

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


DATE: February 8, 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 8, 2000.

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-21, 2086/CLOV
OH/WVDP Staff
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

BAM:0169 - 69951 - 237.1

BAM/sdm

HMSSDIPublic

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
February 8, 2000
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: two HLW Transfers from tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT) were performed resulting in approximately 7,800 gallons of waste being transferred, boil down of liquids in the CFMT, completed welding of Canisters WV374 and WV375; Canister WV374 has been decontaminated. A work order was written and performed to transfer Tank 8D-3 liquid to Tank 8D-1 via the Supernatant Treatment System (STS)/Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) transfer lines. Transfers of Tank 8D-3 to Tank 8D-1 are necessary to allow continued CFMT boil off during the period that the LWTS evaporator is not available for use. A Vitrification Expended Materials Processing (VEMP) waste can was removed from the Equipment Decontamination Room and placed in Lag Storage. VEMP size reduction activities are scheduled to resume this week after removal of HLW canisters from the Vitrification Cell storage rack under the Maintenance Station.
- o Scheduled activities next week include waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT), CFMT boil downs, and continued Vitrification Expended Materials Processing (VEMP) activities.
- o The melter is currently in idle with the 246th canister, the 5th in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o The As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) Committee approved the plans for the decontamination phase of the General Purpose Cell Crane (GPC) Room shield door repair. A draft of the work order is out for review. The hard walled airlock is on order and is scheduled for delivery on February 7, 2000.
- o The installation of the Process Mechanical Cell Room (PMCR) Enclosure continues. Installation of the building columns and roof steel was completed this week. Installation of the floor decking will start next week. Maintenance electricians completed the removal of the electrical wiring in the old counting room in preparation for the installation of the door openings into the enclosure. Planning is in progress for the removal of the air conditioning unit in the old counting room to make room for the airlock and enclosure ventilation damper.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

February 8, 2000

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The contractor placed the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 3 ramp to the connector, placed the piers and caissons for the LSA-4 column modification, started overhead door installation in the shipping depot, set the ceiling panels on the office area, and completed the depot office masonry last week. This week the contractor is expecting to complete 75 percent of the depot roofing, complete 100 percent of the depot office masonry, install depot office windows, and depot office cleanup and scaffolding removal.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESSpent Nuclear Fuel Program

- A conference call was held February 3, 2000, among the Department of Energy, the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory, West Valley Nuclear Services Company, Transnuclear Inc. (TN), Structural Integrity Associates (SIA), and Review and Synthesis Associates (Dr. Spencer Bush) to discuss Borated Stainless Steel (BSS) material properties testing to supplement information obtained from a literature search. SIA reported Charpy and J-integral type impact fracture toughness tests, and subsequent microstructure analysis would be performed on the BSS plates to be removed from the baskets. SIA issued a report describing the fracture toughness program on February 4, 2000. TN issued a draft procedure for removal of basket plates for testing on February 4, 2000. TN reported that delivery of replacement stainless steel baskets would be five to six months after placement of the order. They are awaiting a response to the Request for Quotes for replacement of the BSS plates to be removed for materials testing.
- A meeting has been scheduled with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for February 14, 2000, to discuss the results of the Borated Stainless Steel Acceptance Program. A draft agenda and a list of attendees were sent to the NRC on February 7, 2000. A premeeting to refine the NRC presentation will be held on February 9, 2000, at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The Department of Energy, West Valley Nuclear Services Company, Transnuclear Inc. (TN), and Structural Integrity Associates will participate in the premeeting. A formal dry run will be held February 10, 2000, with Mr. Robert Bernero and Dr. Spencer Bush participating.
- Transnuclear Inc. (TN) continues to prepare revisions to the cask safety analysis reports for full loads for submittal to the 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.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

February 8, 2000

- o The Department of Energy has informed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that revised Safety Analysis Reports (SARs) for full loads for both casks will not be submitted in March, as planned. DOE stated that the earliest date for submittal of revised SARs would be mid-April. Changes to the Interagency Agreement, revision to the NRC review schedule for the cask SARs, and the potential submittal of the revised SARs prior to completion of the borated stainless steel materials property testing will be discussed with the NRC at the February 14, 2000, meeting.
- o The draft work order to load test the crane to 125 tons was revised to incorporate comments and is being walked down by operations. New slings and shackles have been received. Han-Tek has been requested to provide material information on gears, the crane hook and nut. The information, which is a prerequisite for the load test, is expected February 11, 2000.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- o The Raytheon Design & Operational Review report has been received with all comments incorporated from the "approved with comments" disposition. Butler/Raytheon have revised their overall Project Schedule and design/engineering schedule to support the October 2000, start construction date. Raytheon has staffed up and is proceeding with engineering activities to support the accelerated design schedule.
- o In support of disposition of the Chemical Processing Cell (CPC) concrete pedestals currently in storage, 1986 survey information and analytical information from CPC floor sweepings was reviewed with Radiological Engineering. A meeting with Waste Disposition is planned to determine what additional information is required to comply with the Envirocare waste acceptance criteria.

Site Support

- o In support of the Buttermilk Creek culvert repair, the design drawings and specifications for the support ribs are approximately 80 percent complete. A meeting was held to finalize the strategy for procurement of the ribs, full scale mockups and the construction installation. Bruce's Welding is scheduled to complete the fabrication of the half-scale mock-up of the proposed repair this week.
- o In support of the Lake No. 1 Dam stability analysis, the installation and initial readings of four inclinometers and eight piezometers have been completed. Installation of two inclinometers and one test well still remains. Initial soil test results have been received and forwarded to Hartman Engineering & P. J. Carey and Associates to allow the commencement of preliminary stability calculations.
- o Piping is complete and electrical installation in support of the Utility Room condensate tank replacement continues. Physical construction work is scheduled to be complete by February 18, 2000.

Predecisional Draft

- 4 -

February 8, 2000

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- On January 5, 2000, personnel from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) hosted a public meeting at the Ashford Office Complex to provide information and discuss with the public NRC's Draft Policy Statement regarding decommissioning criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project and West Valley site. NRC entertained many public comments, answered questions, and discussed issues such as institutional controls, agency jurisdictions, and details of the Licence Termination Rule. A transcript of the meeting is available to the public can be found on NRC's internet web site. DOE has documented with the NRC via letter dated February 1, 2000, our intention to provide written comments on the Policy Statement within the next 30 through 60 days.

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, HEALTH and QUALITY ASSURANCE

- The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP), with the assistance of Ohio Field Office/Office of Compliance and Support (OH/OCS), will be conducting an Annual Integrated Safety Management Systems (ISMS) Review. This effort will be conducted the week of February 14, 2000. The team will be composed of three OH/OCS representatives and five OH/WVDP representatives. The team leader is Bill Hamel.
- On January 31, 2000, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) received a recommendation from DOE EH-62, Office of Epidemiologic Studies, that the current moratorium on the destruction of epidemiologic records be lifted for approximately 152 cubic feet of Project records currently covered by the freeze. The moratorium was applied to some records which have no epidemiological significance and to some records whose long retention periods do not require inclusion under the moratorium to ensure their preservation. The recommendation is the result of a EH-64 records review requested by the Project in November 1999, and has been forwarded to DOE SO-31, Office of Information, Records, and Resource Management for concurrence. DOE Headquarters approval would allow the destruction of specific records currently under the moratorium, reducing agency records costs.
- A meeting has been scheduled with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for February 8, 2000, to discuss the modification to the West Valley Demonstration Project State Facility Air Permit.
- The West Valley Demonstration Project is continuing activities related to the Department of Energy's Nuclear Criticality Safety Initiative. West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) has completed their Self-Assessment of the Nuclear Criticality Safety Program. The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) is preparing a Self-Assessment report. WVNS and OH/WVDP are developing performance metrics for the Nuclear Criticality Safety Program to be forwarded to the Ohio Field Office.

Predecisional Draft

- 5 -

February 8, 2000

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Company is currently gathering documentation to verify that the corrective actions associated with the Notice of Violation have been completed. This verification is the final corrective action for the Noncompliance Tracking System (NTS) Report.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) is revising the OH/WVDP Policy and Procedures Manual to facilitate ease of use. OH/WVDP continues to revise the procedures contained in the Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect the new organization structure and responsibilities of the OH/WVDP Office.
- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) staff will participate in the following West Valley Nuclear Services Company internal audits:
 - Price Anderson Amendments Act Program - March 13 - 17, 2000;
 - Material Control - TBD;
 - Measuring and Test Equipment - TBD;
 - Waste Characterization Process - April 2000; and
 - Radiation Protection Program - TBD

GENERAL

- o On February 7, 2000, Mr. Mike Ziolkowski, a representative from the Federal Railroad Administration was here on site to tour the Spent Fuel Receiving and Storage Facility and the Railroad Tracks.
- o The final Facility Representative Oral Board Examination for Mr. David C. Cook, will be held on February 10, 2000. Mr. Cook will be qualifying for West Valley Demonstration Project Spent Nuclear Fuel Operations. The oral board shall be composed of DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project Senior Management as well as a DOE Idaho Representative.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o On February 8 through 10, 2000, Dan Sullivan will be in Las Vegas, Nevada, attending the Tank Focus Area Workshop to discuss Lessons Learned and Closure Strategies.
- o On February 8, 2000, Tom Vero will visit Bruce's Welding, a local fabrication shop, to observe the fabrication of the half-scale mock-up for the Buttermilk Creek repair.
- o On February 10, 2000, Ahmad Al-Daouk will be traveling to Albany, New York to meet with State of New York Representatives and introduce the West Valley Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipment Campaign.

Predecisional Draft

- 6 -

February 8, 2000

- o On February 14, 2000, Bryan C. Bower will be traveling to Rockville, Maryland to meet with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna and Transnuclear Big Rock Point casks.
- o The Citizen's Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000.