finished placing east foundation wall, south footer, north piers, and the connector east footer last week. This week the contractor will complete all shipping facility foundation walls, reroute fuel gas line and install the facility foundation insulation, place connector east foundation wall, excavate for connector west foundation, and start backfilling/grading the facility area.

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

- o A representative from Han-Tek will be here this week to complete hook removal and replacement, gear replacement, and complete final maintenance required for the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) 100-ton crane modifications.
- o Painting of the repaired Transnuclear Big Rock Point Cask transport frame has been completed and delivered to the site on December 6, 1999. Fabrication of the new Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask transport frame continued at the Transnuclear Inc. subvendor facility.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- o The West Valley Nuclear Services Company Radiation and Safety Committee (R&SC) review of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) for the Remote Handled Waste Facility was completed on December 3, 1999. A R&SC meeting will be held on December 9, 1999, to brief the members with the proposed resolution of their PSAR review comments.
- o A revised draft of the Remote Handled Waste Facility Design and Operational Review report was received from Butler/Raytheon. A draft Schedule of Values and Schedule was also received. Butler's Quality Assurance Plan was revised and resubmitted for approval.
- o A draft of the Waste Transfer Plan is currently under review. The Waste Transfer Plan evaluates options for moving waste containers from the Chemical Processing Cell - Waste Storage Area to the Remote Handled Waste Facility for processing.

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Site Support

- o Work continues on the reconstruction of small culverts along the West Valley Demonstration Project rail spur.
- o The Joint Application for Permit has been reviewed and sent to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). A NYSDEC field verification of the wetland delineations along the site rail spur is to be scheduled.
- o Efforts continue in removing air compressor 31K-1A in support of the new condensate handling system. All of the utilities to 31K-1A have been disconnected and preparations for dismantling the compressor are in progress. Work is expected to be completed by the end of January.
- o A joint DOE and West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) audit of WVNS site engineering was completed last week and found to be adequate; however, concerns related to the design review process and handling of design calculations were identified. A formal report is to be issued within the next two weeks.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On November 30, 1999, the Citizens Task Force (CTF) met to begin discussing their comments on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) draft Policy Statement on Decontamination and Decommissioning Criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). NRC's public release for comment of this draft Policy Statement took place on December 3, 1999. The comment period will be 60 days. During this comment period, NRC is planning to conduct a public meeting at the WVDP to discuss the Policy Statement and solicit additional comments. This public meeting is planned for January 5, 2000, at the Ashford Office Complex.
- o The next Citizens Task Force (CTF) meeting is a conference call planned for December 16, 1999, to discuss additional CTF comments on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Policy Statement.

**GENERAL**

- o On December 10, 1999, the WVDP is planning to donate Y2K compliant computer equipment to the local township and county emergency planning organizations that support the Project's emergency response activities. Dr. Huntoon will participate in the event during her site visit scheduled for the same day. The event, which will focus on the Department's planning efforts associated with Y2K, is expected to be covered by the local media.

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**MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- Mr. Todd Jackson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), will be on site this week to conduct routine oversight assessment of the Project. Operational areas to be reviewed will include recent organizational and personnel changes, vitrification operations and melter status, recent significant events, high-level waste tank operations, self-assessments and program reviews, low-level waste shipping plans and preparations, radioactive waste management, and decommissioning planning.
- Bill Hamel is leading the Phase II Integrated Safety Management (ISM) verification review at the Fernald Environmental Management Project on December 13 through 17, 1999. Dan Stachelski will be participating on the ISM Review Team.
- Jerry Lyle, DOE Headquarters (DOE-HQ); Mark Rawlings, DOE-HQ; and Pete Greenwalt, DOE Ohio Field Office, will be at the West Valley Demonstration Project on December 7 - 8, 1999, to assist the Director with the Annual Management Assessment of Project Office activities.