

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: March 28, 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 28, 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  
T. Jackson, NRC-Region 1  
J. D. Parrott, NRC, TWFN, Room 8 C30, MS-8 F37  
OH/WVDP Staff, w/att.  
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT  
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT  
March 28, 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 performing two HLW transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT) resulting in approximately 7,489 gallons of waste being transferred; boil down of liquids in the CFMT; liquid processing from Tank 8D-1 through the Supernatant Treatment System to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator; evaporator processing in the LWTS for volume reduction; and completion of size reduction of a reusable insert container and a melter level insert under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing system.
- Scheduled activities next week include waste transfers 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 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.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- The radiation survey data from last week's entry into the General Purpose Cell Crane room showed the installation of the floor shield plates essentially eliminated the beta dose and reduced the gamma dose by approximately 20 percent. Maintenance continued mock up activities in the Vitrification Test Facility for the actual replacement of the door drive mechanisms.
- Construction of the Process Mechanical Cell Room (PMCR) enclosure continues. 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. Installation of the electrical wiring continues. The shield glass for the two shield windows in the enclosure were received. Hot Cells Services will be on site next month to install the glass.
- Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) removal in the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) concrete block building was completed on March 17, 2000. Waste Management Operations resampled three areas of pipe insulation to reconfirm Non-ACM lines currently tagged as Non-ACM.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

March 28, 2000

- The Data Quality Objective (DQO) process has begun in support of the disposal of the concrete pedestals previously retrieved from the Chemical Process Cell. It is anticipated that the DQO statement will be completed around the end of the month.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Four sea-land containers were shipped to Envirocare for disposal on March 23, 2000. This is the first U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensed Disposal Area (NDA) soil to be shipped for disposal. These shipments consisted of four S70 boxes per sea-land and one sea-land per truck. The four sea-lands were trucked to Conway, PA, for transport by rail to Envirocare. The next four sea-lands are scheduled for shipping on March 30, 2000.
- In support of the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 4 Phase II Project (Shipping Depot and Connector), roofing installation is complete. Installation of conduit and electrical fixtures in the depot high bay and office areas continues. Depot high bay and office Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) installation has started. Delivery and installation of the ramp-end plates and LSA-4 column modification steel is expected next week.

## PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- J-integral type impact fracture toughness tests on the test specimens from the borated stainless steel plates removed from the top row of the Transnuclear Big Rock Point and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna cask baskets have been successfully completed at Westmoreland Mechanical Testing and Research, Inc. (WMTR). George Lucina of Structural Integrity Associates and Lou Huber of West Valley Nuclear Services Company Quality Assurance witnessed the testing, which was completed one week ahead of schedule. Results were better than expected. WMTR will issue the test report by April 7, 2000, and George Lucina will issue the evaluation report by April 12, 2000.
- Transnuclear Inc. has prepared procurement specifications for the borated stainless steel (BSS) material for replacement plates for those removed for materials testing and for the fabrication of the replacement plates. The plate fabricator may procure the BSS material from Carpenter Technology (Cartech), which has available BSS material.
- Transnuclear Inc. has submitted draft chapters of the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) 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.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

March 28, 2000

- o Paperwork has been completed for the shipment of Transnuclear Big Rock Point cask transport frame to Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory for fit-up to the railcar. Shipment is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2000. The railcar and cask transport frame are expected by May 30, 2000.
- o A meeting was held with representatives from Buffalo and Pittsburgh (B&P) Railroad on March 23, 2000. Topics discussed included spent fuel shipment, potential low-level waste shipments, receipt of spent fuel shipping cars, B&P Railroad line upgrades, and West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) spur and culvert work.

#### Remote Handled Waste Facility

- o 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.
- o Butler/Raytheon is continuing negotiations for the integrated design and procurement of the work cell bridge crane, jib cranes, powered dexterous manipulators, and tooling.
- o Butler/Raytheon is continuing the development of system description documents (SDDs). The three initial SDDs submitted by Butler/Raytheon for approval have been reviewed by West Valley Nuclear Services Company and are being returned with comment to Butler/Raytheon. These SDDs include Overall Plant Design Description; Radiation Protection; and Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning System. The submittal of three additional SDDs are scheduled before March 30, 2000.

#### Site Support

- o In support of the Buttermilk Creek culvert repair, a pre-bid meeting was held on March 21, 2000, for the procurement of the 87 support ribs. Three local fabricators attended. Bids are due on March 31, 2000. The construction bid package for the installation of the ribs is in the process of being assembled by Construction Projects.
- o The new condensate recovery system is in operation and has been turned over to Main Plant Operations. This phase of the project is complete. The next phase of the project is the removal of the previously utilized condensate tanks and diesel fuel tanks. A plan for this effort is expected by the end of the fiscal year.

Predecisional Draft

- 4 -

March 28, 2000

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o The public comment period for providing comments on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 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.
- o 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**

- o Congressman Thomas Reynolds will visit the West Valley Demonstration Project on March 31, 2000, for a Project briefing and site tour.
- o Bryan C. Bower is attending the State and Tribal Government Working Group meeting on March 28 and 29, 2000, in Washington, DC.
- o John L. Drake is attending the Decontamination and Decommissioning Focus Area Mid-Year Review Meeting March 28-30, 2000, at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, WV.
- o 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.
- o The Citizen Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000.