

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
May 9, 2000
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- o 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; and size reduction of a melter thermocouple under the Vitrification Expanded Materials Processing system.
- o Scheduled activities next week include resuming melter feeding operations, 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.
- o The melter is currently in idle with the 247th canister, the sixth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Melter feed operations resumed for three lifts and was stopped due to a malfunctioning melter feed tank operating valve. Operations are currently underway to repair the malfunctioning valve.
- o 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 has issued draft comments and the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project is currently evaluating them.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o Work on close-out of the construction of the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room (PMCR) Enclosure punch list items continued this week. Hot Cell Services completed the installation of the two shield windows. Maintenance Electrical completed the removal of the lighting fixtures in the PMCR Enclosure Change Room (old counting room) and completed the isolation of the old air handling unit. Removal of the air handling unit to make room for the airlock is targeted for next week
- o The initial phase of the mock-up testing of the Process Mechanical Cell Room Hatch Removal equipment was completed in the Vitrification Test Facility.

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- The construction work package for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room (GCR) Enclosure was approved. The detailed schedule for the construction of the Enclosure is in development and will be out for review next week. In preparation for the construction of the enclosure, Maintenance completed the relocation of the utility air and utility water lines in the alleyway. Relocation of the demineralized water line is in progress.
- Construction Projects started the installation of the siding for the Scrap Removal Room and removed the light fixture in preparation for the removal of the pipe supports.

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 DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project on May 1, 2000. A DOE team will be established to review the document. Additionally, work has been initiated on the development of the site Radioactive Waste Management Basis and the Waste Acceptance Criteria for movement of on-site waste.
- Six intermodals were filled with debris and moved to the Lag hardstand last week. Eight intermodals are needed to maximize the volume allowed on a rail flat car. The first four sea-lands arrived back from Envirocare last week. Internal surveys were completed last week and shipping will begin as scheduled the week of May 15, 2000.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Continuing to revise 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. Forty-eight of the fifty procedures contained in the OH/WVDP Policy and Procedures Manual have been revised and the revisions have been provided to staff for initial review.
- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project participated in a walkdown of the 1.8 mile railroad spur with West Valley Nuclear Services Company and Buffalo and Pittsburgh Railroad personnel on May 3, 2000.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) Internal Audits in which Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) staff will participate: Waste Characterization Process, Procurement, Maintenance, Material Control, Analytical and Process Chemistry Lab, and Quality Program (Quality Manual).

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

- A second crew of five operators began the Fuel Receiving and Storage Area (FRS) Facility Systems Course. Two Quality Assurance (QA) inspectors and a QA engineer are also participating. The first crew of Spent Fuel Shipment Operations personnel continued qualification walk-through.
- Preliminary setup and checkout of the Vacuum Drying System (VDS) is in progress. All VDS gauges have been calibrated. Nitrogen for backfilling has been ordered with delivery expected this week.
- A work request for brushing the fuel canisters to remove aluminum oxide was issued. Equipment (poles and brushes) have been delivered. The work is expected to start this week.
- 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 an initial completeness review. The technical review was initiated on May 1, 2000. Feedback from the NRC Project Manager is that the technical review is expected to take 2 to 3 months.

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. Thomas J. Vero, U.S. Department of Energy; David K. Ploetz, West Valley Nuclear Services Company; and James Prowse, URS; provided an in-depth briefing on the RHWF design and PSAR to the NRC review team on May 4, 2000, in Rockville, MD. The presentation went well with continuing discussions expected in the coming weeks.
- 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," and the "Interface Control Document" were submitted for review and approval. System Design Description 03, "Radiation Shielding System," has been reviewed and approved with comments. The facility general arrangement drawings (seven drawings) were also received for review and comment.

Site Support

- In support of the Buttermilk Creek culvert repair, the structural tube steel for the fabrication of the support ribs has been shipped from the mill to the rolling shop (Chicago Metal). West Valley Nuclear Services Company sent a representative to Chicago to inspect the tube

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steel prior to their shipment to Eagle Fabricators in Buffalo. Eagle Fabricators is scheduled to begin the fabrication of the support ribs the week of May 8, 2000. The first rib shipment is currently scheduled to be received at West Valley Demonstration Project the week of May 22, 2000. The construction contract for the installation of the support ribs has been awarded to Butler Construction. Start of construction activities is scheduled for early June 2000.

- Buffalo-Pittsburgh Railroad representatives inspected the site rail spur on May 3, 2000. Their report is pending. The start of physical work on the spur by Patterson-Stevens has been delayed one week to May 15, 2000, due to manpower availability on their part. The validated permit from the Army Corps of Engineers was received on May 4, 2000.

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 Tank and Process Building to support incidental waste determination efforts. SAIC is continuing to work to define input parameters for the incidental waste analysis. SAIC has completed calibration of the Siberia erosion model and has begun base case and sensitivity computer runs. SAIC is also completing the update of the seismic hazard curve.
- 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.

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.
- U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters, the Ohio Field Office, and Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project are meeting with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority on Tuesday, May 9, 2000, to discuss the Environmental Impact Statement schedule and potential acceleration opportunities.

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- **Ahmad M. Al-Daouk will attending the Midwestern High-Level Waste committee meeting in Minneapolis, MN, May 10-11, 2000. The purpose of the meeting is to brief the midwestern states on the status of West Valley spent fuel shipment.**