

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

**Ohio Field Office
West Valley Demonstration Project**

DATE: July 25, 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 25, 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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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
July 25, 2000
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

HIGH-LEVEL WASTE PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Progress continues towards high-level waste tank heel removal. Completed work this past week included: processed liquid through the Supernatant Treatment System to the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) evaporator; operated the LWTS evaporator for volume reduction; transferred evaporator concentrates from LWTS to Tank 5D-15A; decanted liquids from Tank 8D-2 to Tank 8D-1; transferred liquids from the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank to the Melter Feed Holding Tank; installed and operated the beta/gamma detection probe and arm mast assembly in Tank 8D-2; moved can WV-379 to the Chemical Process Cell; and replaced R1 thermocouple and thermowell and M thermocouple.
- Scheduled activities next week include: melter feed operations; process of excess water in the Supernatant Treatment System (STS) and Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) systems; operate STS system; continuing beta/gamma measurements using the mechanical arm in Tank 8D-2; process excess water in the LWTS system; and Vitrification Expanded Material Processing including size reduction of existing thermocouples and thermowells as well as sorting and characterization of existing in cell components.
- The melter is currently in idle with the 251st canister, the tenth in fiscal year 2000 under the melter feed pour spout.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- Hot Cells Services completed the installation of the cold side cover glass on the Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room (PMCR) enclosure kiosk shield window. Installation of the rails for the rolling hatch in the PMCR enclosure began this week. Additional Decontamination and Decommissioning (D&D) operators and Radiation Protection Technicians were trained on the hatch removal mockup in the Vitrification Test Facility. An entry was made into the PMCR to spray fixative on the underside of the PMCR roof hatches.
- The column footers for the General Purpose Cell Crane Room enclosure were poured, the forms removed, and backfilling of the area is in progress. The remaining structural steel was received from Bruce's Welding.
- Installation of the jib crane and containment tent at the Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility (LLWTF) is complete. Installation of a precipitator for treatment of the plasma torch off-gas is underway. All work documents for size reduction and removal of the remaining O2 tanks have been issued.

Predecisional Draft

- 2 -

July 25, 2000

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) has begun to develop a plan to reduce site energy consumption in response to energy shortages throughout the state. This plan will work in conjunction with the new DOE Summer Reliability Initiative.
- Low-level waste continues to be consolidated in the Interim Waste Storage Facility (IWSF) and relocated to Lag Storage Area 3. To date, approximately 500 containers have been removed from the IWSF. The project remains on schedule.
- Four sealand containers were shipped to Envirocare for disposal last week, July 20, 2000. The total waste shipped for disposal in fiscal year 2000 is 25,919 cubic feet. The next four sealand containers of low-level waste soil boxes are scheduled to be shipped on July 27, 2000.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

- The Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) has assembled a team to complete the revision of the Policy and Procedures manual by August 15, 2000.
- West Valley Nuclear Services Company (WVNS) Internal Audits which Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) staff will participate in are: Spent Nuclear Fuel Engineering Activities – August 2000; Waste Management Procedures Implementation – August 2000; Procurement/Material Control – September 2000; and Maintenance – September 2000.

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

- Both Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) and Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) Casks helium leak testing was successfully completed on July 8 and 12, 2000, respectively. All tests were conducted by Quality Inspection Services (QIS) with oversight provided by Transnuclear (TN) Technical Advisor for the helium leak test. The test reports for the two casks are in the process of being prepared. The trunnion load test for the TN-BRP Cask was successfully completed by QIS on July 11, 2000. The final report is being prepared. Preparations for the TN-BRP and TN-REG Cask impact limiter helium leak testing by QIS are underway. The testing is expected to be completed by next week.
- Transnuclear Big Rock Point (TN-BRP) cask submersion into the Cask Unloading Pool (CUP) was completed last week, July 20, 2000. Several Spent Fuel Shipping Operations (SFSO) personnel performed loading dummy fuel assemblies into the cask. The TN-BRP cask is scheduled to be moved out of the CUP into the decon stall this week where more evolution steps will be performed by the SFSO personnel.

Predecisional Draft

- 3 -

July 25, 2000

Remote Handled Waste Project

- o On July 18, 2000, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) completed their review of the Remote Handled Waste Facility (RHWF) Preliminary Safety Analysis Report (PSAR) through issuance of a Safety Evaluation Report. The NRC concluded that the construction of the RHWF meets the needs of the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP), and as designed, will not negatively impact the public's health and safety. In cooperation with the Ohio Field Office, Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) will begin development of the DOE Safety Evaluation Report which will serve as the basis for PSAR approval.
- o In support of the preliminary design of the Remote Handled Waste Facility, West Valley Demonstration Project personnel visited the Raytheon facility in Princeton, New Jersey, to review advance copies of System Design Document (SDD) resubmittals. By July 26, 2000, copies of all resubmittal SDDs are to be received.
- o In preparation for start of construction of the Remote Handled Waste Facility, three construction trailers were placed and secured this week. Installation of electrical conduit in trailers has started.

Site Support

- o In support of the repair of the Buttermilk Creek culvert, Butler Construction has completed installation of 85 of the 87 ribs required. The project is expected to be completed ahead of the scheduled August 30, 2000, completion date.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- o Science Application International Corporation's (SAIC) is continuing to work on development of Chapter 4 (the affected environment) of the next National Environmental Policy Act document. The entire chapter has been drafted and details on the new information on geologic structure, seismic hazard, and nature and extent of contamination are being checked. Work on deterministic performance assessment and uncertainty analysis for the high-level waste tank in support of the incidental waste determination is in progress. The deterministic runs for groundwater release and transport have been completed. The monte-carlo uncertainty analysis calculations for the groundwater transport case are underway. The sensitivity runs for SIBERIA are continuing.

Predecisional Draft

- 4 -

July 25, 2000

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- Joel T. Case, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Idaho, who has been selected as the DOE Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Operational Readiness Review Team Leader, will visit the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) on July 25, 2000. The purpose of the visit is for Mr. Case to receive initial briefings and status on the WVDP SNF Program and readiness activities.
- On July 24 through 28, 2000, the Ohio Field Office West Valley Demonstration Project (OH/WVDP) will perform a week long assessment of the contractor's radiation protection program. The assessment will focus on compliance with 10 CFR 835, Occupational Radiation Protection Requirements. Team members include representatives from OH/WVDP, OH/Office of Compliance and Support, OH/Fernald Environmental Management Project, and DOE Headquarters. An assessment report will be issued.
- On July 25 and 26, 2000, Mr. Jack Parrott of U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and two contractors will be on site for a Project overview and site familiarization tour. The nature of the visit is to discuss three-dimensional performance assessment modeling.
- Mr. Todd Jackson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), is on site this week to conduct routine oversight assessment of the Project. Operational areas to be reviewed will include recent organizational and personnel changes, high-level waste operations and melter status, recent significant events, environmental sampling, self-assessment and program reviews, low-level waste shipping plans and preparations, radioactive waste management, and decommissioning planning.
- On August 14 and 15, 2000, representatives of the Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance will be on site to perform a scoping visit. The scoping visit is in preparation for the actual transportation emergency management assessment to be conducted in September 2000.
- The next Citizen Task Force (CTF) meeting is planned for August 22, 2000.