

United States Government

M-32
Department of Energy

West Valley Demonstration Project

Memorandum

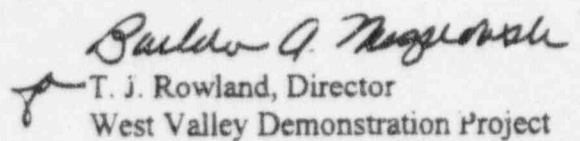
DATE: April 7, 1998

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: M. E. Rawlings, Team Leader
West Valley Demonstration Project
DOE-HQ, EM-32, 1188/CLOV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Predecisional Draft), dated April 7, 1998.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.


T. J. Rowland, Director
West Valley Demonstration Project

Attachment

cc: J. D. Parrott, NRC-HQ
T. Jackson, NRC-Region 1
DOE-WV Staff
P. L. Piciulo, NYSERDA-WV

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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
April 7, 1998
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

VITRIFICATION

- o Vitrification processing data is as follows: Canister 187 is being filled, with twelve airlifts completed. One hundred eighty-six canisters have been filled. Of these, one hundred eighty-six have been welded, decontaminated, and are being stored in the High-Level Waste Interim Storage Facility, with the latest transfer of six canisters on March 27, 1998. The forty-ninth transfer of high-level waste from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank was completed on April 2, 1998, with 213,408 curies transferred. The cumulative cesium/strontium curie transfer total based on analytical results of 49 high-level waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank is 8,565,552 curies.
- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) is continuing to pursue the path forward to quantify the effect of the welder ground strap on the electrical current delivered to the weld head for the canister lid welding. Test welding of flats is near completion in the Vitrification Operating Aisle. The test welds are being tested through burst testing.
- o The West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) installed a mobilization pump into the Tank 8D-2 M-5 riser on April 3, 1998. Electrical and mechanical connections are scheduled to be completed during the next week.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o Documentation is being completed closing out the High-Level Waste Canister Load-out Facility design review and resolution of comments. This week, Scientech will complete the drawing modifications required as a result of those resolutions. This completed package will form the Design Basis Documentation for final design.
- o Floway mobilization pump, G-017A½, a partial assembly is delayed at the vendor due to vibration problems during acceptance testing. The Floway internal evaluation to determine the source(s) of excess vibration is continuing. Following the completion of this effort, a recovery plan will be developed.
- o Goulds transfer pump (G-007, spare for 8D-3): In storage at the Terminal of Commerce. The Final Inspection Report has been released and the pump is ready for installation.
- o The report "Decision Analysis to Support West Valley Tank Farm Transition End Point Development for High-Level Waste (HLW) Tank Cleanup" has been completed. The analytical results from this report will be used to develop the Technical and Economic Feasibility based End Points for HLW Tank Heel Removal. This writeup along with the Decision Analysis report will be available by April 10, 1998, for internal West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. review.

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- o Testing of the second generation mechanical arm is in progress at Specialty Maintenance and Construction Incorporated (SMCI) in Lakeland, FL. John Drake, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project (DOE-WV), is there to observe the testing.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o Low-Level Liquid Waste Treatment Facility
 - o The Low-Level Waste (LLW) Treatment Facility was taken off-line to perform the hot tie-ins to the new LLW2 Facility. The actual hot tie-ins were completed on March 30, 1998. The new LLW2 Facility was brought on-line on March 31, 1998.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- o Environmental Impact Statement
 - o The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public comment period officially closed on September 22, 1996. All comments received have been made available for review in the public reading rooms. Science Application International Corporation (SAIC) is continuing the comment resolution process. Much of the re-analysis that has taken place as a result of some of those comments is complete and will be incorporated in a revised cost benefit comparison report, due to DOE on April 13, 1998.
 - o A video conference with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been scheduled for April 9, 1998, from 10:00 to 11:30, to discuss progress made thus far and the path forward for NRC's review of the technical approach taken in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) analysis.
- o The West Valley Citizen Task Force met on April 1, 1998, to continue work on drafting recommendations to the site regarding their preferences for Project Completion and site closure. The next meeting will take place April 21, 1998.
- o Spent Nuclear Fuel
 - o The Quarterly Department Of Energy/New York State Energy Research and Development Authority meeting will be held April 16, 1998, at the West Valley Demonstration Project. The topics for the meeting are Safe Storage Activities, Shipout Activities, Rail Line Status, and Idaho/DOE/Navy Agreement.

ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT ACTIVITIES

- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) has received final determinations for all Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation (RFI) reports. This included no further action determinations for six of the eleven "super" solid waste management units

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(SWMU), while continued monitoring is being requested for the Liquid Waste Treatment System, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission - Licensed Disposal Area (NDA), the Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill, the Low-Level Waste Water Treatment Facility, and the high-level waste storage and processing area. In addition, no further action determinations have been received for all seventeen supplemental SWMUs. A quarterly meeting with the regulators has been scheduled for April 21, 1998.

GENERAL

- o Kimberly Chaney, DOE Headquarters (DOE-HQ), EM-45; Richard Leotta, DOE-HQ, HR-52; and Glenn Griffiths, DOE Fernald Environmental Management Project are participating in a review of the West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc.'s (WVNS) contract performance. The review will include an independent DOE assessment of WVNS's self-assessment report and prior performance over the past three years. The review is from Monday, April 6 through Thursday, April 9, 1998.

MEETING/TRIPS

- o On April 6, 1998, the West Valley Demonstration Project supported a request from the Brookhaven Radiological Assistance Program Team Coordinator by sending one DOE West Valley Demonstration Project Health Physicist and five West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. Radiological Technicians to an event in Hartford, Connecticut. The event involves uncontrolled release of radium contamination in low-income housing. On April 6, 1998, the DOE Ohio Field Office's and the Headquarters' Emergency Operations Centers, and Todd Jackson, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Region I, were notified of the West Valley activation.