

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: June 15, 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 15, 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
OH/WVDP Staff
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
June 15, 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 processing of Zeolite transfer from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2 utilizing all available mobilization pumps and sluicer equipment operation near the end of the transfer; decanting of liquids back to Tank 8D-1; and transfer of liquids from Tank 8D-3 to Tank 5D-15B to facilitate future liquid waste treatment system (LWTS) operations. Continuing work activities this week include preparation for the next Zeolite transfer.
- o The melter continues to idle. Off-gas analyzer repair, replacements, and functional checkouts are being conducted.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o Entries were made into the Scrap Removal Room (SRR) on June 9 and 10, 1999, to begin transfer operations. Due to stratification in the tank, mobilizing the settled material proved to be more difficult than predicted. Modified hand tools were fabricated and entries are continuing to resolve this issue and begin pumping.
- o Work continues on the repair to the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Shield Window. Following the installation of the scaffolding, the as-built dimensions of the hot side cover glass were obtained and the cracked glass secured. The as-built dimensions of the cover glass were transmitted to Hot Cells Services and the fabrication of the new glass is in progress. On June 9, 1999, work resumed on the cold side of the window with the sandblasting and painting of the window cavity.
- o The kick off meeting for the design review of the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Enclosure was held on June 4, 1999. Comments were due back by June 11, 1999.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Operations

- o On June 10, 1999, 3,744 cubic feet of compacted miscellaneous debris waste was shipped to Envirocare for disposal. The next scheduled shipment is June 17, 1999, and consists of six B-25 boxes of North Plateau resin. Nineteen shipments with a cumulative total of 19,460 cubic feet have been shipped in FY 1999.
- o Operations were discontinued in the Container Sorting and Packaging Facility last Friday, June 11, 1999, in preparation for Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 replacement. A pre-job briefing with the subcontractor was conducted on Monday, June 14, 1999. The removal of LSA-4 fabric and steel structure is scheduled to start on Tuesday, June 15, 1999.

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Remote Handled Waste

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. will conduct the design review for the conceptual design of the Remote-Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) on June 15, 1999.
- o Technical proposals were received from four prospective bidders for the first phase of the design-build turnkey contract for the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF). The technical proposals were evaluated on June 10, 1999.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- o There were three first aid injuries reported last week. Two were slivers in the hand and one was a bumped elbow.
- o A Corporate Westinghouse team will conduct an on-site Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) review from June 28 through July 2, 1999. The five member team will review the application, tour the facility, and interview employees regarding their knowledge of and participation in the site safety system. They will submit the application to DOE by July 15, 1999, for a concurrent Ohio Field Office and Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) review. The goal is to have an on-site review by the VPP/EH Team in October.
- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Safety Success Team is sponsoring National Safety Month activities during the month of June. Weekly presentations are scheduled to focus on particular safety topics. These include: stress management, workplace safety, home safety, first aid and community safety, and driving safety. A Safety Fair, scheduled for June 30, 1999, caps the month's activities.
- o A task team has been formed to review the West Valley Demonstration Project heat stress management program. Members of the team include: Dr. Gary Ehlert, WVNS Physician; Mary Hays, Occupational Health Nurse; Chuck Traylor, Training and Development Manager; Tim Neal, Emergency Management; Linda Calderon, Industrial Hygiene and Safety (IH&S) Manager; Al Croce, IH&S Field Services; Ann Schubert, IH&S Engineering Services; and Dan Stachelski, OH/WVDP Safety Engineer. The team is attempting to develop procedures to identify heat stress conditions and recommend means to alleviate/control the hazard.

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

- o Transnuclear Inc. (TN) is revising the schedule for performing structural, criticality, containment, thermal, and shielding analyses for full load shipments utilizing the end cap concept for confinement of the failed fuel. The new schedule will move the decision points on proceeding with full loads earlier in time.

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Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- 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 On June 2, 1999, Citizen Task Force (CTF) members participated in a conference call with DOE and New York State to discuss the status of DOE and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. DOE and NYSERDA are considering a CTF request to meet with the negotiation mediator.

GENERAL

- o Jack Krajewski and Tim DiGiulio, of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), visited the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on June 9, 1999, to discuss Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requirements associated with closure of the high-level waste tanks.
- o DOE and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) are scheduled to meet 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.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o Ray Powell, of the Ohio Field Office, is on site this week to perform an independent technical review of the OH/WVDP Facility Representative Program.
- o Representatives from the Office of Waste Management, Office of Environmental Management (EM) will conduct an audit of the High-Level Waste (HLW) Quality Assurance Program activities related to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) HLW vitrification process on June 14 through 18, 1999. The audit will be performed in accordance with agreements contained in the Memorandum of Agreement for acceptance of DOE Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste between EM and the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.
- o Larry Ling, DOE Savannah River, and Bob Bernero, consultant, will visit West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on Tuesday, June 15, 1999. The purpose of the visit is to initiate discussions pertaining to their involvement in reviewing the WVDP strategy for defining the stopping point for high-level waste (HLW) vitrification. Mr. Bernero was formerly the Director of the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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- o Mr. Jack Parrot of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will be on site June 16, 1999, for a presentation on West Valley Demonstration Project's (WVDP) path forward in addressing the NRC restriction on proposed activities in the General Purpose Cell. The restriction was originated as part of the NRC review of the Safety Analysis Report for Low-Level Waste Processing and Support Activities.
- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) will host a Regulatory Roundtable on June 16, 1999, to discuss progress and the path forward to Project completion with various regulatory agencies. Participants include U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation representatives.
- o On June 16, 1999, Herman Moore will travel to the Ashtabula Project Office to attend the OH-Site Technology Coordination Group Meeting.
- o Susan Brechbill, appointed to succeed Leah Dever as DOE Ohio Field Office Manager, will be visiting the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on June 21, 1999. Efforts are under way to provide her with presentations on historical site accomplishments and a complete site tour.
- o On June 22, 1999, at 6:30 pm there will be a quarterly public meeting at the Ashford Office Complex. Agenda items include; a project budget update, DOE's vision of a potential Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) closure alternative, the Annual Site Environmental Report, High-Level Waste Tank clean-out technologies, and an update on New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) projects.
- o On June 28, 1999, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Commissioner, Jeffrey Merrifield will visit the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) for a site tour and Project briefing.
- o John Drake will travel to Richland, WA on June 28 through July 2, 1999, to participate in the Tanks Focus Area, Annual Program Execution Guidance review meeting.