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United States Government

Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office

West Valley Demonstration Project

# memorandum

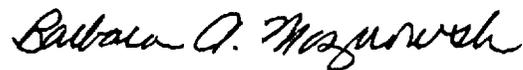
DATE: August 31, 1999

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 August 31, 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**  
**August 31, 1999**  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

**High-Level Waste Transfer Activities**

- Progress continues toward high-level waste tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included transfer of 167,769 gallons of liquid from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2. Mobilization pumps were operated during the latter stages of the transfer to affect zeolite transfer into Tank 8D-2. Additionally, 76,054 gallons were decanted from Tank 8D-2 back into Tank 8D-1 and 2,006 gallons were processed in the Liquid Waste Transfer System evaporator. Continuing work activities this week include zeolite transfers from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2 and decanting of liquids from Tank 8D-2 back into Tank 8D-1.
- Progress continues on flushing of contaminated lines in support of recovery from the "Radioactive Liquid Backup into Steam Lines" event of August 10, 1999.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Removal of the remaining 02 Facility outside process piping and the drumming station chute was completed on August 27, 1999.
- The initial submittals from Hot Cells Services for the refurbishment of the B and C shield windows in the Process Mechanical Cell and the hot oil flush of the B window in the General Purpose Cell were received and are under review. The design of the containment tent is complete and the purchase order has been placed.
- On August 25, 1999, Barbara Mazurowski, along with Susan Brechbill, the Ohio Field Office Manager, and other U.S. Department of Energy Ohio Field Office representatives, briefed Gerald Boyd (EM-50) regarding fiscal year 2000 plans for the Permeable Barrier Wall, Remote Handled Waste Project, Vitrification Expended Materials Projects, and proposed EM-50 involvement.
- The sheet piles for the Permeable Barrier Wall have been installed and trench dewatering trench should start this week.

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**WASTE MANAGEMENT****Waste Operations**

- Two shipments (14 boxes) of asphalt were made to Envirocare on Monday, August 30, 1999. The next shipment is scheduled for September 9, 1999. To date, 33 shipments with a cumulative total of 31,967 cubic feet have been shipped in fiscal year 1999.
- The Lag Storage Area 4 replacement project continues. The contractor began delivering parts of the new building last week. Erection will start this week. Construction is scheduled to be completed by October 29, 1999.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- Barbara A. Mazurowski, Elizabeth A. Lowes, Herman R. Moore, Moira N. Maloney, and Thomas J. Vero of the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) conducted an audit of West Valley Nuclear Services Company Environmental and Waste Management Programs the week of August 23, 1999. The scope of the audit included environmental protection programs; program evaluation, reporting and corrective actions; as well as staff resources, training and development. The scope also included waste characterization, treatment, storage, and disposal activities. A close out was held with the contractor in August 26, 1999, which identified a strong overall environmental management program, but identified several observations/findings. An audit report identifying the results of OH/WVDP's audit shall be issued within the next two weeks.
- Thomas J. Vero, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project and West Valley Nuclear Services Company personnel will be attending the Price Anderson Amendments Act workshop in Knoxville, TN from August 30 through September 1, 1999. The workshop will provide a discussion on strategies for implementation of the Quality Assurance Rule in Radiological Facilities. WVNS will provide a presentation comparing the Radiation Protection Rule (10 CFR 835) to the Quality Assurance Rule (10 CFR 830.120).

**ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH**

- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) West Valley Demonstration Project and the DOE Ohio Field Office have completed their review of the West Valley Nuclear Services Company Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) application. Comments were submitted to the contractor on August 26, 1999. The final application will be transmitted to the Ohio Field Office this week for forwarding to DOE Headquarters. A DOE VPP team on-site review is expected in early October 1999.
- The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Off-the-Job Safety Committee will begin publishing a monthly "Off-the-Job Newsletter." It will contain consumer product safety information and articles prepared by employees dealing with off-the-job safety.
- The West Valley Demonstration Project celebrated attainment of One Million Safe Work Hours (hours worked without a lost workday case) on August 31, 1999.

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**PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES****Spent Nuclear Fuel Program**

- Comments on the Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad proposal for rail service from the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) to Machias were provided to Procurement. The Request for Proposal for refurbishment of the 1.8 mile WVDP rail spur has been issued, and a pre-bid meeting was held on August 25, 1999.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

- The next Citizen Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 21, 1999, and will focus on institutional controls that may be applied at West Valley following site closure. A guest speaker from the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Grand Junction Office is scheduled to present DOE's experiences throughout the Complex to date on this project.

**MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- On August 30 through September 2, 1999, Dan Sullivan, along with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) representatives and two Citizens Task Force members will be traveling to a workshop on Long-Term Stewardship in Grand Junction, CO.
- Mr. Todd Jackson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was on site last week to conduct routine oversight assessment of the Project this week. Operational areas reviewed included recent organizational and personnel changes, vitrification operations and melter status, recent significant events, high-level waste tank operations, self-assessments and program reviews, low-level waste shipping plans and preparations, radioactive waste management, and decommissioning planning. Preliminary results of his review indicated that project programs are being effectively implemented, with one opportunity for improvement in the area of procedural compliance.