

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: June 6, 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 June 6, 2000.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.



Elizabeth A. Lowes, Acting Director  
West Valley Demonstration Project

## Attachment

cc: A. R. Griffith, EM-21, 2086/CLOV, w/att.  
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T. Jackson, NRC-Region 1, w/att.  
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
June 6, 2000  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

- Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included: zeolite transfers from tank 8D-1 to tank 8D-2 using all mobilization pumps; water flush of the submerged bed scrubber (SBS) with transfer to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT); boil down of liquids in the CFMT; size reduction of a thermowell under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) system; and testing of the gamma camera mechanical arm in the test tower.
- 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 has begun zeolite transfers from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2 using all mobilization pumps. One zeolite transfer has been completed and three remaining zeolite transfers are currently planned to be completed by early July 2000. Other scheduled activities next week include: boil down of liquids in the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT); size reduction of a melter periscope under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) system using generation II VEMP tools; video inspection of tank 8D-1; decanted liquids from tank 8D-2 to tank 8D-1; testing of the gamma camera mechanical arm in the test tower; acid flush of the submerged bed scrubber (SBS) with transfer to the CFMT; and continued VEMP activities and repair of the melter feed operating valve.
- 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.
- 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<sup>®</sup> 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 will be submitting responses to the formal comments by June 13, 2000.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- The formal Construction walkdown of the Process Mechanical Cell Room enclosure was completed on May 26, 2000. Three items were identified and are being resolved. Preparation and submittal of the turnover documentation from the Construction Contractor is nearing completion.

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- The new gear boxes and motor were brought into the General Purpose Cell Crane Room and installed on their base plates for the shield door repair. An entry will be made this week to install the shafts.
- The abandoned make-up air duct in the Off Gas Aisle has been removed. The field change to the tank removal work order to provide additional detail for plasma torch cutting is out for review.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) 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 reviewed the document and has provided the review comments to WVNS for their resolution. Resolution of comments and a new revision of the implementation plan is expected by June 14, 2000. The revised implementation plan will then be sent to the Ohio Field Office for their review. Ohio Field Office Manager's approval is needed by July 9, 2000, as required by the order.
- 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.
- In anticipation of future waste disposal at the Nevada Test Site (NTS), West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) attended the NTS Generators Workshop in Las Vegas, NV, last week. The attendees widely represented members from DOE sites, as well as commercial facilities. Sessions included discussions on the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision, mixed waste and transportation issues, changes to the NTS Waste Acceptance Criteria (NTS WAC), using process knowledge for NTS waste disposition, and radiological characterization.
- The transfer of shipping personnel into the Lag Storage Area 4 shipping depot office is complete. The depot high bay area is now posted as a radiological area, and operations in the depot and connector are at normal capacity.
- Four Sealand containers were shipped to Envirocare last week. The total waste shipped for disposal in Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 is 16,346 cubic feet. Eight empty Sealand containers were shipped to the site from Conway, PA, on June 2, 2000. The next four Sealand containers of low-level waste (LLW) soil boxes are on schedule to be shipped on June 8, 2000.

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**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. The 50 procedures contained in the Policy and Procedures Manual have been condensed into 43 new procedures, 20 of which are ready for issue.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) Internal Audits which OH/WVDP staff will participate in include: Quality Program High-Level Waste (HLW) - June 19-23, 2000; Analytical and Process Chemistry (A&PC) Laboratory - June 21-23, 2000; Waste Management - June 26-30 2000; Procurement - Postponed until Next Quarter; Material Control - Postponed until next quarter; and Maintenance - TBD.
- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) staff will participate in West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) External Audit of Iron Mountain/National Underground Storage, Inc. June 13-14, 2000.

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

- The quotation for the cask trunnion load test and the impact limiter leak tests from Quality Inspection Services was received last week, May 31, 2000. The order will be placed following successful completion of the audit by Quality Assurance Department.
- The impact limiters trial fitup on the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask is planned for this week. The TN-REG cask transport frame was moved from the load-out facility to the Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) facility last week for the fitup.
- 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 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. 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). A telephone conference with the NRC has been scheduled for June 13, 2000, to further discuss the criticality analysis.

**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 (RHWF) Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR). NRC is currently

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developing their Request For Additional Information (RAI) 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, the System Design Description for Civil/Structural was reviewed and returned to Butler/Raytheon as approved. The System Design Description for Remote Processing was returned as conditionally approved. 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 is continuing on relocating the fence around the construction site. Installation of the new fence around the RHWF construction site is expected to begin June 12, 2000. The permit for installation of temporary potable water to the construction site has been verbally approved by Cattaraugus County Department of Health. Contracts were placed with Niagara Mohawk to provide temporary power and Citizens Telecom to provide temporary phones to the RHWF construction site. Nineteen excess items on the RHWF construction site were turned over as government-furnished equipment to Butler for their use in construction of the RHWF.

#### Site Support

- The first sets of support ribs (24) for the Buttermilk Creek Culvert Repair have been received from Eagle Fabricating; the next batch of 30 ribs is scheduled for delivery on June 10, 2000. Butler Construction has begun site mobilization and continues to work on required submittals. Work on the diversion culvert is scheduled to begin later this week.
- The inspector from the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) returned May 25, 2000, and performed a walkdown of the completed site rail spur. All work required to allow rail traffic on the spur was judged satisfactory. Patterson-Stevens will replace 11 ties to return the spur to FRA Class 2 requirements.

#### 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 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.

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- o 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.
- o 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

- o 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.
- o On June 13 and 14, 2000, Christopher Eckert will attend a training course in Miamisburg, OH. The training will focus on leadership skills for non-supervisory employees.
- o Joe May will be visiting Pacific Northwest National Laboratory on June 13 through 15, 2000, to conduct a RW-0333P surveillance of the activities they perform for the West Valley Demonstration Project.
- o Off-site emergency response personnel have been invited to the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) for annual training. Erie County Medical Center, Bertrand Chaffee Hospital, Erie County Emergency Services, and Cattaraugus County Emergency Services have been asked to participate. Training will be held on June 21, 2000, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.