

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

DATE: July 13, 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 6, 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 13, 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 processing of approximately 9,416 gallons of excess liquid to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator for volume reduction. The LWTS system was shut down due to a shoe contamination and instrumentation problem which is currently being investigated. Zeolite transfers from tank 8D-1 to tank 8D-2 are tentatively scheduled to begin next week.
- o The Melter is currently in idle with the 242nd canister, the 13th in fiscal year 1999, under the Melter pour spout. Melter operations are scheduled to restart the last week of July.
- o The dual arm camera is currently being tested at the test stand with installation in tank 8D-1, M-12 riser scheduled later this week.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o During Scrap Removal Room tank pumping operations last week, a packed layer of cement particles was found at the bottom of the tank. It was decided to manually scoop out this material, and the equipment for this activity was fabricated and tested. A field change to the work order to cover this effort was approved.
- o Removal of process piping resumed in the O2 plant this week. To date one S-70 waste disposal box has been filled with contaminated process piping.
- o Several manipulators installed in the Process Mechanical Cell are no longer functional. The cold side of the manipulators will be removed this week in preparation for refurbishment of the "B" and "C" windows which will begin next week.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- o Thirteen boxes of sweeping compound and compacted dry active waste are ready for shipment to Envirocare on July 15, 1999. This will bring the total to 22 shipments for this fiscal year with a cumulative total of 23,225 cubic feet that has been shipped to Envirocare.
- o Work continues with the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 removal project. One hundred percent of the fabric was removed and the structural steel removal started last week. Overhead door assemblies and steel segments were relocated to hardstand for final survey and release.

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Remote Handled Waste

- o The turnkey bid package for the design and construction of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) was issued for a firm fixed price on July 9, 1999. Responses are requested by August 11, 1999.
- o A meeting was held with the West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) to discuss the possibility of additional funding through EM-50 for the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) and associated technology needs. An approach will be drafted by WVNS for further discussion during the week of July 12, 1999.

**ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH**

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) will submit their Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) application to Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) this week. DOE/WVDP and Ohio will conduct a concurrent review of the application. When the review is completed, WVNS will make the necessary revisions to the application and resubmit it to Ohio for transmittal to DOE Headquarters (DOE-HQ).
- o T. J. Jackson and Dan Stachelski will be attending the Integrated Safety Management Feedback and Improvement Workshop in Atlanta, GA from July 19 through 21, 1999, along with three WVNS representatives. Mr. Jackson will be presenting information on DOE self-assessment feedback and improvements. WVNS representatives will present information on performance analysis database used at West Valley and moderate the Self-Assessment session and will provide a joint lessons learned presentation on the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) windows installation.
- o Integrated Safety Management (ISM) Steering Committee is performing a Worker Involvement Survey to poll personnel implementing the Enhanced Work Planning Process. The Committee wishes to evaluate the perceived effectiveness of the process, with an emphasis on the degree of worker involvement in the planning and feedback portions of the work cycle. The results of the survey will be included in WVNS's annual review of the ISMS.

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

- o Transnuclear Inc. (TN) continues effort on the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) containment analysis and the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) and TN-BRP basket structural analysis. The decision points for the TN-REG and TN-BRP basket structural analysis are July 5, 1999, and August 11, 1999, respectively.
- o Westinghouse Safety Management Solutions prepared a draft plan that outlined the required elements of a submittal to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to obtain revisions to the cask Certificates of Compliance for full load shipments of damaged fuel. The draft plan was reviewed by West Valley Demonstration Project personnel.
- o A meeting was held July 8, 1999, among representatives of Lockheed Martin Idaho Technology Company (LMITCO), West Valley Nuclear Service Co., Inc. (WVNS) and the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP). The meeting focused on reviewing and discussing fiscal year (FY) 2000 and out year budget estimates for Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) efforts associated with shipment of the spent nuclear fuel.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o On July 14, 1999, the Citizen Task Force (CTF) will meet at the Ashford Office Complex (AOC) to discuss U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Staff Requirements Memorandum, meet with the mediator who has been brought on board to assist in the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)/New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project, and receive a presentation on DOE's vision of a possible closure option.
- o U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) met June 22 and 23, 1999, in West Valley, New York to continue discussions regarding obligations for future cleanup work at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20 and 21, 1999.

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**GENERAL**

- o In response to records storage issues identified during the recent DOE Headquarters (DOE-HQ) High-Level Waste Quality Assurance Audit, West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) 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 Tom Vero, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) and David Shugars, West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) will be participating on an internal audit of the National Spent Nuclear Fuel Program (NSNFP) scheduled for July 12 through 23, 1999. The audit team, composed of personnel from the High Level Waste (HLW) Program and National Spent Nuclear Fuel (NSNF) Program, will be led by audit team leaders from the HLW Program. The audit will evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the NSNFP Quality Assurance Program implementation as applied to quality assurance and technical activities associated with DOE-owned Spent Nuclear Fuel. The scope of the audit will also assess the QA oversight of Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) SNF storage license activities.
- o On July 19, 1999, Mr. James Stack of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be on site to conduct a Chemical Bulk Storage Tank inspection.