

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

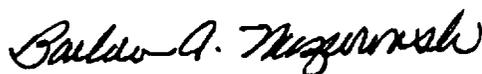
DATE: January 25, 2000

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: Mark E. Rawlings, Team Leader
West Valley Demonstration Project
DOE-HQ, EM-31, 1188/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated January 25, 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-65, 2086/CLOV
OH/WVDP Staff
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
January 25, 2000
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: one waste transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT); boil down of liquids in the CFMT, and size reduction of a maintenance station measuring gauge under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) system. Scheduled activities next week include continued CFMT boil downs, waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to CFMT, and continued VEMP activities.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 246th canister, the fifth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Hot Cells Services completed the removal of the two pieces of shield glass from the General Purpose Cell B shield window and polished the cold side of the third piece. No appreciable increase in visibility was obtained. The cold side cover glass was reinstalled and the window refilled with oil. This completes all planned Head-End Cell (HEC) shield window refurbishment.
- Mock up activities associated with the repair of the General Crane Room shield door continued this week. The methods for cleaning and shielding the floor have been determined, along with the sequence for the cleanup. A local ventilation system hood is due to be tested late this week to reduce any airborne potential.
- Revised hoisting and rigging procedures were received and conditionally approved for installation of the structural steel for the Process Mechanical Cell Room (PMCR) enclosure. Installation of the structural steel began on January 21, 2000.
- Preparation work continued on the Permeable Treatment Wall Proposal to be submitted to U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science and Technology (EM-50) under the Accelerated Site Technology Deployment program.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Construction work continues on the shipping depot and the connector building. Last week the contractor set and grouted the depot office east and south walls, started on the north and west walls, and installed siding on west wall. The connector penetrations cut in both Lag Storage Areas (LSA) 3 and 4 was also completed last week. This week, the contractor will work on the connector main slab and the depot south wall siding.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESSpent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The two Transnuclear Big Rock Point mockup fuel assemblies fabricated by Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory have been received at the West Metal Works. The assemblies will be used to construct the cask basket mockup.
- A letter was sent out to prospective participants inviting them to the first technical meeting on the West Valley Demonstration Project Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipment to Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in 2001. The purpose of the meeting is to bring together key individuals from organizations and agencies responsible for the planning and successful completion of the shipments. The meeting is scheduled for February 29 and March 1, 2000, in Las Vegas, NV.
- A conference call was held on January 20, 2000, among the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS), Transnuclear, Inc. (TN), and Structural Integrity Associates (SIA) to discuss borated stainless steel (BSS) material properties testing to supplement information obtained from a literature search. SIA reported Charpy-type impact fracture toughness tests and micro structure analysis will likely be required to support a licensing decision. SIA will complete the design of a fracture toughness program by February 4, 2000. A meeting is tentatively planned for February 14, 2000, with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to discuss the proposed test program. A pre-meeting to review the NRC presentation is tentatively planned for February 10, 2000. TN will develop a plan for removal of basket plates for testing by February 4, 2000. TN has also issued a Request for Quotes (RFQs) for replacement plates (both stainless steel and BSS) for the plates to be removed for materials testing.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) provided Dr. Spencer Bush copies of information obtained from the literature search on borated stainless steel (BSS) and information on the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) BSS baskets. Dr. Bush is the metallurgy expert hired as a consultant to WVNS to review the BSS materials issue and the fracture toughness testing program being developed by Structural Integrity Associates.

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- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has informed the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that revised Safety Analysis Reports (SARs) for full loads for both casks will not be submitted in March 2000, as planned. DOE stated that the earliest date for submittal of revised SARs would be mid-April 2000. Submittal of the revised SARs prior to completion of the BSS materials property testing may be discussed with NRC at the February 14, 2000 meeting.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- Raytheon is continuing to develop system description documents which form the basis of the preliminary design of the Remote Handled Waste Facility. Additionally, they have started layout drawings for the Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system to make sure the equipment fits in the allotted space. Butler/Raytheon is scheduled to visit Hanford the week of February 14, 2000 to observe a bagless transfer system in use there. Discussions with several material handling equipment suppliers are continuing.

Site Support

- In support of the Buttermilk Creek culvert repair, rigging, and installation methods for the ribs have been finalized. This information, along with information from the engineering calculations by Hartman Engineering, is being incorporated into the design drawings. The purchase order for the half-scale mock-up is being revised to include the latest design details.
- In support of the Lake No. 1 Dam stability analysis, the third bore hole for the inclinometer located on the slope of the dam has been completed, including the installation and grouting of the casing. Set up and drilling for the fourth inclinometer has begun.
- Piping installation in the Utility Room continues in support of the Condensate Tank replacement. Physical construction work should be complete February 18, 2000. A draft of the turnover checklist has been sent to Operations.

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, HEALTH and QUALITY ASSURANCE

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company will be hosting the next meeting of the Westinghouse Management and Operating Criticality Committee. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on April 25 and 26, 2000. Burt Rothleder (U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters), a member of the Committee, will be invited to attend.
- The Ohio Field Office (DOE-OH) and the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) are continuing with the joint review of WVNS-SAR-023, Rev. 0, Draft B, Preliminary Safety Analysis Report for the Remote Handled Waste Facility. Comments will be provided to the West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) by February 22, 2000.

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Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o 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.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o Peter W. Gibbons and Glenn Bastiaans from the Tanks Focus Area visited the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on January 21, 2000, to discuss their technical responses to Fiscal Year 2001 WVDP tank related technology needs. A discussion with the Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Focus Area regarding their technical responses to WVDP D&D related technology needs took place on January 18, 2000, via teleconference.
- o The Citizen's Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been postponed and will be rescheduled for mid- to late April 2000.