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United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

**Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project**

DATE: October 19, 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 19, 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
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
October 19, 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 to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator and evaporator processing in the LWTS for volume reduction.
- Scheduled activities next week include 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 the week of November 8, 1999.
- Completed size reduction of the first melter thermocouple under Vitrification Expanded Material Processing system during Fiscal Year 2000.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Activities continue on the preparations for acid washing of the O2 clarifier with draining the sludge cone, filling the clarifier with soft water (approximately 16,000 gallons) in preparation for acid addition, and conducting a mock-up of the liquid transfers to the old interceptor
- Hot Cells Services completed the disassembly of the Process Mechanical Cell B Window. The repolished glass arrived on-site on Friday. Reassembly of the window began on Tuesday and should be completed early next week with reinstallation of the window tentatively planned for October 21, 1999.
- PaR System 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 the week of October 25, 1999.
- The replacement gear boxes for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room shield door were delivered this week.
- The first weekly project meeting with the contractor on the fabrication of the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Enclosure was held on October 13, 1999. Mobilization of equipment has started. The survey crew was on-site this week to begin layout work for the crane access pad and to get some initial dimension for the fabrication of the steel for the enclosure.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The warehouse overhead insulation installation work was completed last week. This work eliminated an overhead hazard associated with the falling deteriorating insulation. Approximately 2,000 square feet of insulation work remains for installation on the north wall of the warehouse with the work expected to be completed by October 31, 1999.
- In support of Lag Storage Area - 4 construction, all siding and roofing is up and the trim is being installed. The contractor is installing electrical conduit and fixtures. The Container Sorting and Packaging Facility (CSPF) tent has been removed. The CSPF is being prepared to begin sorting activities. Construction walk-through is scheduled for this week and turnover to Waste Management is scheduled for the following week.
- The Shipping Depot (Phase II) turnaround paving was completed last week. This week, traffic barriers will be moved to allow start of depot grading and excavation. West Valley Nuclear Services Company has received submittals from the contractor on the depot, passageway foundation, and anchor bolt calculations.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- The U.S. Department of Energy Voluntary Protection Program team notified West Valley Nuclear Services Company that they will conduct the on-site review the week of November 15, 1999. The team leader will be here on October 19 and 20, 1999, for the preliminary review and prepare for the team visit.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESSpent Nuclear Fuel Program

- Barbara Mazurowski and Bryan Bower met with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 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. They also discussed the potential for shipment of all the spent fuel in one "full load" shipment. A follow-up conference call has been scheduled for October 28, 1999. A follow-up technical meeting is being planned.
- The contract for refurbishment of the West Valley Demonstration Project 1.8 mile rail spur which connects to the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad was awarded October 13, 1999. The upgrade of this rail spur to Class 2 is critical in shipping waste off-site via rail. Concurrent with this activity; the purchase order for cask sleeves to reduce contamination of the cask surface while in the pool and facilitate decontamination was placed.

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Remote Handled Waste Facility

- The Remote Handled Waste Facility soil boring project was completed. No contamination was observed at any of the boring locations. The soil data will be evaluated and compiled in a geotechnical report to be issued next month.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The next Citizen Task Force meeting is scheduled for October 19, 1999, and will focus on engineering design changes for closure options under consideration for the high-level waste (HLW) tanks and Process Building and a status on the erosion modeling work..
- 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, is planned for October 19, 1999, at 1:00 p.m. at Riefler Concrete in Ashford, NY.

GENERAL

- Elizabeth Lowes and Bryan Bower met with representatives from the Seneca Nation of Indians on the Cattaraugus Reservation on October 18, 1999, to discuss the changes to the Cooperative Agreement for 2000. Final revisions were agreed upon and a final draft is being prepared to present to the Tribal Council for approval in November.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- On October 19, 1999, Ahmad Al-Daouk will travel to Fernald to meet with Waste Management personnel and discuss lesson learned on shipment of Intermodals to Envirocare of Utah.
- On Tuesday, October 19, 1999, two representatives from the Oak Ridge Inspector General's Office will be on site to review the West Valley Demonstration Project bioassay contract with Quanterra Corporation. The visit is part of a complex-wide review by the Inspector General regarding Quanterra pricing structures.
- On Tuesday, October 19, 1999, Ahmad Al-Daouk will be at the Ohio Field Office to discuss and observe Intermodal Transportation activities.