

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: March 7, 2000

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: Mark E. Rawlings, Team Leader  
West Valley Demonstration Project  
DOE-HQ, EM-31, 1188/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated March 7, 2000.

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, w/att  
T. Jackson, NRC-Region 1, w/att.  
A. R. Griffith, EM-21, 2086/CLOV, w/att.  
OH/WVDP Staff, w/att.  
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
**March 7, 2000**  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

## **HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

### **High-Level Waste Transfer Activities**

- Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included evaporator processing in the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) for volume reduction and replacement of Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT) sampling pump and related jumpers.
- Scheduled activities next week include waste transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT), boil down of liquids in the CFMT, and continued operation of the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator for volume reduction.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 247th canister, the sixth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.
- Last week, a mock-up of the vitrification off-gas High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter change for the 01-14 Building was conducted for the U.S. Department of Energy and the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) Committee at the Vitrification Test Facility. The demonstration illustrated the methods for removing the poly bag from the inside of the plenum (Phase 1) and the removal of the filter (Phase 2). The principles of ALARA that are being implemented for this project were pointed out as the Decontamination and Decommissioning operators worked through each phase. Work is in progress to prepare the 01-14 Building for this filter change in the next two weeks.
- Formal acceptance testing of the advanced waste retrieval system was performed at Speciality Maintenance and Construction, Inc. and witnessed by West Valley Nuclear Services Company Engineering. The video and test results are expected next week.

## **PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Construction of the Process Mechanical Cell Room (PMCR) enclosure continues. The concrete floor was poured on February 26, 2000. The electricians have completed the installation of conduit from the panels in the old counting room to the enclosure and are currently installing the light fixtures and receptacles. Installation of the wall girts was completed. Installation of the roofing system is in progress.
- The design of the equipment for the removal of the Process Mechanical Cell Room (PMCR) roof hatch covers is complete and the drawings are released. The boxes for the hatches have been delivered.

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- Paperwork to remove the Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) from the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) concrete block building has been initiated, and Decontamination and Decommissioning Projects is working closely with the Asbestos Engineer and Waste Management Operations. Draft Data Quality Objectives (DQO) have been written for the FRS Cooling Tower.
- Identification of radiological hot-spots and performance of radiological surveys are ongoing within the Process Building. In order to gain access into the Extraction Cell 1 (XC-1), Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Operations completed core boring operations through the top cover plates. Remote tooling is under development for delivery of a camera and radiological survey probe to obtain accurate information regarding the current conditions of XC-1 and its components.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- In support of the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 Phase II Project (Shipping Depot and Connector), the contractor completed the depot roofing, 65 percent of the depot high bay electrical, 75 percent of the depot office electrical, 50 percent of the Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) gas plumbing, 75 percent of the HVAC ducting, and complete installation of the stud walls in the depot office.

## PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- Preparation of the work document for final fit-up of the front cask trunnions on the new Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask transport frame is in progress. The fit-up will require placing the TN-REG cask into the transport frame. A meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2000, with all groups involved in the fit-up to discuss operational concerns.
- Fabrication of the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask basket cavity mockups were completed by West Metal Works and delivered to the West Valley Demonstration Project along with the TN-BRP (2) and TN-REG (1) mockup assemblies which were sent to West Metal Works for trial fit-up in the cask cavity mockups.
- A working meeting of all internal and external organizations involved in the planned shipment of used nuclear fuel from the West Valley site to the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Idaho was held February 29 and March 1, 2000, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Representatives from the following attended: U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters, DOE Idaho, DOE Ohio Field Office, DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National

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Transportation Program, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, railroads (Union Pacific, Norfolk Southern, and Buffalo & Pittsburgh), Bechtel/Babcock and Wilson, Idaho (BBWI), and West Valley Nuclear Services Company. Program status was reviewed and action items were generated and assigned to appropriate organizations and individuals.

- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) and the Foreign Research Reactor (FRR) Program will meet with the Seneca Nation of Indians on March 16, 2000. OH/WVDP will discuss the planned shipment of the 125 spent nuclear fuel (SNF) assemblies currently stored at the West Valley Demonstration Project. This shipment is scheduled for 2001. The FRR Program will discuss the plan for the FRR SNF shipment from Canada that is scheduled for Summer 2000.

#### Remote Handled Waste Facility

- o Butler/Raytheon has submitted for approval the Overall Plant Design Description, System Design Description (SDD)-04 Radiation Protection, and SDD-08 Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) System. The submittal of these deliverables is in accordance with an accelerated design schedule ensuring a completed preliminary design by the end of this fiscal year.
- o Comments resulting from the joint U.S. Department of Energy review of the Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Safety Analysis Report have been provided to the contractor for resolution.

#### Site Support

- o The design review for the Buttermilk Creek Culvert Repair is complete, including the resolution of all review comments. All comments have been incorporated in the drawings. Comments to the Special Provisions gathered during the design review have been forwarded to Construction Projects. Drawings for the rib installation jig have been completed and the purchase requisition for its fabrication delivered to Procurement. The requisition for the fabrication of the ribs is in the approval process.
- o Preliminary analysis of the Lake No. 1 Dam indicates that a major repair is not required and that the stability safety factor is well within acceptable limits. This positive result resolves the immediate concern for the railroad use over the dam. The final report will be issued after completion of the monitoring program and confirmatory analysis. Monitoring will continue for several months.
- o Operator training on the new condensate system was completed on February 22, 2000. Pre-commissioning testing was completed on February 24, 2000. A new industrial personal

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computer will be installed in the Utility Room office this week to control the system. New software will be installed and operational testing will begin on March 6, 2000.

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The public comment period for providing comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Draft Policy Statement regarding decommissioning criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project and West Valley Site has been extended to April 1, 2000. A Federal Register Notice announcing this extension was published February 24, 2000. The U.S. Department of Energy intends to provide comments during this comment period.

#### **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) staff is planning to participate in West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) Internal Audits on the Price Anderson Amendments Act (PAAA) Program the week of March 13, 2000; Measuring and Test Equipment the week of March 13, 2000; and Waste Characterization Process the month of April 2000.

#### **MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- The Citizen Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000.
- John Drake is participating in the High-Level Waste Tank Focus Area Mid-Year Review in Las Vegas, Nevada, this week.