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United States Government

Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office

West Valley Demonstration Project

# memorandum

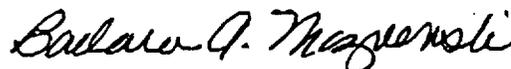
DATE: October 5, 1999

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: M. E. Rawlings, Team Leader  
West Valley Demonstration Project  
DOE-HQ, EM-32, 1188/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated October 5, 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  
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT  
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT  
October 5, 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 resumption of the melter and controlled decanting of excess liquid from Tank 8D-2 to 8D-1. Continued melter and controlled decanting operations are scheduled for next week. The melter is currently in idle with the 243rd canister, the second in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Hot Cells Services completed the set up of the table and shielding for the removal of the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) B shield window. Installation of the containment tent is in progress. The As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) pre-job brief for the removal of the window assembly was held on September 30, 1999. Actual removal of the window is targeted for October 6, 1999.
- The best and final proposal was received from PaR Systems on the Bridge Mounted Manipulator Systems for the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) and the General Purpose Cell on September 27, 1999. The technical evaluation was completed and the contract placed on September 30, 1999.
- All the comments on the Head End Cell Material Handling and Processing Plan were resolved and the plan was issued to the DOE on September 30, 1999.
- The proposal for three additional Master Slave Manipulators for the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) was received from Central Research Laboratory (CRL) and the order placed on September 29, 1999.
- The evaluation of the contractor's best and final proposal for the construction of the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) Crane Room Enclosure was completed and the contract awarded. A kick-off meeting with the contractor was held on September 30, 1999.
- To allow construction of the enclosure for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room Extension, a new locker room will replace the portion of the existing women's locker room in the Main Plant which must be removed. Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Support and Plant Engineering completed the initial design of the new locker room.

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- Document preparation for demolition of the Caustic and Nitric Pads continued this week with progress on the Waste Disposition Plan, the work authorization (J15) and Ground Disturbance Permit to jack hammer the berm portion of the pad, and the Purchase Requisition to jack hammer the pedestal.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- All support steel structure for the Lag Storage Area 4 storage facility replacement has been erected. Siding is presently being installed. Preparations are being made to remove weather protection from the Container Sorting and Packaging Facility (CSPF) once the contractor complete the siding installation.
- Removal of the clean soil from the Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW) trench has been completed. Contaminated soil excavation will start this week.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- In recognition of October as "Fire Prevention Month," West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) will offer a series of short fire prevention presentations the week of October 4, 1999. Additional activities are planned throughout the month to remind personnel about fire prevention.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) continues their "Campaign Zero" effort. Campaign Zero sets a goal of zero injuries. The purpose of the campaign is to heighten worker safety awareness both on and off the job.
- A site review by the DOE Office of Environmental, Safety, and Health (EH) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Team is tentatively scheduled for early November.
- Mr. Bruce Bartz, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, conducted an inspection to determine the compliance status of the West Valley Demonstration Project's air emissions program on September 29, 1999. Mr Bartz had no findings or issues of concern.

## PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- A fixed-price contract was awarded to the Buffalo and Pittsburgh (B&P) Railroad for rail service from the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) to Machias last week. This work is expected to be completed by the end of July 2000. Best and final offers for refurbishment of the WVDP 1.8 mile rail spur were received and are being evaluated. The contract is expected to be placed this week. Refurbishment could be completed by the end of the year, weather permitting.

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Remote Handled Waste Facility

- The \$31.2 million award of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) design/build contract was made to Butler Construction on September 24, 1999. A press conference was conducted last week to announce the West Valley Demonstration Project's largest award since the mid-1990s to print and television media. Butler Construction anticipates the creation of 115 new jobs due to this award.
- On Tuesday, September 28, 1999, Nature's Way Environmental Consultants started the geotechnical investigations (soil borings) for the foundation of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF).

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 Stachelski will be attending the Behavioral Safety Now Conference in Las Vegas, NV, the week of October 5, 1999.
- A meeting has been tentatively arranged with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on October 15, 1999, on the Transnuclear Big Rock Point and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna casks. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss NRC's expectations for shipment of damaged fuel. A presentation for the technical meeting has been prepared, as well as supporting information for an initial meeting with the NRC management.
- Representatives from the Office of Enforcement and Investigation (EH-10) will be at the West Valley Demonstration Project on October 5 and 6, 1999. The purpose of this visit will be to investigate the "Radioactive Liquid Backup into Steam Lines" event on August 10, 1999.

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- On October 7, 1999, Christopher J. Eckert, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) will travel to Washington, DC to attend a meeting at the Forrestal Building, of a DOE sponsored employee rights advocacy group. The group provides information to employees on their rights and updates on current and new legislation which affect DOE policies regarding diversity in the work place.
- Joe May will attend the High-Level Waste (HLW) Steering Committee Meeting and Tank Closure Workshop in Las Vegas, NV on October 12 through 15, 1999.
- Barbara Mazurowski and Bryan Bower are scheduled for a October 15, 1999, meeting with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Washington, DC to discuss NRC's expectations surrounding the potential for shipment of "full loads" of spent nuclear fuel in NRC licensed shipping casks from the West Valley Demonstration Project.