

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: November 2, 1999

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: Mark E. Rawlings, Team Leader
West Valley Demonstration Project
DOE-HQ, EM-32, 1192/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated November 2, 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
A. R. Griffith, EM-65, 2086/CLOV
OH/WVDP Staff
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
November 2, 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 LWTS for volume reduction, and waste transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT).
- Scheduled activities next week include evaporator processing in the LWTS with continued liquid management in both Tanks 8D-1 and 8D-2. Another high-level waste (HLW) transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT) is also scheduled.
- The melter is currently idle with the 243rd canister, the 2nd in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Continued melter operations are scheduled to begin towards the end of November 1999.
- Completed size reduction of a melter level probe insert under the Vitrification Expanded Materials Processing (VEMP) system. Continued VEMP activities are scheduled for this week.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Final preparations for demolition of the Caustic and Nitric Tank Pads and berms was completed, including installation of the airlock and ventilation units. Concrete demolition has started on the south pad.
- Decontamination and Decommissioning Operations completed the removal of the containment tent from the completed Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) B Window. The tent is being reassembled at the PMC C Window. Hot Cell Services has started relocating the pulling table and shield plates to the PMC C Window.
- Construction of the crane access pad for the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Enclosure started this week, including excavation of clean and contaminated soil.
- The planning team for Acid Recovery Pump Room Project Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) has been formed. Initial team meetings have resulted in concluding that a Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP) will be required for this project. The SAP will consist of a Field Sampling Plan and DQOs. The DQO portion of the SAP is complete and the SAP (WVDP-355) will be issued for review and comment the week of November 8, 1999.

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- o Input of the final fiscal year (FY) 2001 Technology Needs in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Needs Management System was completed this week. Fifteen Site Technology Needs were submitted.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o Seventeen intermodals containing North Plateau low-level radioactively contaminated soil are ready to be shipped to Envirocare for disposal. These intermodals will be shipped in two groups of six and one group of five. The first shipment of six intermodals will be shipped on November 2, 1999, via trucks to rail-head in Conway, PA. The next shipment of six intermodals is scheduled for November 4, 1999.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- o West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is continuing to prepare for the U.S. Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program on-site review scheduled for the week of November 15, 1999.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o Work continues on modifications to the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) 100-ton crane required for the planned engineering lifts up to full loads of the shipping.
- o The order for fabrication of the two mockup Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) fuel assemblies was placed with West Metal Works in Buffalo, NY. The two TN-REG fuel top nozzles previously procured from Westinghouse Commercial Nuclear Fuel Division will be used in the fabrication of the mockup assemblies. One mockup TN-REG fuel assembly will be provided to Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory (INEEL).
- o The Buffalo and Pittsburgh (B&P) Railroad will begin work this month on the upgrade/refurbishment of the rail lines from West Valley Demonstration Project to Machias, NY. B&P plans to have all necessary ties replaced by the end of November 1999.
- o On October 28, 1999, a conference call was held with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to resolve programmatic issues with regard to NRC's support of the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) and Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask relicensing. During this call, the Department of Energy and the NRC agreed that an Interagency Agreement would be the appropriate mechanism for providing funding to the NRC. Both parties also agreed to expedite development of the Interagency Agreement. A draft Statement of Work was prepared and sent to the NRC for review on November 1, 1999. Technical meetings will be scheduled as soon as the Interagency Agreement has been signed.

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Remote Handled Waste Facility

- o The development of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) for the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) is continuing on schedule. An independent peer review of the vendor prepared document is scheduled to be completed this week with the presentation of the draft report to the RHWF Team on November 12, 1999. A U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Committee reviewed and approval of the PSAR is required prior to commencement of construction activities.
- o A Topical Report comparing the RHWF to different facilities within the U.S. and abroad is currently under review and is expected to be issued by the end of November 1999.
- o The design-build subcontractor is currently revising their Quality Assurance Plan and preparing submittals required prior to the start of preliminary design. It is expected that some of the submittals will be transmitted this week.

Site Support

- o The construction work packages for the dismantlement of compressor 31K-1A and installation of the Utility Room condensate tank have been issued. Work orders are being prepared for maintenance to perform the utility piping and conduit disconnects prior to installation.
- o An engineering study for the remediation of the Buttermilk Creek Culvert has been received from Hartman Engineering. The design alternatives are being reviewed with the expectation that an alternative will be selected by the end of November 1999. After reviewing the requirements, it has been determined that the culvert pipe must be capable of handling a 100-year storm event.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o The next Citizen's 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). The CTF's review of this draft Policy Statement is contingent on NRC's public release for comment of this draft Statement targeted for mid-November. Once the draft Policy Statement is released, NRC is offering a 60-day public comment period. It is anticipated that sometime during this comment period, NRC will conduct a public meeting at WVDP to take comments.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o Gerald Boyd, DOE-HQ, EM-50, visited the site on November 1, 1999. The visit included a tour and discussions regarding current/future cooperative efforts between EM-50 and West Valley Demonstration Project in deploying technologies to resolve site needs.

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- o **Bill Hamel will be attending the Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) Workshop in Knoxville, TN on November 9 and 10, 1999.**