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United States Government

Department of Energy

# memorandum

Ohio Field Office  
West Valley Demonstration Project

DATE: July 5, 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 July 5, 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.

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enclosure was placed with Volland Electric.

- o Size reduction of Tank 14D-25A in the Off-Gas Aisle (OGA) continued after a field change to the tank removal work order to incorporate the changes to the ventilation system.
- o Catwalk removal at the O2 Facility has begun. Installation of the jib crane is scheduled to begin following the removal of a portion of catwalk located over the jib crane base.

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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT**  
**WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**  
**July 5, 2000**  
**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) has completed its series of four zeolite transfers from Tank 8D-1 to Tank 8D-2. Operations are currently focused on sampling and characterization of Tank 8D-1. Other scheduled activities next week include: continued support for the beta/gamma detection arm and mast assembly in the test tower; processing of glass Batch Number 71; liquid processing from Tank 8D-1 through the Supernatant Treatment System to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator; operation of the LWTS evaporator for volume reduction; and operation of the mercury test columns.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 248th canister, the seventh in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout. Canister 245 was welded last week.
- 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 submitted responses to the formal comments on June 13, 2000. EM-30 is currently evaluating the acceptability of the responses.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- The ventilation test of the Process Mechanical Cell (PMC) Crane Room enclosure was completed. Preparations are under way to remove the old roof hatch and set the new rolling hatch in place. The PMC Bridge Mounted Manipulator system was received and was receipt inspected at the Terminal of Commerce in Buffalo, New York.
- The General Purpose Cell Crane Room (GCR) shield door repair was completed on June 23, 2000, and the door is now operational. Construction of the GCR enclosure continued with installation of the temporary roof for weather protection and excavation for the column footers. The purchase order for the three-ton bridge crane for use inside the enclosure was placed with Volland Electric.
- Size reduction of Tank 14D-25A in the Off-Gas Aisle (OGA) continued after a field change to the tank removal work order to incorporate the changes to the ventilation system.
- Catwalk removal at the O2 Facility has begun. Installation of the jib crane is scheduled to begin following the removal of a portion of catwalk located over the jib crane base.

## QUALITY ASSURANCE

- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) staff continues to revise the OH/WVDP Policy and Procedures Manual (PPM) to facilitate ease of use and to reflect updated structuring and responsibilities of the OH/WVDP Office.
- Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff is preparing for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management, Office of Safety, Health and Security (EM-5) High-Level Waste Quality Assurance Program Audit July 10 through July 14, 2000.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company internal audits which Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project staff will participate in are as follows: Waste Management (June 26–30, 2000); Spent Nuclear Fuel Engineering Activities – August 2000; Waste Management Procedures Implementation – August 2000; Procurement – September 2000; Material Control – September 2000; and Maintenance – September 2000.

## PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

### Spent Nuclear Fuel Program

- The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Transportation, Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel Program, is preparing a letter for Secretary Richardson to send to the President of the Seneca Nation of Indians. The letter reaffirms the Department's commitment to work cooperatively with the Seneca Nation of Indians for Foreign Research Reactor Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) shipments from Canada, as well as SNF and high-level waste (HLW) shipments from the West Valley Demonstration Project. The letter states that the Department will abide by the commitments in the June 9, 2000, draft Memorandum of Agreement.
- Quality Inspection Services (QIS) will perform the cask and impact limiter helium leak tests starting July 5, 2000. QIS submittals, including procedures, have been approved. QIS will mobilize equipment starting July 3, 2000. A work request for operations and radiological technical support for the helium leak testing was issued. Additional information required for the impact limiter leak test was requested from Transnuclear Inc.

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- The Fuel Receiving and Storage (FRS) Cooling Tower shell has been dismantled, the fans and motors removed, and all waste packaged for disposal. Size reduction of the 10-inch piping has resumed.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The next waste shipment to Envirocare is tentatively scheduled to start the week of July 17, 2000. This shipment will consist of eight intermodals of miscellaneous debris that will be trucked to a railhead in Conway, Pennsylvania. The West Valley Demonstration Project is working with Envirocare and Fernald on scheduling this shipment to coincide with the Fernald unit train so soil pricing can be obtained for debris disposal.
- Final green sheet review of the drawings and specifications for the Rail Staging and Packaging Area has been completed and signed off. Construction has completed special provisions, projects integration, and the final cost estimate for this job. A purchase order with attachments was submitted to purchasing to prepare the bid package for the Rail Staging and Packaging Area.
- All new procedures associated with the waste certification program have been completed. The contractor Quality Assurance (QA) department is conducting a document review audit this week against the Nevada Test Site (NTS) Waste Acceptance Criteria. QA will conduct the implementation portion of the audit in August 2000. West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) is currently preparing NTS fiscal year 2001 Disposal Forecast for transmittal to DOE-Nevada.
- 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 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 to OH/WVDP on June 16, 2000. The revised implementation plan was sent to the Ohio Field Office on June 20, 2000, 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, lead acid batteries were shipped to Alaron for recycling on June 28, 2000.
- In support for the leak repair of the Chemical Process Cell/Waste Staging Area, Butler Construction is testing a sealant to determine the best application technique and adequacy of adherence on the structure. Work continues in preparation for installation of a roll-up door on the east end of the facility and the placement of steel shielding tables during the leak repair.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL, SAFETY, AND HEALTH**

- The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) conducted emergency response training for off-site agencies that support the Project. Training was performed on June 21, 2000, and included a site tour, Project overview, and basic radiation safety training. A total of 34 individuals attended, representing several area fire companies and the county emergency services staff.

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- The IDOX railcar with tie downs and the Transnuclear Big Rock Point transport frame left Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) on June 24, 2000, and is expected to arrive at the West Valley Demonstration Project late this week. Preparations for receipt and staging of the IDOX railcar on the spur are in progress. Preparations for attachment of the tie-downs to the second IDOX railcar at INEEL have been initiated.
- Training, using the Transnuclear Big Rock Point mockup fuel assemblies and the cask cavity mockup, was initiated last week and will continue this week. Work requests were issued to install spacers in a 16-foot canister for installation of the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna mockup fuel.

#### Remote Handled Waste Project

- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is nearly complete with their review of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) and is currently preparing a NRC Safety Evaluation Report for the facility in lieu of a Request for Additional Information. With NRC's innovative approach to this review, it is anticipated that DOE approval of the RHWF PSAR will occur ahead of the scheduled September 29, 2000, completion date.
- All 22 documents that make up the Remote Handled Waste Facility Preliminary Design deliverables from the Butler-Raytheon team have been reviewed by West Valley Nuclear Services Company and returned as approved or conditionally approved (with comments).
- Work continues in preparation for on-site mobilization of the Remote Handle Waste Facility contractor. Niagara Mohawk is continuing installation of the temporary electric power to the construction site. Citizens Telecom has completed installation of the temporary telephone lines and will complete terminations this week. Butler is on schedule to begin on-site mobilization the week of July 10, 2000.

#### Site Support

- In support of the repair of the Buttermilk Creek culvert, the final batch of 33 ribs was delivered to the site. Butler Construction has completed 25 percent of the rib installation. The project remains on schedule.

#### Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) is continuing to work on development of Chapter 4 (the affected environment) of the next National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. The draft is being reviewed to verify the inclusion of new information on structure, seismic hazard, and nature and extent of contamination. Work on deterministic performance assessment for the high-level waste tank in support of the incidental waste determination is in progress. The results of calibrating the erosion code SIBERIA using Water Erosion Prediction Project have been documented. The sensitivity runs for SIBERIA are continuing.

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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 of the commission paper to the commission in the next few weeks.
- o The 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 (EIS) alternative. As a result of the meeting, the CTF has prepared and sent a letter to DOE, NYSERDA, and elected officials 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.