M-32

United States Government

Department of Energy

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

memorandum

DATE: April 4, 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 April 4, 2000.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

for BAM

Barbara A. Mazurowski, Director
West Valley Demonstration Project

Attachment

cc: A. R. Griffith, EM-21, 2086/CLOV, w/att.
S. L. Baggett, NRC, TWFN, Room 6 D10, MS-6 F18, w/att.
T. Jackson, NRC-Region 1, w/att.
J. D. Parrott, NRC, TWFN, Room 8 C30, MS-8 F37, w/att.
OH/WVDP Staff, w/att.
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BAM/bma

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
April 4, 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: two HLW Transfers from tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT) were performed resulting in approximately 7,447 gallons of waste being transferred; boil down of liquids in the CFMT; and continued Vitrification Expended Material Processing (VEMP) processing of spent melter thermowells.

- Scheduled activities next week include: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Monitoring Visit; waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT); boil down of liquids in the CFMT; and installation of mechanical arm into 8D-2, M-7 riser.

- The melter is currently in idle with the 247th canister, the sixth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

High-Level Waste Process and Waste Form Qualification Report Compliance

- In support of plans to dispose of high-level waste glass contaminated melter components within the canistered waste forms, one document was issued and two documents were revised. A scientific report demonstrating that the presence of these components within the canisters does not degrade the canister's resistance to a seven meter impact test was issued. Draft revisions of the Waste Form Compliance Plan and Waste Form Qualification Report were prepared which also discusses this disposal option. All of these documents will be submitted to DOE Headquarters Office of Environmental Management for review and approval.

- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project submitted technical review comments to DOE Headquarters, Office of Technical Program Integration (EM-22) on Revision 4 of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) Waste Acceptance System Requirements Document. EM-22 will compile these comments with those from other high-level waste facilities and transmit one set of technical review comments to OCRWM. Revision 4 included significant changes that could negatively impact the West Valley Demonstration Project if promulgated.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- The radiological survey data from the last week's entry into the General Purpose Cell Crane Room showed the installation of the shield plates essentially eliminated the beta dose and reduced the gamma dose by approximately 20 percent. Mock-up activities continued in the Vitrification Test Facility for the actual replacement of the door drive mechanisms.

- Construction of the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Enclosure continues. The installation of the soffits is approximately 90 percent complete. Installation of the interior siding is in progress. The two window liners were installed as was the door frame between the old counting room and the enclosure. The shield glass for the two shield windows in the enclosure was received. Hot Cells Services will be on site next month to install the glass. Installation of the electrical wiring continues.

- Tell-taling of the lines associated with the Off-Gas Aisle Tankage in the aisleway has been completed. During tell-taling, nitric acid was discovered in one of the supply lines. Engineering and Operations are performing further evaluation on concentrated nitric acid line to determine maximum volume of acid and suitable methods of handling and disposal. Sampling is to be performed as line draining is completed.

- Removal of asbestos-containing material (ACM) in the Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) Area Cooling Tower concrete block building was completed on March 17, 2000. Waste Management Operations re-sampled three areas of pipe insulation to reconfirm lines currently tagged as Non-ACM. Data Quality Objectives for the FRS Cooling Tower have been prepared, and the Work Order for sampling the waste streams for off-site laboratory analysis is being prepared.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Approximately 4,810 cubic feet of soil in boxes has been inspected and prepared for shipment to Envirocare. The second group of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensed Disposal Area (NDA) soil shipments (1,184 cubic feet) were shipped on March 30, 2000, via four sealand containers. The next four sealands are expected to be shipped to Envirocare on April 6, 2000.

- An Interagency Work Order (IWO) was signed March 31, 2000, between Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project and the Oakland Operations Office to treat mixed waste streams at Envirocare of Utah.

- In support of the Chemical Process Cell/Waste Storage Area Leak Repair, West Valley Nuclear Services Company has begun to perform project dose calculations for both spray in-place and disassembly repair (to replace washers) scenarios. A work order has been created to inspect and perform a lift test (if needed) of the building's lift cables.

Additionally, the facility will be walked down to assess the potential in-leakage of water under the structural wall.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company issued the quarterly Local Notification Report on March 30, 2000. The Local Notification Report lists planned readiness activities for startups and restarts in the twelve-month period of April 1, 2000, through March 31, 2001.

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company transmitted the draft Authorization Agreement (AA) to the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project on March 27, 2000, for approval. The revised AA incorporated recommendations from the U.S. Department of Energy - Headquarters complex-wide review of AAs.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- Westmoreland Mechanical Testing and Research, Inc. (WMTR) completed fractography of the tested specimens of borated stainless steel. The test report on the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) and Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask basket borated stainless steel was issued by WMTR on March 28, 2000. The evaluation report will be issued by Structural Integrity Associates by April 12, 2000.

- Transnuclear Inc. (TN) has submitted draft chapters of the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask Safety Analysis Reports (SARs) for a full load with damaged fuel, with the exception of Chapter 6 (Criticality) for review by the West Valley Demonstration Project. The borated stainless steel fracture toughness testing results will be incorporated into the SARs as an appendix to Chapter 2 (Structural) following completion of the test report. The goal is the submit the revised SARs for full loads including damaged fuel to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in late April 2000.

- The purchase requisition for the casks helium leak test service was drafted and reviewed by West Valley Nuclear Services Company personnel on March 28, 2000. Also, the order for the replacement cable for the fuel hoist has been placed. Delivery is expected by April 10, 2000.

- The Spent Fuel Shipping Operators and Supervisor completed a review session for the upcoming systems course written examination. The final section of the Rad/Crit Lesson Plan (Criticality Portion) was reviewed. Training is scheduled for April 10, 2000.

- Bechtel/Babcock and Wilcox Idaho has incorporated comments to the Transportation Plan, Public Communications Plan, Emergency Preparedness Plan and Security Plan following the cross-country transportation technical meeting in Las Vegas. Following review by DOE Idaho, DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, and West Valley Nuclear Services Company, the documents will be revised and then disseminated to the States and Tribes.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company is continuing to resolve the U.S. Department of Energy review comments on the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR). It is currently expected that all comments will be resolved and a new revision of the RHWF PSAR issued prior to the already accelerated May 1, 2000, due date.

- Butler/Raytheon is continuing the development of System Description Documents (SDDs). "System Design Description for Civil/Structural" has been received, reviewed and returned for minor comment resolution. Calculations for shielding and heating, ventilation and air conditioning, in support of their respective SDDs, have been received and are being reviewed.

- In preparation for construction, Butler has completed the development of site layout drawings for construction trailers, fence, and temporary water tanks.

Site Support

- In support of Buttermilk Creek Culvert repair, a bulletin has been issued to the bidders for the fabrication of the support ribs, correcting drawing discrepancies discovered during the fabrication of the mock-up ribs. The due date for the bids has been extended to April 3, 2000. The required delivery date remains unchanged. The independent cost estimate for the construction phase of the project has been received and the construction phase purchase requisition is now in procurement.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- On March 31, 2000, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provided comments to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the NRC's Draft Policy Statement regarding decommissioning criteria for the West Valley Demonstration Project and West Valley Site. These comments have also been forwarded for information to the Citizen Task Force.

- The U.S. Department of Energy, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) met on March 17, 2000, to discuss which Environmental Impact Statement sections would be provided to NRC for their

informal review prior to completion of the next National Environmental Policy Act document. The proposed approach discussed is consistent with NRC's role as a Cooperating Agency. Feedback from NRC on this proposal is not expected until NRC discusses this subject with the NRC Commission. NRC staff has indicated that it could be several weeks before the NRC is prepared to provide feedback to the site.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- Mr. Todd Jackson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is on site is week to conduct routine oversight assessment of the Project. Operational areas to be reviewed will include recent organizational and personnel changes, vitrification operations and melter status, recent significant events, high-level waste tank operations, self-assessments and program reviews, low-level waste shipping plans and preparations, radioactive waste management, and decommissioning planning.

- Elizabeth A. Lowes will participate as a judge in the Waste Management Education and Research Consortium Environmental Design Contest, partially sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science and Technology (EM-50), during the week of April 2, 2000, in Las Cruces, NM.

- The Citizen Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000.