

United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: May 23, 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 May 23, 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**  
**May 23, 2000**  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

- Progress continues toward 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; 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; evaporator processing in the LWTS for volume reduction; and decontamination and removal of a "top hat assembly" from the Vitrification cell.
- Scheduled activities next week include one waste transfer from Tank 8D-2 to Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT); boil down of liquids in the CFMT; video inspection of Tank 8D-2; preparation for zeolite transfers from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2; continued operation of the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator for volume reduction; size reduction of a thermowell under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing system; and peer review of the Data Collection and Analysis Plan.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 247th canister, the sixth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Repair of the malfunctioning melter feed operating valve and resumption of melter feed operations are scheduled for mid June 2000.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Installation of the raised platform for the airlock in the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room enclosure was completed and the airlock installed. The 5-ton bridge crane was successfully load tested.
- Entries were made into the General Purpose Cell Crane Room to remove the old motor and gear boxes from the shield door mechanism.
- The first weekly project meeting to kick off construction of the General Purpose Cell Crane Room enclosure was held on May 16, 2000. Minor excavation work was completed along with a survey of the area to obtain the as-built dimensions of the existing footer and walls. This information will be used to prepare the shop drawings for the fabrication of the steel.
- Decontamination and Decommissioning of the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) Cooling Tower continued this week with removal of 1,400 linear feet of electrical conduit, 120 feet of steam line and 120 feet of utility water line from between the block building and the FRS. Removal of the piping inside the block building will begin May 22, 2000.

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- Completed removal of electrical conduit and miscellaneous structure remaining on the pad in the Off-Gas Aisle (OGA). Removal of Tank 14D-30 in the OGA will begin the week of May 22, 2000.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company submitted its implementation plan for DOE Order 435.1, Radioactive Waste Management to DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) on May 1, 2000. A DOE team has been established to review the document. Additionally, work continues on the development of the site Radioactive Waste Management Basis and the Waste Acceptance Criteria for movement of on-site waste.
- Work continues on relocating waste from the Interim Waste Storage Facility (IWSF) to the Lag Storage Area (LSA) 3. To date, approximately 100 containers have been repackaged and relocated to LSA-3. All waste is scheduled to be removed from the IWSF by September 30, 2000.
- In support of the Site Treatment Plan milestones, inspection, sorting, and consolidation of lead and mercury debris is continuing this week in the Container Sorting and Packing Facility.
- In support of the Integrated Waste Tracking System Phase II Project, a vendor was located who supplies the inventory tools (i.e. hand held units). Preliminary plans for implementation have been prepared in order to complete Phase II implementation by the end of the fiscal year.
- Six intermodals have been filled with debris and moved to the Lag hardstand. The goal is to have eight intermodals filled and ready for shipment by the end of June 2000, the intermodals will be shipped to Envirocare in coordination with a Fernald shipment prior to end of this fiscal year.
- The first week of a five-week campaign was completed with the shipment of four sealand containers filled with NDA soil boxes to a railhead in Conway, Pennsylvania last week. These shipments represent 1,184 cubic feet of waste for a total of 15,162 cubic feet for the fiscal year.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- Mr. Ward Best will be on site June 1, 2000, to meet with the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Safety Success Task Team that is working on a safety awareness program entitled, "Weak Moment in Time." The task team will provide Mr. Best with a progress report on the pilot program and discuss ways to implement the program in the Ohio Field

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Office. In addition, Mr. Best intends to interview several WVDP employees to obtain feedback pertaining to the pilot program.

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company has completed all follow-up actions for the Phase I and Phase II Nuclear Criticality Safety Program self-assessment (conducted in response to DOE Headquarter's Nuclear Criticality Safety Improvement Initiative).

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) is continuing to revise the OH/WVDP Policy and Procedures Manual to facilitate ease of use and to reflect updated structuring and responsibilities of the OH/WVDP Office. The fifty procedures contained in the Policy and Procedures Manual have been condensed into forty-four new procedures, 14 of which are ready for issue.
- The next scheduled West Valley Nuclear Services Company Internal Audit that the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff will participate in is an audit of the Analytical and Process Chemistry Laboratory on June 21 through 23, 2000. Future audits the U.S. Department of Energy plans on participating on include those for Waste Management on June 26 through 30, 2000, the High-Level Waste Quality Program on June 19 through 23, 2000, and Procurement, Maintenance, and Material Control, yet to be scheduled.
- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff will participate in West Valley Nuclear Services Company External Audit of Iron Mountain/National Underground Storage, Inc. on June 13 through 14, 2000.

## PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The Transnuclear Big Rock Point and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna cask Safety Analysis Reports (SARs) for full loads, including damaged fuel, were submitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on April 28, 2000. The NRC completed the initial completeness review and the technical review was initiated on May 1, 2000. Feedback from the NRC Project Manager on Monday, May 22, 2000, is that the technical review is continuing on schedule.
- Setup, checkout, and operator training with the Transnuclear Inc. Cask Vacuum Drying System was conducted last week with the successful completion of the lid tightness verification of the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna cask.
- Welding on three of the four trunnion supports on the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna cask transport frame has been completed; work on the fourth is in progress to continue this week.

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- The Northeast Council of State Governments will hold a meeting in Buffalo on May 24 through 25, 2000. On May 25, 2000, the Council representatives will be on site for a status briefing on the Spent Fuel Cross Country shipment and site tour of the Fuel Receiving and Storage facility. Materials presented during this meeting will be similar to the materials presented during the Midwestern Council of State Governments meeting that was held earlier this month.

#### Remote Handled Waste Facility

- There was a video conference with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on May 22, 2000, to discuss additional comments based on their review of the Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR). It is expected that NRC will provide their written comments on the PSAR by the end of June as originally scheduled.
- In support of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) preliminary design, meetings were held with Butler/Raytheon team personnel at the Raytheon office in Princeton to firm up general arrangement issues as a result of the design review comments. In conjunction with this meeting, a side trip to the Hillman Roller manufacturing facility was made to firm up the design for the method of transfer of waste boxes to be used in the RHWF. A very similar system has already been supplied to a General Motors facility to move and position 50-ton dies for their manufacturing process.
- In preparation for the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) subcontractor mobilization, the construction work packages for routing potable water to the construction site, installing "Jersey Barriers" in the parking lot, and relocating the fence to support mobilization have been approved. Initial field work (relocation of fencing) is scheduled to begin the week of May 22, 2000.

#### Site Support

- Eagle Fabricating has sent the first sets of support ribs for the Buttermilk Creek Culvert Repair to the coatings subcontractor with delivery to the site expected the week of May 22, 2000. Initial submittals have been received from Butler Construction.
- Patterson-Stevens resumed work on the rail spur on Tuesday, May 16, 2000, and completed the drainage work on May 22, 2000. An inspector from the Federal Rail Administration was on site on Wednesday, May 17, 2000; results from that inspection are currently pending.

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Science Application International Corporation (SAIC) is continuing to work on development of Chapters 3 and 4 of the next National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. The initial draft of the description of the alternatives (Chapter 3) will be completed by the end of the month. Performance assessment models have been updated. Work on deterministic performance assessment for the high-level waste tank in support of the incidental waste

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determination has been initiated. A conference call was held between DOE, West Valley Nuclear Services Company, and SAIC personnel to discuss input assumptions. Updating of the site seismic hazard curve using the USGS methodology has been completed with assistance from Dames and Moore. The results of calibrating the erosion code SIBERIA using WEPP is being documented.

- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is preparing a commission paper that includes how West Valley Demonstration Project Environmental Impact Statement documents can be shared between agencies informally, which is consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Energy and NRC. NRC staff anticipates submittal to the commission in the next few weeks.
- DOE is continuing to work with the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement schedule scenarios and potential opportunities to accelerate the work necessary to prepare the next National Environmental Policy Act document.

#### MEETINGS/TRIPS

- The next Citizen Task Force (CTF) meeting is planned for May 23, 2000. Agenda items for this meeting include an update on U.S. Department of Energy and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority negotiations, future site use, and use of the CTF Recommendation as an Environmental Impact Statement alternative.
- On May 24, 2000, Christopher Eckert will travel to Miamisburg, Ohio to attend the regularly scheduled Ohio Field Office Radiation Protection Managers meeting. During the two-day meeting each participant will provide a brief program status and discuss 10 CFR technical positions issued by EH-52, and radiological issues associated with 10 CFR 834.
- On May 24, 2000, representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will be on site for the Semi-Annual Resource Conservation and Recovery Act 3008(h) Consent Order meeting.