

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

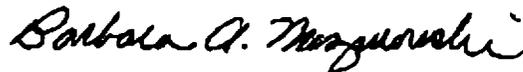
DATE: May 2, 2000

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 2, 2000.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

Barbara A. Mazurowski, Director  
West Valley Demonstration Project

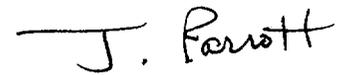
## Attachment

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 2, 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), resulting in approximately 7,921 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 LWTS for volume reduction; size reduction of a melter thermocouple under the Vitrification Expanded Materials Processing system; removal rebuilding; and reinstallation off-gas blower 64-K-0003B.
- Scheduled activities next week include: melter feeding operations, waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to 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 canister in fiscal year 2000, under the melter feed pour spout.
- The Office of Site Closure (EM-30) assembled a team and conducted a technical review of the revised West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Waste Form Compliance Plan (WCP) and Waste Form Qualification Report (WQR). The documents were revised to incorporate the strategy to encapsulate Inconel<sup>®</sup> melter hardware in high-level waste canisters. The WCP and WCR were submitted to EM-30 on April 4, 2000. EM-30 has issued draft comments and the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project is currently evaluating them.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- Completion of construction open items and turnover activities for the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room (PMCR) enclosure continue this week. Installation of the floor coating system and installation of the two shield windows continues. Assembly of the PMCR hatch removal equipment was completed in the Vitrification Test Facility and mock up activities are in progress.
- The former O2 Plant's Clarifier, Recycle Tank, and Anthracite Filter will be size reduced in a containment tent on the concrete pad adjacent to the facility. The containment framework design has been finalized and an order placed for procuring the containment. In addition, the Jib crane for waste handling has been ordered.

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- Isolation of electrical systems was completed along the north wall of the Fuel Receiving & Storage Area (FRS) Cooling Tower. In addition, the telltaling, draining, and sampling of lines within the FRS cooling tower have also been completed. Field activities associated with the cooling tower demolition will commence May 8, 2000.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- The final walkdown of the Lag Storage Area 4 Phase II Project (Shipping Depot and Connector) is complete. All facilities were turned over to operations on schedule. Contractual and administrative close-out will follow within the next eight weeks.
- A request for quotation (RFQ) for Real Time Radiography was issued to the vendor last week. The RFQ had numerous options including purchase, lease, and service arrangement. Quotations from the vendor are expected in about four weeks at which time a detailed analysis of the various options and associated costs will be performed.
- The Chemical Process Cell Waste Storage Area Quarterly Engineering Evaluation was completed. This included a detailed visual inspection and videotaping of containers, as well as obtaining samples and smears in the same area. Radiological levels above background were not found.
- Five intermodals were filled with debris and moved to the Lag hardstand last week. The sixth intermodal was started late last week. Eight intermodals are needed to maximize the volume allowed on a rail flat car. These intermodals will be shipped to Envirocare with arrival one to seven days prior to Fernald's unit trains of soil so that soil disposal price can be applied to the debris.
- Waste Management Operations is waiting for the return of Sealand containers before the next campaign may begin. Four Sealands are expected back this week. The next shipping campaign is scheduled to begin the week of May 15, 2000.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH**

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company has enhanced the Price Anderson Amendments Act (PAAA) database to improve tracking and trending of PAAA issues.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) is continuing the process of revising the Policy and Procedures Manual to facilitate ease of use and to reflect updated structuring and responsibilities of the OH/WVDP Office. Forty-eight of the fifty procedures contained in the Policy and Procedures Manual have been reviewed and addressed, and the revisions have been provided to staff for initial review.

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

- Work requests for modifying the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) and Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask flange protective covers to accommodate the lid installation alignment guides were completed last week. Completed fit-up of the cask trunnions on the new TN-REG cask transport frame last week. Final welding of the cask trunnions support blocks will commence this week.
- Work continued in support of absorber rod installation in 20 of the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) assemblies, including development/review of tooling, mockup development, and work instruction preparation.
- Transnuclear Inc. (TN) completed the Safety Analysis Reports (SARs) for the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask for a full load, including damaged fuel. The Department of Energy submitted the revised SARs to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on April 28, 2000.

**Remote Handled Waste Facility**

- The Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) was transmitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on April 17, 2000.
- Butler/Raytheon is continuing the development of system description documents for the preliminary design of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF). System Design Description 01, "Remote Processing System," System Design Description 03, "Radiation Shielding System," and the "Interface Control Document" were submitted for review and approval. The facility general arrangement drawings (seven drawings), were also received for review and comment.
- In preparation for Butler's mobilization on July 10, 2000, the purchase requisition for Niagara Mohawk to provide electric power to the Remote Handled Waste Facilities contractor area (northeast corner of the main parking lot) was issued to Purchasing.

**Site Support**

- The subcontractor has ordered materials required to fabricate the support ribs for the Buttermilk Creek Culvert Repair. Schedule and welding submittals are expected this week and the first rib shipment is currently scheduled for the week of May 22, 2000.

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- The formal report from the independent inspection of the rail spur has been received. The subcontractor is scheduled to return May 8, 2000, to complete the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) rail spur refurbishment. Arrangements are being made for inspection of the spur by the Buffalo & Pittsburgh Railroad and the Federal Railroad Administration.

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Science Application International Corporation (SAIC) is continuing work on the development of Chapters 3 and 4 of the next National Environmental Policy Act document. SAIC is continuing performance assessment work, and to date has completed seven of the nine performance assessment modules. In parallel with completing the remaining two modules, SAIC has begun preparing integrated codes for the high-level waste (HLW) Tank and Process Building to support incidental waste determination efforts. SAIC has completed calibration of the Siberia erosion model and has begun base case and sensitivity computer runs.
- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is preparing a commission paper to describe how West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents can be shared between agencies informally, which is consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and NRC. NRC staff anticipates submittal to the commission in the next few weeks.

#### **GENERAL**

- West Valley Demonstration Project continues to plan for the May 5, 2000, visit from Secretary Richardson; Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Dr. Carolyn Huntoon; and Assistant Secretary for Environmental, Safety and Health, Dr. David Michaels. The visits will be held in conjunction with the DOE Voluntary Protection Program STAR flag ceremony celebration to be held the same day. In addition, the site's annual Open House and Safe Kids Fair will be taking place on May 5 and 6, 2000.
- A production crew from CBC-TV's "The National" program was on site this week to cover two technologies being demonstrated at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The crew interviewed technical staff and took footage of high-level waste vitrification processing, as well as the pilot demonstration of a reactive barrier wall to treat strontium-90 contaminated groundwater. A twelve- to fifteen-minute program is expected to air sometime in the next few weeks.

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**MEETINGS/TRIPS**

- o The Citizen Task Force (CTF) met on Tuesday, April 11, 2000, and heard presentations from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) on the agency's regulatory role at the Western New York Nuclear Services Center and an update from U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on the NRC Policy Statement. The next CTF meeting is planned for May 23, 2000. Agenda items for this meeting include an update on DOE and NYSERDA negotiations, future site use, and use of the CTF Recommendation as an Environmental Impact Statement alternative.
- o On May 2 - 3, 2000, Dan Sullivan will be in Washington DC, attending the annual National Environmental Policy Act compliance Officers meeting.
- o Thomas Vero, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP); David K. Ploetz, West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS); and James Prowse, URS, will be providing an in-depth briefing on the RHWF design and PSAR to the NRC review team on May 4, 2000, in Rockville, MD.