

United States Government

Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office

West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

Memorandum

DATE: October 26, 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 October 26, 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
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
October 26, 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 evaporator, and evaporator processing in the Liquid Waste Treatment System for volume reduction.
- Scheduled activities next week include a high-level waste transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT) Evaporator Processing in the Liquid Waste Treatment System with continued liquid management in both Tanks 8D-1 and 8D-2.
- The melter is currently in 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.
- Size reduction of the fourth melter thermocouple and the first melter D nozzle under Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) system were complete last week. Additional size reduction activities utilizing VEMP will continue this week.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Preparations continue for decontamination and deactivation of the Caustic and Nitric Tank Pads, including draining the out-of-service nitric and caustic lines between the tank pads and the Utility Room, installation of a portable ventilation unit (PVU) on the containment tent, and installation of a new airlock. The airlock will also serve as a loading area for waste containers.
- Hot Cells Services completed the reassembly and reinstallation of the Process Mechanical Cell B window. Refurbishment of the Process Mechanical Cell C window is scheduled to begin next week.
- PaR Systems, Inc. has started the design of the Bridge Mounted Manipulator Systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and the General Purpose Cell. A status meeting is planned at PaR Systems for next week.
- The decontamination equipment for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room was delivered, with mock-up decontamination activities scheduled to begin next week in the Vitrification Test Facility.
- Draft fiscal year 2000 technology needs for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) were prepared and input into the DOE Needs Management System.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The Lag Storage Area-4 building was turned over to Waste Management Operations after the walkdown on Wednesday, October 20, 1999. This item was completed one week ahead of schedule.
- The paving of the shipping depot truck turnaround area was completed. The shipping depot building steel is scheduled to be delivered to the local paint shop on November 18, 1999. Shipping depot foundation excavation will begin after hydrant excavation is complete.
- A total of 17 intermodals were filled with low-level waste soil which was generated from the North Plateau excavation project. The first shipment of six intermodals is scheduled for November 2, 1999, to a railhead in Conway, PA. The next shipments are scheduled for November 4 and 9, 1999.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- The DOE Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) team leader, Mr. Roy Gibbs, visited West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) last week to conduct a preliminary visit. He toured the facility, interviewed employees, and met with the West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) VPP Task Team and Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) to define team needs during the on-site review. Mr. Gibbs' comments regarding the WVDP's application were very positive. The review will take place the week of November 15, 1999.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESSpent Nuclear Fuel Program

- Representatives from the West Valley Demonstration Project met with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Washington, DC on October 15, 1999. During the meeting, they discussed approaches for shipment of damaged fuel in the Transnuclear Big Rock Point and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna casks. Also discussed, was the potential for "full load" shipments of the spent fuel. NRC has indicated that their concern with respect to the title to the fuel has been resolved. A follow-up conference call has been scheduled for October 28, 1999, to discuss programmatic (i.e., funding) issues. A follow-up technical meeting will be scheduled as soon as the funding issues are resolved.
- Han-Tek personnel (who will make modifications to the FRS 100 ton crane) will complete respirator qualification training and respirator fitting this week. Lockout/tagout and fall protection training will also be completed and modification work is planned to start next week.

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Remote Handled Waste Facility

- The Remote Handled Waste Project Team provided a "virtual tour" of the Remote Handled Waste Facility to personnel from DOE Headquarters and the DOE Ohio Field Office last week. This computer based tour provided viewers remarkably clear insight into the proposed operations of this Phase II cornerstone facility. Feedback was very positive.
- A kickoff meeting for the design-build contract for the Remote Handled Waste Facility was held October 18, 1999, with Butler Construction, to go over submittal requirements and establish schedules with the subcontractor. The subcontractor is currently revising their Quality Assurance plan and preparing submittals required prior to the start of preliminary design.
- In preparation for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review of the Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Safety Report, an information packet pertaining to the facility was provided to the NRC last week. Additionally, follow up phone calls with Mr. Jack Parrot continue to ensure up-front communication with the expectation of a NRC timely review of the Preliminary Safety Analysis Report. An overview presentation is currently being developed for the NRC.

Site Support

- The main section of the Equipment Decontamination Room roof has been removed and replaced. The ballast stone vacuuming is continuing on the Analytical and Process Chemistry roof and all Main Plant roof removal replacement work for this year are expected to be completed at the end of this month.
- The construction work packages for the dismantlement of compressor 31K-1A and installation of the Utility Room condensate tank have been prepared. Work orders are being prepared for maintenance to perform the utility piping and conduit disconnects.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The Citizen Task Force (CTF) met on October 19, 1999, to discuss engineering design changes for closure options under consideration for the high-level waste (HLW) tanks and Process Building and to discuss the status of the erosion modeling work. The next CTF meeting is planed for November 9, 1999. At this meeting the CTF is planning to prepare their response to Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Policy Statement on closure criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) site. NRC is anticipating release of this Policy Statement for review at the end of October followed by a public meeting at the WVDP on November 30, 1999.

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- As part of DOE's effort to further evaluate possible Environmental Impact Statement closure scenarios, a public demonstration was held on September 21, 1999, to display a potential application of a grout mixture for managing radioactive wastes in place. The grout was poured into a large tank containing non radioactive debris designed to simulate how this approach might apply if it were selected in closing the Process Building or high-level waste (HLW) tanks. This was the first part of a two-part test designed to show that this grout mixture is easily "reversible" (i.e., retrievable) after it has been poured. The second part of this test, the retrievability of the grout, was demonstrated on October 19, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. at Riefler Concrete in Ashford, NY. Citizen Task Force members took part in the test and media coverage was also provided. The test was a great success.

GENERAL

- Representatives from the West Valley Demonstration Project met with representatives from the Seneca Nation of Indians on October 18, 1999, to discuss the changes to the Cooperative Agreement for 2000. Comments on the final draft of the Cooperative Agreement were sent to Seneca Nation of Indians on October 25, 1999. The Cooperative Agreement will be reviewed by the Tribal Council on November 13, 1999.
- On October 20, 1999, the West Valley Demonstration Project conducted a transportation emergency preparedness exercise to test the effectiveness of the site Transportation Emergency Plan. The exercise involved local off-site emergency responders from the county emergency services, sheriff's office, state police and local fire department. Numerous good practices as well as some areas for improvement were identified.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- On October 29, 1999, Ahmad Al-Daouk, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) will be traveling to San Diego, CA to attend the Western Governors' Association meeting. During this meeting, an informational presentation will be provided on the West Valley Demonstration Project Spent Nuclear Fuel shipment project to Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in year 2001.
- A tentative visit by Gerald Boyd (EM-50) is scheduled for November 1, 1999, to discuss the various West Valley Demonstration Project Technology Implementations and needs.