

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: July 27, 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 July 20, 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**  
July 27, 1999  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

- o Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. The dual-arm mast and camera have been installed in riser N-12 of Tank 8D-1. The N-12 riser camera along with the M-7 riser camera are being used for video inspection of Tank 8D-1 now that the latest zeolite transfer to Tank 8D-2 has been completed and Tank 8D-1 is at a very low level. Water management, decanting Tank 8D-2 liquid back to Tank 8D-1, will continue after the inspection and completion of the repairs of the Liquid Waste Treatment System evaporator level instrumentation lines. The initial item of vitrification expended material, a thermowell, was successfully sized reduced in-cell using recently installed tools and saw. A second thermowell is being size reduced this week.
- o The melter remains in idle mode with the 242nd canister, the 13th in fiscal year 1999, under the melter pour spout. Melter operations of feeding and pouring are scheduled to restart by the second week of August 1999.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o The Scrap Removal Room tank has been emptied, rinsed, and sprayed with a fixative to minimize contamination spread. The tank has been cut up, boxed, and will be transferred to the storage facility. The waste removed from the tank filled 24 drums (approximately 40 gallons each) of which six were decanted water. The drums of decanted water will be transferred to the interceptors and the remaining drums will be put in storage.
- o The purchase requisition has been signed off and delivered to Purchasing for the Bridge Mounted Manipulator systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and the General Purpose Cell. Purchasing is preparing the request for proposal and anticipates transmittal to the vendor next week.
- o The supplement to the purchase order 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 signed off. Purchasing anticipates the purchase order will be transmitted to Hot Cells next week. Maintenance completed the removal of the cold side of the manipulator at the Process Mechanical Cell "C" window.
- o A kick-off meeting was held on July 16, 1999, on the development of the "Head-End Cell (HEC) Material Handling and Processing Plan". This draft plan will be developed to document the plans for the handling, characterization, processing, and packaging of the material in the HECs.

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**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- o University of Buffalo (UB) researchers presented results of the Clinoptilolite bench testing program for the North Plateau Permeable Barrier Wall (PBW) to West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) personnel on July 22, 1999. The test was successful and Clinoptilolite is the selected media which will be used in the PBW to remove Strontium 90. The presentation was followed by a tour of the laboratory facilities used for bench testing done at UB.
- o The Lag Storage Area 4 replacement project continues and the factory pre-fabrication of the new building has begun. Old anchor bolts from the tent structure have been removed and the new anchor bolts are being installed.
- o Fourteen boxes of miscellaneous debris low-level waste will be shipped to Envirocare on July 29, 1999.

Remote Handled Waste

- o The Addendum to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for design and construction of the RHWF was issued to the technically qualified bidders for firm fixed price proposals on July 9, 1999, with responses due August 11, 1999. A technical conference with prospective bidders will be held July 28, 1999.

**ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH**

- o On July 19, 1999, Mr. James Stack of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was on site to conduct a Chemical Bulk Storage (CBS) Tank inspection. There were no issues or findings.

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

- o A conference call was held on July 22, 1999, which included representatives of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), and Transnuclear, Inc. (TN) to discuss status and results of analyses TN is performing for full loads with damaged fuel. The criticality analysis for the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) casks appear acceptable based on a specific fuel loading pattern. TN performed criticality calculations for a fully loaded Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask based on the actual measured boron content of the basket of 2.2 percent. With the effect of damaged fuel approximated, the acceptance criteria (i.e., the upper subcritical limit) is not met. TN believes the addition of poison rods to some assemblies would resolve this issue. The containment and structural analyses appear to be acceptable.

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Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On July 14, 1999, the Citizen Task Force met at the Ashford Office Complex to discuss U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff Requirements Memorandum, met with the mediator who has been brought on board to assist the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/New York State Energy Research and Development Authority discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project, and received a presentation on DOE's vision of a possible closure option. These topics generated good discussions and interest for planning additional meetings to cover at a minimum institutional controls and reengineered closure designs.
- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is transmitting 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 Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review.

**GENERAL**

- o On July 20 and 21, 1999, Barbara Mazurowski and Dan Sullivan attended a meeting in Amherst, NY between the U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to continue discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The next meeting between U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority is planned for August 18 and 19, 1999, in Ellicottville, NY.
- o In response to records storage issues identified during the recent DOE Headquarters High-Level Waste Quality Assurance Audit, West Valley Demonstration Project has begun the transfer of records to a new off-site records storage facility located in Boyers, PA. Verification activities provided assurance that this facility meets all applicable requirements for temporary records storage. The transfer of records to the new storage facility is expected to be completed by July 31, 1999.
- o On Thursday, July 29, 1999, C. J. Eckert will travel to Kingston, TN to observe West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc.'s quality assurance and radiation protection staff perform an audit of a potential subcontractor laboratory. This is one of numerous audits being performed of potential laboratories for the high-level waste tank sodium process.
- o On Wednesday, August 4, 1999, Christopher Eckert, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, will travel to Miamisburg, OH to assist the Ohio Field Office, Office of Compliance and Support perform a security assessment of the Miamisburg Environmental Management Project.

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- o Anne Bird, Lynn Chafin, and Tom Vero of Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) will be performing verification activities this week associated with the relocation of DOE quality assurance records from the current off-site records storage facility in Buffalo, NY to a new records facility on Boyers, PA. The team will be performing surveillances at both locations to ensure the proper handling, shipping, and temporary storage of project records as well as verify that the facility meets all applicable requirements for temporary records storage.