

**United States Government****Department of Energy****memorandum****Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project***M-32*

DATE: February 15, 2000

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: Mark E. Rawlings, Team Leader  
West Valley Demonstration Project  
DOE-HQ, EM-31, 1192/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated February 15, 2000.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

*Barbara A. Mazurowski*Barbara A. Mazurowski, Director  
West Valley Demonstration Project

## Attachment

cc: J. D. Parrott, NRC-HQ  
T. Jackson, NRC-Region 1  
A. R. Griffith, EM-21, 2086/CLOV  
OH/WVDP Staff  
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*KIMSSOI Public*

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT  
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT  
February 15, 2000  
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

**High-Level Waste Transfer Activities**

- Progress continues toward high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included: two HLW transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT) were performed resulting in approximately 7,792 gallons of waste being transferred, boil down of liquids in the CFMT, waste transfer from Tank 8D-3 to Tank 8D-1, completed troubleshooting of the CFMT sample pump after determination that the pump and an associated jumper needed replacing, and completed labeling of the mercury system piping and components and leak testing of the system's piping in the Uranium Load Out Cell.
- Scheduled activities next week include waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT), transfers from Tank 8D-3 to Tank 8D-1, and CFMT boil downs.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 246th canister, the fifth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Design continues on the enclosure for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room Extension. The construction specification and drawings are under review. A design package was also sent to the subcontractor (BTG) and West Valley Nuclear Services Company Cost Estimating organization for final cost estimates. A project overview meeting is planned next week with the proposed contractor.
- The design of the Process Mechanical Cell manipulator rail system was completed and the drawings are under review.
- Installation of the floor Q-decking started this week in the Process Mechanical Cell Room (PMCR) Enclosure. A welding issue associated with the crane rail beams was resolved and the contractor has submitted their Non-Conformance Reports for approval. The two shield window liners for the PMCR Enclosure were received from Hot Cells Services. A kick-off meeting with West Metal Works was held on February 9, 2000, for the fabrication of the rolling hatch cover.
- The technical responses from the Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) and Tanks Focus Areas were reviewed and finalized. Technical information was received on the U.S. Department of Energy Ohio Field Office Cost Savings Initiatives and disseminated for

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

February 15, 2000

review, which included use of magnetic resonance technology for detection of underground contaminants and volumetric free release of concrete from D&D activities.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Work continues on the shipping depot and the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 3 and 4 connector. Activities include: installation of the connector electrical; LSA-4 column modification support steel; depot roofing, and started installation of the exterior depot siding. This week the contractor is expected to complete the depot roofing and start utilities installations in both the depot high bay and office area.

## PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The work order to load test the crane to 125 tons was issued last week. Han Tek has provided information on gears and the crane hook that are needed prior to the load test. All load blocks have been identified and staged at a staging area and it's tentatively expected that the load test will be performed on the week of February 28, 2000.
- Spent Fuel Shipping personnel continued classroom training, and as part of operators' on-the-job-training, began performing Empty Canister Movements between the Fuel Storage Pool and Lift Rack. Information is being gathered during canister movements to accurately assess the time required to perform certain operations. This information will be used to calculate cask loading times and minimize operator exposure.
- A meeting was held with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on February 14, 2000, to discuss full load shipments of damaged and suspect-damaged spent nuclear fuel in the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) and Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) casks. The primary topic at the meeting was the structural integrity of the borated stainless steel (BSS) basket and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) proposed acceptance program. NRC agreed with the approach outlined by DOE at the meeting and agreed to review the test plan. NRC also agreed to revise the Interagency Agreement based on the new delivery date for the revised safety analysis reports.
- Structural Integrity Associates (SIA), a consultant to Transnuclear Inc. (TN), issued a report on February 4, 2000, entitled "Fracture Toughness and Required Testing of Borated Stainless Steel." The report includes borated stainless steel (BSS) materials properties information obtained from a literature search; proposes Charpy impact, tensile, and J-integral type impact fracture toughness tests; and subsequent micro structure analysis be performed on the BSS plates to be removed from the top row of the baskets. TN has received a quote from Carpenter Technology for BSS material (which is available) for replacement plates for those to be removed for materials testing.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

February 15, 2000

- Transnuclear Inc. (TN) continues to prepare revisions to the cask safety analysis reports for full loads for submittal to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in April 2000. TN has provided calculation notes documenting the input assumptions for the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) and Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) criticality calculation. Based on these input assumptions, full loads in the TN-REG cask will require poison rods in twenty fuel assemblies.

#### Remote Handled Waste Facility

- A dry run of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) briefing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was held on February 10, 2000. The U.S. Department of Energy, Dames and Moore, Safety Analysis and Integration, and Remote Handled Waste Project Team participated in the dry run to support the PSAR meeting which is scheduled for February 23, 2000, at NRC in Rockville, MD.
- A teleconference meeting was held this week among Butler, West Valley Nuclear Services Company, and Raytheon personnel on the subject of Remote Handled Waste Facility Work Cell Space utilization. This planning effort early in the design process is important to the success of operations to be performed there. Floor space is a premium in this cell, and the utilization of floor space must be optimized

#### Site Support

- West Valley Demonstration Project staff visited Bruce's Welding to review the half-scale mockup of the Buttermilk Creek culvert repair. Changes from the assembly process have been incorporated into the design. The construction drawings have been completed. The design review is being scheduled for the week of February 21, 2000. For the full-scale mockup, the order for the culvert section has been placed and the purchase requisition for two support ribs has been delivered to purchasing. The Army Corps of Engineers has informed us that an individual permit will be required and that they have begun the process. Once drafted, the permit will require a 30-day public comment period prior to being issued.

#### Lake No. 1 Dam Stability Analysis

- Buffalo Drilling has completed the installation of the instrumentation on the Lake 1 Dam Project, including a total of six inclinometers, eight peizometers, and one test well. Based on preliminary data, stability calculations by Hartman Engineering indicate that the dam has an adequate factor of safety and can handle our scheduled railroad traffic, which is being reviewed and confirmed by P. J. Carey and Associates.

Predecisional Draft

- 4 -

February 15, 2000

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The public comment period for providing comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Draft Policy Statement regarding decommissioning criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project and West Valley Site has been extended to April 1, 2000. A Federal Register Notice announcing this extension is expected next week. The U.S. Department of Energy intends to provide comments during this comment period.

**ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, HEALTH AND QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP), with the assistance of the Ohio Field Office, Office of Compliance and Support (OH/OCS), is conducting an annual Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) Review this week. The team is composed of two OH/OCS representatives and five OH/WVDP representatives. The team leader is William F. Hamel.
- The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) will be submitting an article to the U.S. Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program (DOE-VPP) newsletter (Starburst) about the WVDP Winter Safety Campaign.

**GENERAL**

- Mr. David C. Cook successfully passed the Final Facility Representative Oral Board for Spent Nuclear Fuel Operations and is now a fully qualified Facility Representative.

**MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- The Citizens Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000.
- Tom Vero will be attending a kickoff meeting with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission at Rockville, MD, to obtain a commitment from them to support the Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Safety Analysis Report review scheduled on February 23, 2000.