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United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

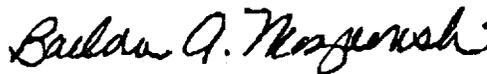
DATE: October 12, 1999

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 12, 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 I
A. R. Griffith, EM-65, 2086/CLOV
OH/WVDP Staff
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

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Predecisional Draft

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The on-site railroad spur upgrade contract is expected to be awarded this week with the expectation that a Class 2 certification is received on completion of the upgrade.
- Work continues on the Lag Storage Area 4 replacement project. All siding and roofing is completed. Work has begun on electrical systems and fixture installation. As a result, removal of the Container Sorting and Packaging Facility (CSPF) tent began this week.
- In support of the Shipping Depot, catch basins and drainage piping have been installed. The depot truck turnaround area has been cleared and is ready to receive gravel. The electrical layout for the depot and passageway has been submitted to West Valley Nuclear Services Company by the contractor for review.

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 the end of October 1999, for the preliminary review and prepare for the team visit.
- The Subcontractor Environmental, Safety, and Health (ES&H) Determination team met this week to continue developing the process flow for determining appropriate ES&H training for subcontractors performing work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. Major issues identified include managing individuals that move from subcontractor to subcontractor. These major issues will be addressed concurrently with the team's efforts to provide training badges to Dames & Moore subcontract employees.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The Request for Quote was issued last week for cask sleeves ("baggie") to reduce contamination of the cask surface while in the pool during fuel loading. A purchase order for operating spares for the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) pool submerged water demineralizer, filter, and the floating skimmer was placed last week.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- A kick-off meeting between West Valley Nuclear Services Company and Butler Construction for the design and construction of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) is being planned for October 18, 1999. Additionally, a follow-up presentation pertaining to the Remote Handled Waste Project and updated status on the RHWF is being planned for later this month to continue to maintain a commitment to open communication of project status.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
October 12, 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; and controlled decanting of excess liquid from Tank 8D-2 to Tank 8D-1.
- Scheduled activities this week include Evaporator Processing in the LWTS with continued liquid management in both Tanks 8D-1 and 8D-2.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 243rd canister, the second in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Continued melter operations are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of November 8, 1999.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Preparations continued for acid washing the clarifier associated with the old O2 Plant, including draining of the sludge cone, preparation of work orders to cover mock up of the liquid transfers and pumping to the old interceptor, and a visit to the subcontract fabricator who is providing transport tank lids to aid in filling and draining the tank.
- Comments have been resolved on the Waste Disposition Plan for the Caustic and Nitric Pad Demolition and the plan was issued to the Project Office.
- Hot Cells Services, Decontamination and Decommissioning Operations, and Radiation Controls Operations completed the removal of the Process Mechanical Cell B shield window assembly on October 5, 1999 and started removal of the shielding glass.
- PaR Systems, Inc. has started 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, Inc. for the week of October 18, 1999.
- A meeting was held with the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) Committee to do an initial review of the plans for the repair of the General Purpose Cell Crane Room (GCR) shield door. Actual mock-up work is scheduled to begin next week in the Vitrification Test Facility using the GCR mock-up.
- A kick off meeting with Decontamination and Decommissioning Support on the design of the GCR Enclosure was held. Drawings of the area are being compiled.

Predecisional Draft

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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.
- 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.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- Dan Sullivan will attend the High-Level Waste Steering Committee Meeting and Tank Closure Workshop in Las Vegas, NV on October 12 through 15, 1999.
- On Wednesday, October 13, 1999, Chris Eckert, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project will travel to the Columbus Environmental Management Project to attend the quarterly meeting of the Ohio Field Office radiological control managers. In addition to a site tour, meeting participants will be discussing progress on 10 CFR 835 amendment compliance efforts.
- Barbara A. Mazurowski and Bryan C. Bower will be meeting with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Washington, DC on October 15, 1999. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss approaches for shipment of damaged fuel in the Transnuclear Big Rock Point and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna casks, and to discuss NRC's expectations surrounding the potential for shipment of "full loads." Presentations for both management-level and technical-level meetings have been prepared.
- Elizabeth A. Lowes and Bryan C. Bower will be meeting with representatives from the Seneca Nation of Indians on October 18, 1999. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the changes to the Cooperative Agreement for 2000.