

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: August 10, 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 10, 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  
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
August 10, 1999  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

- o Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included video inspection of Tank 8D-1. In addition, water management activities continued with the decanting Tank 8D-2 liquid back to Tank 8D-1. Work activities this week also included waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank (CFMT).

The melter is currently in idle mode with the 242nd canister, the 13th in the fiscal year 1999, under the melter pour spout. Melter feeding operations are scheduled to resume on September 8, 1999.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o The field change to move the 18 drums in the Scrap Removal Room (SRR) into Lag Storage Area (LSA) 3 is being expanded to not only address Transuranic (TRU) storage in LSA-3 but to address storage of existing TRU waste in other LAG facilities; e.g., LSA-1. This field change and the appropriate facility posting requirements is expected to be completed by September 3, 1999. The remaining 18 drums of solids/liquids will be moved from the SRR to the LAG Storage Building next week and then moved to LSA-3 after approval of the field change.
- o The Request for Proposal on the Bridge Mounted Manipulator systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and the General Purpose Cell was prepared and sent to PaR Systems. A vendor surveillance trip is tentatively planned for mid August. The bid proposal is due on August 27, 1999.
- o The proposal 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 was received from Hot Cells Services and is under evaluation.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- o Fourteen boxes of miscellaneous debris waste are scheduled for shipment to Envirocare on August 12, 1999. This shipment will exceed the contract milestone for this year. The next shipment is scheduled for August 19, 1999.
- o The construction contractor began mobilizing and installed the new culvert and temporary roadway for the installation of the Permeable Treatment Wall (PTW). The final shipment of the treatment media (clinoptilolite) for the PTW was received this week.

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- o Delivery of the new building for the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 replacement project is expected in late August. Negotiations with the contractor are complete and West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) is in the final stages of awarding the Phase II contract (LSA-4 Shipping Depot Facility). The contractor has begun removing bollards, concrete and asphalt slabs, etc., in preparation for Phase II excavation.
- o A prebid meeting with the technically qualified bidders for design and construction of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) was held July 28, 1999. Firm fixed price proposals are still due August 11, 1999.

### ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- o Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) and the DOE Ohio Field Office continue to review the West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) application. Comments will be submitted to the contractor by August 27, 1999. The tentative schedule calls for WVNS to submit the final application to DOE by September 3, 1999, followed by a DOE Headquarters VPP team on-site review in early October.
- o To nurture the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) safety culture, West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) has kicked off a "Campaign Zero" effort. Campaign Zero sets a goal of zero tolerance for accidents, injuries, environmental issues, etc. The purpose of the campaign is to heighten worker safety and health awareness both on and off the job.

### PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

#### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- o Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company (LMITCO) completed a bounding Probabilistic Risk Assessment (PRA), which will be coupled with the Transnuclear (TN) analysis to justify full load shipments. The probability of a rail accident in which the cask fails catastrophically, water is present, and the fuel rods achieve a maximum reactive configuration was conservatively calculated. The calculated results makes the accident "incredible" in Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) terms.

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On July 28, 1999, the West Valley Demonstration Project transmitted Draft Chapter 6 (Receptor Characteristics and Parameters) of "Methods for Long-Term Assessments in the Strategic Decision on Closure of the West Valley Site" to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review.

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- o 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 tentatively scheduled to present DOE's experiences throughout the complex to date on this topic.

## GENERAL

- o On August 2 - 5, 1999, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) West Valley Demonstration Project sponsored an Environmental Management Integration (EMI) workshop to evaluate the disposition of high-level waste (HLW) glass/slurry contaminated components. The workshop included over twenty participants, including DOE Savannah River; DOE Idaho; DOE Richland; DOE Headquarters, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management; and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; as well as, contractors from the various sites. The workshop culminated into recommendations which will be presented to the Environmental Management Executive Committee later this year.
- o On August 10, 1999, site representatives from DOE-OH/WVDP, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) will be meeting with a representative from the West Valley Coalition on Nuclear Waste to discuss the North Plateau Pilot Scale Treatment Wall.
- o On August 10, 1999, a group of Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) representatives will travel to the Maine-Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Bath, Maine. The group will tour the facility and receive briefings on innovative decommissioning and decontamination technologies used at the plant, to determine if any of the technologies can be utilized at West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP).
- o On August 11, 1999, a teleconference is planned where Barbara Mazurowski will be making a presentation to the Department of Energy (DOE)/ New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) negotiation team on U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approaches for arriving at the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Record of Decision. The next meeting between the U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority regarding negotiations is planned for August 18 and 19, 1999, in Ellicottville, NY.
- o On August 12, 1999, Barbara Mazurowski, Dan Sullivan, Jim Turi, Ralph Erickson, Mark Rawlings, and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority representatives will visit 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 scheduling of these resources.