

United States Government**Department of Energy****memorandum****Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project**

DATE: March 20, 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 20, 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.
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
March 20, 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 7,400 gallons of waste being transferred; boil down of liquids in the CFMT liquid processing from Tank 8D-1 through the Supernatant Treatment System (STS) to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator; and Evaporator processing in the LWTS for volume reduction. Completed size reduction of two glass contaminated level probes 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

- Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) Operations personnel made two entries this week into the General Purpose Cell (GPC) Crane Room to begin clean up and shielding operations in the room in preparation for the repair of the GPC Shield Door. Radiological survey data is being reviewed to determine additional shielding requirements. 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 (PMCR) enclosure continued with installation of the exterior siding completed on March 10, 2000. Spray-on insulation was applied to the underside of the exposed floor and on the interior of the building. Installation of the electrical wiring continues.
- Radiological surveys of the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) Cooling Tower block building are complete. A containment structure will be required for removal of the east side of the cooling tower only. Asbestos Containing Materials removal in the FRS concrete block building began on March 17, 2000.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

- In support of Lag Storage Area 4 Phase II Project (Shipping Depot and Connector), the contractor painted the depot office and completed installation of the electrical fixtures and heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) in the office. Installation of the depot high bay HVAC and 90 percent of the electrical in the high bay area were also completed. The contractor continues to work on the column modification for the connector.
- Approximately 2,600 cubic feet of low-level soil in boxes is being prepared for shipment to Envirocare on March 23, 2000. The soil boxes will be placed in sea-land containers and trucked to Conway, Pennsylvania. The boxes will be loaded on rail cars and shipped to Envirocare.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESSpent 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 are scheduled to begin March 20, 2000, at Westmoreland Mechanical Testing and Research, Inc. (WMTR). George Lucina of Structural Integrity Associates (SIA) will witness the testing. All testing is expected to be completed by March 31, 2000. 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, except for Chapter 1 (General Information) for the TN-BRP SAR and Chapter 4 (Containment) and Chapter 6 (Criticality) for both SARs. The remaining chapters will be submitted by March 21, 2000, 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 testing. The goal is to submit the revised SARs for full loads, including damaged fuel, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in late April 2000.

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Remote Handled Waste Facility

- o West Valley Nuclear Services Company is continuing to resolve the DOE 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 are continuing negotiations for the 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. The three initial System Design Descriptions (SDD) 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 the Overall Plant Design Description, SDD 04 Radiation Protection and SDD 08 heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system. The submittal of three additional SDDs are scheduled before March 30, 2000.

Site Support

- o The design drawings and construction specification for the Buttermilk Creek culvert repair have been approved. An independent cost estimate for the construction installation is currently being performed. The Request for Proposals for the fabrication of the 87 support ribs has been issued to six potential bidders. Bids are due March 31, 2000.
- o Start-up of the new Utility Room condensate system was completed and software and operational testing was conducted on March 7, 2000. Software tuning of the deaerator level control system was completed March 9, 2000. The new system remains on-line with no noted problems.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o 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.
- o U.S. Department of Energy, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, and 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 expected in the next two weeks.

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ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (ES&H)

- o West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is hosting a DOE Safety Success Team meeting on site March 21 and 22, 2000. Representatives from the Ohio Field Office and Contractor organizations will attend. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the "Weak Moment in Time" safety initiative, originally presented by WVDP at the Ohio Summit. This initiative will be piloted at WVDP and then rolled out to the other Ohio sites.
- o West Valley Demonstration Project is initiating plans for our DOE Voluntary Protection Program STAR flag ceremony celebration. We are aiming for a May 4, 2000, date to coincide with the site's annual Open House and Safe Kids Fair scheduled for May 5 and 6, 2000.
- o New York State Department of Environmental Conservation sent Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project a notice of Computer Application for the Air State Facility Air Permit. This notice will be published in the Buffalo News the week of March 20, 2000. A decision will be made by June 12, 2000, on whether a public hearing will be required.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) is revising the OH/WVDP Policy and Procedures Manual to facilitate ease of use. OH/WVDP continues to revise the procedures contained in the Policy and Procedures Manual to reflect updated structuring and responsibilities of the OH/WVDP Office.
- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) participated in the West Valley Nuclear Services Company Price Anderson Amendments Act Program Audit last week. No significant findings were identified.
- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff will participate in the following West Valley Nuclear Services Company internal audits:
 - Measuring and Test Equipment (M&TE) - Week of March 20, 2000
 - Waste Characterization Process - April 2000

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MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) and the Foreign Research Reactor (FRR) Program met with the Seneca Nation of Indians on March 16, 2000. OH/WVDP discussed 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 discussed the plan for the FRR SNF shipment from Canada that is scheduled for Summer 2000. The Seneca Nation of Indians appreciated the discussions in advance of the shipments.
- o The DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project will be off site March 21 and 22, 2000, for team training and to discuss priorities for fiscal year (FY) 2001. The annual priorities developed will form the basis for future contract milestones, to be negotiated in the last quarter of FY2000.
- o A Quarterly Public Meeting has been scheduled for March 21, 2000. Topics include Project updates, low-level waste shipments, and improvements to the rail spur that services the project.
- o Bill Hunt is participating in the Fernald Environmental Management Project Facility Representative Program Review from March 21 through 23, 2000.
- o Bryan Bower will be attending the State and Tribal Government Working Group meeting on March 28 and 29, 2000, in Washington, DC.
- o The Citizen Task Force (CTF) Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2000, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2000.