M-32

United States Government **Department of Energy**

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: August 17, 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 17, 1999.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

Barbara A. Mazurowski

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
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
August 17, 1999
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Progress continues towards high-level waste tank heel removal. An off-normal event occurred during Vitrification Operations on August 10, 1999, when radioactive liquid backed up into the steam lines in the operating aisles. There was no spill of radioactive liquid, and no exposure limits were exceeded. Both West Valley Nuclear Services Company and U.S. Department of Energy are investigating this event and will continue their reviews throughout the next week.

- The melter is currently in idle mode with the 242nd canister, the 13th in fiscal year 1999 under the melter pour spout.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Plans are proceeding for pumping the six drums of decant water removed from the Scrap Removal Room (SRR) to the Interceptor. The amount of solids present in each drum will be measured prior to pumping to ensure the solids level is less than two inches total for each drum. This will ensure the radionuclide activity level limit in the Interceptor is not exceeded.

- The Request for Proposal on the Bridge Mounted Manipulator systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and the General Purpose Cell was sent to PaR Systems, with the proposal due on August 27, 1999. A vendor surveillance trip to PaR Systems is planned for August 18 through 20, 1999.

- The pre-bid meeting for the construction of the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Enclosure was held on August 6, 1999.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Fifteen boxes of asphalt were shipped to Envirocare on August 16, 1999. The next shipment of asphalt (12 boxes) is scheduled for August 19, 1999. To date, 26 shipments with a cumulative total of 27,478 cubic feet have been shipped in fiscal year 1999.

- The replacement project for the Lag Storage Area (LSA-4) continues. Installment of the anchor bolts was completed last week. Delivery of new building is expected by the end of August 1999.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Mr. John Orrison, Ohio Field Office Office of Compliance and Support Quality Assurance Engineer, will be on site the week of August 16, 1999, to conduct a quality assurance surveillance of the contractor's implementation of issue identification and corrective action verification.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- A conference call was held August 13, 1999 with Transnuclear (TN) to discuss a summary of the results of the criticality, containment, and structural analyses for full loads with damaged fuel. TN performed additional criticality calculation analyses with the exact number of burnable poison rods in the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna fuel model to try and eliminate the need for any poison rods, and if poison rods are needed, determine the minimum number required.

- The modified demineralizer cam-loc fitting, which provides additional tolerance for the pump/motor assembly to seat properly in the demineralizer and preclude flow bypassing the resin bed, was installed and the demineralizer is back in service.

- The Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad proposal for rail service was received on August 13, 1999. Procurement continued preparation of the Request for Proposal for refurbishment of the West Valley Demonstration Project 1.8 mile rail spur.

- On August 17, 1999, the quarterly spent nuclear fuel program status up-date meeting was held via video conference which included DOE West Valley Demonstration; New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA); Ohio Field Office, Office of the Chief Counsel; DOE Headquarters, EM-65; and West Valley Nuclear Services Company. Topics of the meeting included the schedule, status of the railroad up grades, and discussions with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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.

GENERAL

- On August 10, 1999, site representatives from DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and West Valley Nuclear Services Company met with representatives from the West Valley Coalition on Nuclear Waste to discuss the North Plateau Pilot Scale Treatment Wall. Proceeding with the wall construction was discussed as only a pilot scale project, and not a final solution.

- On August 11, 1999, a teleconference was held where Barbara Mazurowski made a presentation to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/ New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) negotiation team on U.S. National Environmental Policy Act approaches for arriving at the Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision. DOE is preparing responses to questions and comments raised during the call. The next meeting between DOE and NYSERDA regarding negotiations is another teleconference planned for August 18, 1999.

- WVDP personnel have contacted local stakeholders to inform them of potential noise issues related to permeable treatment wall installation. Follow-up contact will be made as the date of installation gets closer. Local media affiliates have been invited to the site on August 19, 1999, to view progress being made on the wall installation. Pile driving will occur over 2 to 3 days during the week of August 23, 1999.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- On August 10 through 11, 1999, T. J. Jackson, Joe May, Bill Hamel, Christopher Eckert and John Drake traveled to the Maine-Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Wiscassett, Maine to discuss progress, lessons learned, and other issues related to the current decommissioning of the facility.

- On August 12, 1999, Barbara Mazurowski, Dan Sullivan, Jim Turi, Ralph Erickson, Mark Rawlings, and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority representatives met with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) at White Flint to discuss NRC resources needed for the West Valley Demonstration Project Environmental Impact Statement and the prioritization of these resources.

- Mike Thomas, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Savannah River, and Geoff Gorsuch, DOE Operations Office are on site from August 16 through 20, 1999 to assist the DOE West Valley Demonstration Project with the review of events in the Vitrification Facility.

- On August 25, 1999, Barbara Mazurowski, Susan Brechbill, and EM-30 will meet with Gerald Boyd, EM-50, to discuss potential technologies to implement at WVDP.