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United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: June 13, 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 13, 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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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
June 13, 2000
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Progress continues towards high-level waste (HLW) tank heel removal. 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. Two zeolite transfers have been completed and the third zeolite transfers is scheduled for this week. Completed work this past week included: the second zeolite transfer from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2 using all mobilization pumps was conducted resulting approximately 38,000 curies of Cs-137 being transferred; decanted liquids from Tank 8D-2 to Tank 8D-1; size reduction of a melter periscope under the Vitrification Expanded Material Processing (VEMP) system; testing of the beta/gamma detector mechanical are in the test tower; and supported activities related to the replacement of the melter feed 4-way 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® 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

- Two entries were made into the General Purpose Cell Crane Room to complete installation of the shafts and couplings attached to the three gear boxes. Final assembly of the motor drive shaft will occur after completion of motor electrical connections planned for the week of June 12, 2000.
- Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room roofing is being removed in preparation for relocation of existing roof hatches. This work includes removal of Asbestos Containing Materials used to seal the joints between the old roof hatches. Tie-in to the main plant ventilation system ducting continues, with all welding completed.

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- o The containment tent for removing and size reducing the tanks from the old Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility has been modified and delivered back to the site. The steel frame for the tent will be delivered the week of June 12, 2000.
- o Removal of fuel pool cooling water lines between the Fuel Receiving and Storage Cooling Tower Building and the Main Plant continues after conclusion of the stand down related to the off normal reported last week. The Tri-Tool, low-profile, split lathe for removing 10-inch stainless steel piping is working well.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o Four sealand containers were shipped to Envirocare for disposal last week, June 8, 2000. The total waste shipped for disposal in fiscal year 2000 is 17,530 cubic feet. Four empty sealand were shipped to the site from Conway, Pennsylvania, on June 9, 2000. The next four sealand containers of low-level waste (LLW) soil boxes are schedule to be shipped on June 15, 2000. Concurrent with this activity, a representative from Envirocare of Utah visited the site last week. The purpose of the visit is to evaluate the conditions of the roll-off containers that are currently storing contaminated soil for disposal at Envirocare.
- o In anticipation of shipping low-level waste via rail from the site, a purchase order, drawings, and scope of work for the rail staging area will be completed this week. A walkdown of the staging area and discussion on the scope of work was conducted last week with operations and engineering personnel.
- o 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.
- o 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.

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- In support of the leak repair of the Chemical Process Cell Waste Storage Building, Arch Technologies, Butler Construction, and others measured building fastener torque values on June 6, 2000, and met to discuss details of the proposed corrective action. Planning continues for installation of a roll-up door on the east end of the facility and the placement of steel shielding tables over selected waste containers while the Chemical Process Cell/Waste Storage Area structure is disassembled during the repair.

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 now been condensed into 41 new procedures, either by combining redundant procedures or by cancelling procedures covered by Ohio Field Office procedures. One procedure has been removed from the Policy and Procedures Manual to be a stand-alone procedure. The High-Level Waste Quality Assurance Program will remain a stand-alone procedure. Out of the 43 new procedures to be issued, 20 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 - to be determined.
- 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. on June 13 and 14, 2000.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The purchase order for load testing the cask lifting equipment was placed with Hanes Supply in Buffalo last week. The load test is planned for Thursday, June 15, 2000.
- Checkout and operator training with the Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) Cask Vacuum Drying System continues this week. The TN-BRP cask was moved into the Decon Stall last week and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) cask was loaded into the TN-REG transport frame. The impact limiters installation on the TN-REG cask will start this week.

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- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) submitted its spent fuel shipping operational readiness review Plan of Action (POA) to the DOE Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) on May 26, 2000. A DOE team has reviewed the plan and provided comments to WVNS for their resolution. A revised POA is expected by June 19, 2000. The revised POA will then be forwarded to the Ohio Field Office and EH-2 for their review and comments. The Ohio Field Office Manager will approve the final POA once all comments have been resolved from both Ohio Field Office and EH-2.
- The Transnuclear Big Rock Point and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna cask Safety Analysis Reports 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, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project received a call from the NRC Project Manager regarding the criticality analysis for the Hypothetical Accident Condition. A telephone conference with the NRC was held on June 13, 2000, to clarify NRC's expectations for the criticality analysis.

Remote Handled Waste Facility

- A video conference with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 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.
- In support of the Remote Handle Waste Facility preliminary design, Butler Construction has submitted advance copies of five new System Design Documents to West Valley Nuclear Services Company for information. It is expected that all documents necessary to complete the preliminary design will be received by the end of June.
- In preparation for the Remote Handle 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 began June 12, 2000. Installation of two potable water supply lines to the RHWF construction site is in progress.

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 24 ribs is scheduled for delivery June 13, 2000. Butler Construction continues to work on required submittals. Site mobilization continued including trailer set up and materials and equipment delivery. Start of work on the diversion culvert has been impacted by union picketing.

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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 effort has not been spent 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. 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. The report updating the site seismic hazard curve including the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) methodology has been transmitted to DOE. 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 estimates of overall erosion rate appear to be consistent with estimates developed from SIBERIA runs in May 1999. These preliminary conclusions are being explored in ongoing sensitivity runs using both WEPP and SIBERIA.
- 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 as 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.

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- 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.
- 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 Handle Waste Facility; and Vitrification Expended Material Processing.