

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: November 23, 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 November 23, 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  
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
**November 23, 1999**  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

### **HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

#### **High-Level Waste Transfer Activities**

- 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 Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) for volume reduction, waste transfer 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 one waste transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the CFMT, Evaporator Processing in the LWTS, and CFMT boil down.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 243rd canister, the second in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Continued melter operations are scheduled to resume at the beginning of next month.

### **PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Jack hammering of the south berm of the Caustic and Nitric Acid Tank pads has been completed. The curb, berm/pedestal expansion joint, and the sump of the south pad have localized contamination which requires removal within the containment tent. Efforts are underway to address the most efficient way of removing these areas.
- Video documentation was performed within the Off-Gas Blower Room prior to moving the video camera to the entryway of the Acid Recovery Pump Room (ARPR). The initial sampling of the ARPR cement debris and piping was completed this week. The sample results will be used to determine the total number of samples required for characterization of the waste streams present in the ARPR.
- Hot Cells Services completed the reassembly of the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) C shield window on November 17, 1999, and the window was reinstalled on November 18, 1999.
- An overview of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) approach for the lifting of the General Purpose Cell Safety Evaluation Report Restriction was given to the Nuclear Regulatory Committee (NRC) in Washington, D.C. on November 16, 1999.
- Work continues on the construction of the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Enclosure. The excavation work on the footer was completed. The relocation of the fence in the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) yard is in progress.

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## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Construction work continues on the Shipping Depot and connector building between LSA-3 and LSA-4. Foundation work has begun. The steel structure for both buildings was delivered to the local paint shop on November 19, 1999. Siding for the building will be delivered to the site on November 23, 1999.
- The Real-Time Radiography purchase specification is being revised to incorporate comments made during the design review and was submitted to purchasing on November 22, 1999.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) on-site review was conducted last week. In their closing meeting, the on-site review team informed the participants that they will recommend that the West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) be awarded VPP Star status.
- WVNS prepared and submitted revised final Occurrence Reports for two events. OH-WV-WVNS-AEL-1999-001, Contaminated Liquid Discovered in Radiological Buffer Area, was modified to change a corrective action based on further review and a risk evaluation. OH-WV-WVNS-WVNSGEN-1999-001, Expired Level A and B Response Suits, was revised to incorporate DOE comments.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) Quality Assurance completed the following activities this week: audit of Vitrification Facility and Waste Tank Farm, vendor surveillance of Heritage Environmental Services, surveillance of the records transfer to the permanent WVNS vault at Iron Mountain in Boyers, Pennsylvania, and three "observed evolution" surveillances and one self-assessment.

## PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The Interagency Agreement between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the shipment of spent nuclear fuel from the West Valley Demonstration Project to the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory is expected to be signed by NRC this week. Based on NRC's comments in the Statement of Work, it appears NRC will grant an exemption to 10CFR71.13b, i.e., a "-85" designation for the revised cask Certificate of Compliance/Conformance for full loads will not be required. A technical meetings is being scheduled for the week of December 6, 1999.

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- o Contractor personnel will return to the site on December 6, 1999, to complete modifications to the 100-ton Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) crane for up to full load lifts. Discussions were initiated with Site Operations and Radiation Protection regarding removal of the seized crane hook nut prior to contractor personnel's return.
- o Presentation on the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipment was provided at the Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on November 16, 1999. The presentation was focused on providing overview of the upcoming shipment, transportation planning process, and establishing communication with both States and Tribal Governments. A similar presentation will be provided at the Midwestern High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 30, 1999.

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o The next Citizens Task Force (CTF) meeting is scheduled for November 30, 1999. At this meeting, the CTF is planning to discuss 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 Statement is targeted for late November (a draft is presently available on the NRC Internet Website). Once the draft Policy Statement is officially released, NRC is offering a 60-day public comment period. NRC is also planning to conduct a public meeting at the WVDP to take comments. This public meeting is planned for January 5, 2000, at the Ashford Office Complex.

#### **MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- o Dr. Paul Hart and members of the EM-50 Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Focus Area will visit the site Tuesday, November 30, 1999, to discuss D&D efforts at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and possible opportunities for cooperation with the Focus Group.
- o Bryan C. Bower will be participating in the Quality and Safety Management Fall Workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada, on November 30 through December 1, 1999.