

M-32

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: April 11, 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 11, 2000.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.



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.
- P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV, w/att.

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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
April 11, 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: one HLW transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank (CFMT), resulting in approximately 3,866 gallons of waste being transferred; liquid processing from Tank 8D-1 through the Supernatant Treatment System (STS) to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator; evaporator processing in the LWTS for volume reduction; installation of mechanical arm into 8D-2, M-7 riser; and transfer of 54,444 gallons of liquid from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2. In addition, mobilization pumps were run in Tank 8D-2 to wash solids off of the tank grid work and one of two off-gas HEPA filters in the 01-14 Building was replaced.
- Scheduled activities this week include: replacement of the second off-gas HEPA filter; installation of off-gas blower; boil down of liquids in the Concentrator Feed Make-Up Tank; and continued Vitrification Expanded Material Processing of spent melter thermowells.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 247th canister, the sixth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Construction of the Process Mechanical Cell Room enclosure continues. The electricians installed the power track for the crane and began installation of the lighting fixtures. Installation of the interior siding continues.
- A status meeting was held with PaR Systems on the fabrication of the bridge mounted manipulator systems for the Process Mechanical Cell and General Purpose Cell. All of the components for the assembly of the arm have been received.
- Site Technology Coordination Group information was prepared and transmitted to DOE Ohio Field Office for inclusion in a DOE display at the U.S. Congress on April 10 and 11, 2000.
- Preliminary pipe draining in the West Mechanical Operating Aisle is ongoing. The asbestos containing material abatement work order has been approved and abatement will commence this week.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

April 11, 2000

- o Sampling in the Off-Gas Aisle (OGA) for waste characterization has been completed. The samples were shipped off site for analysis and results are expected by the end of May 2000. The work order to remove the miscellaneous equipment from the OGA (i.e., pumps, mixers, and some piping) has been issued and removal activities began April 5, 2000.
- o Activities to drain, remove, and size reduce the surge tank from the O2 Facility is scheduled to begin next week. The design criteria and conceptual design for the containment tent has been established. Also, preparation of work documents for removal and size reduction of the catwalks and miscellaneous structural hardware has begun.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o Approximately 4,431 cubic feet of debris has been sorted at the Container Sorting and Packaging Facility (CSPF) and is eligible for placement into intermodals. Three intermodals have been filled with debris and moved to the Lag hardstand. The fourth intermodal is being filled this week. The three filled intermodals equal 1,754 cubic feet of debris ready for shipment. Approximately 5,994 cubic feet of soil in boxes has been inspected and prepared for shipment to Envirocare. The third group of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensed Disposal Area (NDA) soil shipments (1,184 cubic feet) was shipped on April 6, 2000. For fiscal year 2000, the total shipped thus far is 11,610 cubic feet. The next shipment of four sealand containers is scheduled for April 13, 2000.
- o Work continues to prepare the documents and procedures necessary to define and implement the Nevada Test Site Waste Acceptance Criteria (NTSWAC). WVDP-339, "Waste Certification Program Plan," was issued last week. Comments are being incorporated into WM-WDS-02, "Conducting Waste Certification Activities." The first of two Quality Assurance (QA) audits has been scheduled for the last week in April 2000 to review the certification program and procedures against the NTSWAC requirements. The second QA audit will focus on implementation of the program and procedures.
- o Representatives of Westinghouse Savannah River Corporation will be on site the week of April 10, 2000, to conduct a review of the waste management re-engineering activities from the 1999 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act external assessment.
- o In support of the Lag Storage Area 4 Phase II Project (Shipping Depot and Connector), the contractor completed charging the office air conditioning compressor, aligning the depot overhead doors, testing of the gas line repair, and started final site grading and drainage installation.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

April 11, 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- The Winter Safety Campaign is over. Three winter-related injuries were reported in 2000, as compared to 14 injuries in 1999. This is a good beginning to West Valley Demonstration Project Campaign Zero.
- West Valley Demonstration Project continues to plan for our DOE Voluntary Protection Program STAR flag ceremony celebration which will be held on May 5, 2000. This coincides with the site's annual Open House and Safe Kids Fair scheduled for May 5 and 6, 2000.
- The West Valley Demonstration Project received the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands Permit and Water Quality Certification for the culvert repairs of Buttermilk Creek.
- The "Lessons Learned Collection" (database) is now on the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) intranet. It contains, in a searchable database, internal and external bulletins. West Valley Nuclear Services Company is currently updating the database with new information relative to WVDP.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) participated in the semi-annual Energy Facility Contractor Group Price Anderson Amendments Act (PAAA) meeting held at Brookhaven National Laboratory. WVNS presented an overview of the August 10, 1999, event at the West Valley Demonstration Project and associated PAAA and follow-up activities.

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

- The Transnuclear Big Rock Point frame was received at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory on April 3, 2000, for fit-up to the rail car. The car and frame are expected back by May 30, 2000. Concurrent with this activities, the casks Vacuum Drying System was received on site on March 29, 2000. The processing of work documents for final fit-up of the front cask trunnions on the new Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask transport frame continues. This activity requires placing the TN-REG cask into the transport frame for fit-up.
- All comments have been incorporated into the Transportation Plan, Public Communications Plan, Emergency Preparedness Plan, and Security Plan following the cross-country transportation technical meeting in Las Vegas. The documents will be ready for dissemination to the States and Tribes next week. A briefing on the path forward is schedule with Environmental Management (EM) 20 and EM-30 on April 11, 2000.

Predecisional Draft

- 4 -

April 11, 2000

- o Westmoreland Mechanical Testing and Research, Inc. issued the test report on the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna and Transnuclear Big Rock Point cask basket borated stainless steel on March 28, 2000. The evaluation report will be issued by Structural Integrity Associates by April 12, 2000.
- o Transnuclear Inc. has submitted draft chapters of the Transnuclear Big Rock Point and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna 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 to submit the revised SARs for full loads including damaged fuel to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in late April 2000.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Company has resolved the DOE review comments on the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR). A new revision of the RHWF PSAR will be issued prior to the already accelerated May 1, 2000, due date.
- o Butler/Raytheon is continuing the development of System Description Documents (SDDs) for the Remote Handle Waste Facility. SDD 09, "System Design Description for Civil/Structural," has been received, reviewed, and returned for minor comment resolution. The heat-load calculations for heating, ventilating, and air conditioning have been reviewed and returned with comments. The calculations for shielding have been reviewed and are being retained until the shielding SDD is submitted for review.

Site Support

- o In support of the Buttermilk Creek culvert repair project, bids for the fabrication of the 87 ribs were received on Wednesday, April 5, 2000, and are in the process of being reviewed. The Request for Proposals, for the installation of the ribs, have been issued to seven potential bidders. A pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000. The fabrication of the mock-up ribs and the installation jig has been completed and installation of the ribs into the culvert mock-up has begun.
- o In support of the refurbishment of the site rail spur, the proposal submitted by Quality Inspection Services to provide for an independent inspection of the West Valley Demonstration Project rail spur, has been accepted. The inspection is scheduled to be performed the week of April 17, 2000.

Predecisional Draft

- 5 -

April 11, 2000

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.

GENERAL

- Elizabeth Lowes participated as a judge in this year's Waste Management Education and Research Consortium (WERC) Environmental Design contest. WERC is a consortium whose members include New Mexico State University, the University of New Mexico, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Dine College, and the Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories. This year was the tenth annual design contest, where University teams from across the country competed for cash awards for developing engineering solutions to real-world environmental challenges. This year, Purdue University won the top award.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- Mr. Larry Rubin and Mr. Mike Mitskovski from the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, will be on site April 11, 2000, for a site tour and Project overview presentation. Mr. Rubin is replacing Mr. Richard Tobe on the Citizens Task Force and will use this site visit as an opportunity to get acquainted with site facilities and Project history.
- The Citizen Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000.