

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

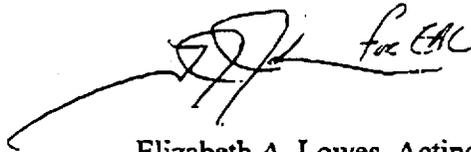
DATE: June 20, 2000

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 20, 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.
- 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.

EAL:094 - 72449 - 237.1

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
June 20, 2000
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Progress continues toward high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included: decanted liquids from Tank 8D-2 to Tank 8D-1; the third zeolite transfer from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2 using all mobilization pumps, resulting in approximately 24,000 curies of Cs-137 being transferred; size reduction of a melter thermowell under the Vitrification Expended Material Processing system; support activities related to the replacement of the melter feed four-way valve and re-initiation of melter feed; boildown of liquids in the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank (CFMT); and transfer of liquids from the CFMT to the Melter Feed Holding Tank.
- Due to the 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, West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) has begun zeolite transfers from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2 using all mobilization pumps. Three zeolite transfers have been completed with the fourth zeolite transfer scheduled for next week. Other scheduled activities next week include: size reduction of a thermowell and a CADS pump under the Vitrification Expended Material Processing (VEMP) system using generation II VEMP tools.
- The melter is currently feeding with the 247th canister, the sixth 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 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 submitted responses to the formal comments on June 13, 2000. EM-30 is currently evaluating the acceptability of the responses.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Tie-in of the ventilation system for the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room (PMCR) enclosure was completed and the ventilation system test was performed. Core boring of the small hatch covers to install lifting eyes in support of the hatch removal has begun. Removal of the asbestos from the seams of the PMCR roof hatches began this week.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

June 20, 2000

- In support of the General Purpose Cell Crane Room (GCR) enclosure construction, installation of the structural support for the exterior door and window of the Equipment Decontamination Room (EDR) Change Room was initiated. Preparations for excavation for the foundation were also started.
- Performance testing for the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) Bridge Mounted Manipulator system was successfully completed on June 12, 2000, at PaR Systems. The hold point for shipping has been released, and PaR Systems will ship the unit to the Terminal of Commerce.
- Training on the plasma torch cutting unit for the operators working in the Off-Gas Aisle (OGA) was completed on June 14, 2000. The equipment is being staged in the Test and Storage Building and run through an initial testing phase to verify it is operational prior to placement in the OGA.
- The piping inside the Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) Cooling Tower concrete block building has been removed with the exception of the four 8-inch valves and pipe stubs. These will be removed once the roof of the building has been removed. Work to take down the FRS Cooling Tower shell began this week. The metal shell was partially dismantled with contaminated waste prepared for off-site shipment.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Four sealand containers were shipped to Envirocare for disposal on June 15, 2000. The total waste shipped for disposal in fiscal year 2000 is 18,714 cubic feet. The next four sealand containers of low-level waste soil boxes are scheduled to be shipped on June 22, 2000.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) submitted its implementation plan for DOE Order 435.1, Radioactive Waste Management to DOE OH/WVDP on May 1, 2000. An Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) team has reviewed the document and has provided the review comments to WVNS for their resolution. A new revision of the implementation plan was submitted on June 16, 2000. The revised implementation plan will 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 Chemical Process Cell Waste Storage Area (CPC/WSA) leak repair, Butler Construction has chosen to cover the gasket area with a "caulk-like" material (made of polyurethane). A test was conducted at the CPC/WSA to verify that the caulk will adhere properly and to time the difference of caulking verses replacing bolt assemblies. This method is estimated to save over 800 mrem of dose to the work crew. A presentation was given to the As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) Review Committee on June 13, 2000. Additionally, planning is continuing for the installation of a roll-up door on the east end of the CPC/WSA and the placement of steel shielding tables over selected waste containers while the structure is disassembled.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

June 20, 2000

ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH

- During a recent routine maintenance filter change-out on the site's supplied air system, West Valley Demonstration Project workers noticed a potential defect in newly installed Bullard Air Filters. Several other locations were inspected and the same defect was observed. West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) contacted the manufacturer and it was determined that the observed condition was in fact a manufacturer's defect. WVNS is preparing a lessons learned article for submission to the DOE Operating Experience Newsletter to inform other facilities of this defect.
- A heat stress briefing was developed for presentation to site operating organizations and subcontractor personnel. The briefing was an action initiated by the site's Heat Stress Task Team.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) staff continue to revise the 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 (PPM) have now been condensed into 41 new procedures, either by combining redundant procedures or by cancelling procedures covered by Ohio Field Office procedures.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company Internal Audits which Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff will participate in: Quality Program High-Level Waste - June 19 through 23, 2000; Analytical and Process Chemistry Laboratory - June 21 through 23, 2000; Waste Management - June 26 through 30 2000; Procurement - Postponed until Next Quarter; Material Control - Postponed until Next Quarter; and Maintenance - TBD.
- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff participated in West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) External Audit of Iron Mountain/National Underground Storage, Inc. June 13 through 14, 2000. The Facility and procedures were found to be acceptable. A few areas for improvement were noted.

Predecisional Draft

- 4 -

June 20, 2000

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

- The purchase order for the cask and impact limiter leak tests was placed with Quality Inspection Services (QIS) last week. QIS required submittals, including procedures, are being prepared. QIS will mobilize equipment to do the leak tests the week of June 27, 2000. The helium testing will be initiated July 5, 2000. A Transnuclear Inc. technical advisor will be on site to participate during the leak tests.
- Stenciling of a row/column coordinate system on both casks seal surface protective covers was initiated last week. The purpose of stenciling is to facilitate installation of the fuel assemblies into the specified basket compartment during loading operations.
- All DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) comments on West Valley Nuclear Services Company's Plan of Action for spent fuel shipping were incorporated. A new revised Plan of Action (POA) will be issued this week for transmittal to both DOE Ohio Field Office and EH-2 for their concurrent review and comment.
- 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. 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 NRC was held on 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 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, Butler Construction has submitted advance copies of four new System Design Documents (SDDs) to West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) for information. WVNS approved Butler's "Integrated Safety Management Systems (ISMS) Program and Safety and Health Program Manual." It is expected that all documents necessary to complete the preliminary design will be received by the end of June 2000.

Predecisional Draft

- 5 -

June 20, 2000

- In preparation for the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) subcontractor mobilization, work is continuing on installing the fence around the construction site. Excavation of a trench for installation of potable water to the RHWF construction site has been completed. Niagara Mohawk has started installing power poles to be used for temporary power. Citizens Communications is scheduled to begin installation of the temporary communications system this week.
- The Data Quality Objectives for the Chemical Process Cell Concrete Pedestals Project have been released for controlled distribution.

Site Support

- Additional support ribs (21) for the Buttermilk Creek Culvert Repair were received June 14, 2000, from Eagle Fabricating, bringing the total on site to 54. The final batch of 33 ribs is scheduled for delivery on June 23, 2000. Butler Construction continues to work on site preparation. They have completed the extension of the discharge end of the diversion culvert. Rib installation is scheduled to start this week, weather permitting.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) is continuing to work on development of Chapters 3 and 4 of the next National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. The draft description of the alternatives (Chapter 3) uses updated, fixed information and SAIC has not spent effort on updating selected pieces where information is still in flux. This draft of Chapter 3 is undergoing internal review. The initial draft of the affected environment will be completed by mid-June 2000. Performance assessment models have been updated. Work on deterministic performance assessment for the high-level waste tank in support of the incidental waste determination is in progress.
- The report updating the site seismic hazard curve including the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) methodology has been transmitted to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and is currently under review by DOE and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The report concludes that no substantive change from the curve presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is warranted. The results of calibrating the erosion code SIBERIA using Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) are being documented.
- The Water Erosion Prediction Project (WEPP) results supplement the information from Universal Soil Loss Equation of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USLE) and SEDIMONT erosion analysis. The estimates of overall erosion rate appear to be consistent with estimates developed from SIBERIA runs in May of 1999. These preliminary conclusions are being explored in ongoing sensitivity runs using both WEPP and SIBERIA.

Predecisional Draft

- 6 -

June 20, 2000

- 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 of the commission paper 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 DOE and NYSERDA in hopes of accelerating negotiations. Future site use discussions may continue during subsequent CTF meetings and use of the CTF recommendations as an Environmental Impact Statement (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.
- 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.
- The next quarterly public meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2000. Topics include: Spent Nuclear Fuel shipment; Remote Handled Waste Facility; and Vitrification Expended Material Processing.
- Mr. John Drake, OH/WVDP, will be attending the International Decontamination and Decommissioning Workshop in Knoxville, TN, on June 19 and 20, 2000.