

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: May 30, 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 30, 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
May 30, 2000
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Progress continues toward high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included: one HLW transfer from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT); 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; size reduction of a melter nozzle "D" level probe and a thermowell under the Vitrification Expended Materials Processing System; decanted liquids from Tank 8D-2 to Tank 8D-1 to allow for video inspection of Tank 8D-2; peer review of the Data Collection and Analysis Plan; and transfer of zeolite in Column C to Tank 8D-1.
- Due to low alpha transuranic content of recent high-level waste (HLW) transfers and the Tank 8D-2 video inspection which failed to reveal mobile HLW inventory, WVNS will commence zeolite transfers from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2 using all mobilization pumps. Four zeolite transfers are currently planned and will finish in early July 2000. Other scheduled activities next week include: boil down of liquids in the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT); continued operation of the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator for volume reduction; and size reduction of a melter periscope under the Vitrification Expended Materials Processing (VEMP) System using Generation II VEMP tools.
- 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.
- The Office of Site Closure (EM-30) assembled a team and conducted a technical review of the revised West Valley Demonstration Project Waste Form Compliance Plan and Waste Form Qualification Report. The documents were revised to incorporate the strategy to encapsulate Inconel® melter hardware in high-level waste canisters. EM-30 issued formal comments to the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) on May 17, 2000. OH/WVDP is currently evaluating the formal comments.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- An entry was made in the General Purpose Cell Crane Room (GCR) to clean up the gear box and motor base plates. The plates were inspected and found to be reusable. Additionally, the contract for the fabrication of the structural steel for the GCR Enclosure was awarded to Bruce's Welding. Delivery of the steel is targeted for July 10, 2000.

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- In support of the 02 Facility tank removal, the containment tent for removing the tanks was received. Interferences from the south exterior wall of the Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility (LLWTF) were removed in preparation for tent installation over the clarifier and removal activities for the surge tank concrete pedestal were initiated. The clarifier will be the first of the three remaining exterior tanks to be size reduced and packaged for disposal.
- Tank 14D-30 was removed from the Off-Gas Aisle (OGA) as scheduled last week. The penetrations have been cut at floor level and plugged. The out-of-service ventilation ducting has been clear-coated and removed.
- All piping has been removed between the Fuel Receiving and Storage Building and the Cooling Tower, with the exception of the fuel pool cooling water lines. Electrical conduit on the exterior of the tower has been removed. Operators are performing functional testing and training in preparation for sectioning the fuel pool cooling water lines.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company submitted its implementation plan for U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Order 435.1, Radioactive Waste Management, to the 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.
- In support of the site treatment plan milestones, the inspection, sorting, and consolidation of lead and mercury debris is continuing this week in the Container Sorting and Packing Facility.
- Segregation of the chemicals and products collected from the Chemical Roundup is complete. Approximately 65 percent of the materials collected are destined for reuse/recycling. The remaining 35 percent are outdated, old, and unusable products that have been packaged for a hazardous waste shipment.
- Four Sealand containers are scheduled for shipment to Envirocare this week. Another set of Sealand containers has been received from Envirocare last week. A performance measurement baseline for the construction of the rail hard stand and the shipment of one rail car from the site by September 2000 has been drafted and is out for review.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Revisions continue on the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) Policy and Procedures Manual to facilitate ease of use and to reflect updated structuring and responsibilities of the OH/WVDP Office. The 50 procedures contained in the

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Policy and Procedures Manual have been condensed into 44 new procedures, 19 of which are ready for issue.

- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project participated in an Observed Evolution Surveillance of Transportation of Hazardous Material with West Valley Nuclear Services Company Quality Assurance.
- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff will participate in the following West Valley Nuclear Services Company Internal Audits: Quality Program High-Level Waste, June 19–23, 2000; Analytical and Process Chemistry Lab, June 21–23, 2000; Waste Management, June 26–30, 2000; Procurement, postponed until next quarter; Material Control, postponed until next quarter; and Maintenance, to be determined.
- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff will participate in West Valley Nuclear Services Company's External Audit of Iron Mountain/National Underground Storage, Inc. on June 13–14, 2000.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) 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. NRC completed the initial completeness review and the technical review was initiated on May 1, 2000. On Thursday, May 25, 2000, OH/WVDP received a call from the NRC Project Manager regarding the criticality analysis for the hypothetical accident condition (HAC). The NRC Project Manager suggested that we analyze the HAC without taking credit for the fuel assembly structure, or conversely, provide an analysis that demonstrates the fuel assemblies stay intact during the HAC. We are currently discussing our approach with Transnuclear Inc.
- An inspection of the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna Cask sealing surfaces by a field representative from Transnuclear was conducted last week. This inspection was in preparation of upcoming helium leak testing of the cask as required by the Safety Analysis Report.
- Crew B operators and Quality Assurance personnel completed the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area Facility Systems course last week. Crew A operations personnel completed qualification walkthrough and are finishing qualification standards. A West Valley Nuclear Services Company assessment of the training program was performed and recommendations for modifications to the program are being implemented.
- Sketches are being prepared for fabricating a mock-up Burnable Poison Rod Assembly and interfacing top nozzle of a Westinghouse 14 by 14 fuel assembly. The mock-up parts will be

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used to test equipment and train personnel in preparation for the neutron absorber rod installation.

- Presentations on the Spent Fuel Shipping Project were made by Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project, West Valley Nuclear Services Company, and Bechtel/Babcock and Wilson, Idaho personnel to the Northeast High-Level Radioactive Waste Transportation Task Force on May 25, 2000. Topics included Program Overview, Transportation Operations, Institutional Programs, and Security.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- A video conference with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was held on May 22, 2000, to discuss additional comments based on their review of the Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR). NRC is currently developing their Request for Additional Information for the PSAR, which they expect to issue on schedule by the end of June 2000.
- In support of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) preliminary design, Butler/Raytheon submitted for review and approval the following documents: the "Integrated Safety Management Plan" with its "Safety and Health Program Manual," and System Design Document (SDD) 05 - "System Description for Radiation Monitoring System." It is expected that all documents necessary to complete the preliminary design will be received by the end of June 2000.
- In preparation for the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) subcontractor mobilization, work has begun on relocating the fence around the construction site. The permit for installation of temporary potable water to the construction site has been verbally approved by Cattaraugus County Department of Health. A proposal was received from Niagara Mohawk for providing temporary electrical service to the construction site.

Site Support

- The first sets of support ribs (24) for the Buttermilk Creek Culvert Repair have been received from Eagle Fabricating. Fabrication of 30 more ribs has been completed, and they have been shipped to the coatings subcontractor. Butler Construction mobilization is scheduled for the week of May 29, 2000.
- Patterson-Stevens completed all work on the site rail spur currently in their contract. The inspector from the Federal Rail Administration returned May 25, 2000, to determine if any additional work is required. Results are 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

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initial draft of the description of alternatives (Chapter 3) will be completed by the end of the week. The initial draft of the affected environment will be completed by mid-June. Performance assessment models have been updated. Work on deterministic performance assessment for the high-level waste tank in support of the incidental waste determination has been initiated. Updating of the site seismic hazard curve using the U.S. Geological Survey methodology has been completed with assistance from Dames and Moore. The analysis investigates the sensitivity of seismic hazard to location in western New York. The results of calibrating the erosion code SIBERIA using the Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) is being documented. Additional WEPP/SIBERIA sensitivity runs have been completed.

- 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.
- U.S. Department of Energy (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 Citizen Task Force (CTF) met on May 23, 2000. Agenda items for this meeting included an update on U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) negotiations, future site use, and use of the CTF Recommendation as an Environmental Impact Statement alternative. As a result of the meeting, the CTF is preparing a letter to be sent to both DOE and NYSERDA in hopes of accelerating negotiations. Future site use discussions may continue during subsequent CTF meetings, and use of the CTF recommendations an EIS alternative has been put on hold for now. The next CTF meeting is planned for August 22, 2000. Conference calls will be arranged as needed to help the CTF develop the language addressing the CTF's desire to accelerate negotiations.
- Representatives from U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters and various high-level waste (HLW) sites will be at the West Valley Demonstration Project for a HLW Steering Committee meeting on May 31 and June 1, 2000.