

United States Government

m-32  
Department of Energy

West Valley Demonstration Project

**memorandum**

DATE: April 28, 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 28, 1998.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

*T. J. Rowland*  
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 28, 1998  
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**VITRIFICATION**

- o Vitrification processing data is as follows: Canister 197 is being filled, with six airlifts completed. One hundred ninety-six canisters have been filled. Of these, one hundred ninety have been welded, one hundred eighty-nine have been decontaminated, and one hundred eighty-eight are being stored in the High-Level Waste Interim Storage Facility, with the latest transfer of two canisters on April 24, 1998. The fifty-first transfer of high-level waste from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank was completed on April 21, 1998, with 209,321 curies transferred. The cumulative cesium/strontium curie transfer total based on analytical results of 51 high-level waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank is 8,965,635 curies.

**PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o WVNS internal review of the report documenting the Technical and Economic Feasibility based end points for High Level Waste (HLW) Tank Heel Removal has been completed. Final version of the report is being prepared which will be submitted to DOE to satisfy the contract milestone C-5, "Perform Technical and Feasibility Analysis for HLW Tank Heel Removal."
- o West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) participated in a DOE-EM Integration workout meeting held at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEEL) which concentrated on issues that could enhance or enable the movement of spent nuclear fuel, high level waste, and those waste materials that presently have no disposition path forward. Four position papers were published which recommend specific actions that need to be taken by DOE to enable each of these waste programs to move forward.
- o Fabrication and testing of the Waste Tank Farm (WTF) Second Generation Mechanical Arm is complete at Specialty Maintenance and Construction Incorporated (SMCI) in Lakeland, Florida. The equipment will arrive at West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) on May 1, 1998. The mechanical arm test plan has been reviewed and is being released for operator training in support the turnover milestone date of May 30, 1998.
- o The cold side hydraulic system (Hydraulic fluid) and the hot side hydraulic system (water) used for the mechanical arm winches and in-tank cylinders respectively, are being manufactured by Fluid Power Corporation, and should arrive by May 1, 1998.
- o Floway pumps update: Mobilization pump G-017A1/2 (partial assembly) internal evaluation to determine the source(s) of excess vibration has been completed and a recovery plan has been submitted and is currently being evaluated. Mobilization pump G-017A, (a complete

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assembly) will be completed immediately following the resolution of the vibration problems with pump G-017A1/2. Transfer pump G-013A (for 8D-4) fabrication is in progress. June 1, 1998, delivery is expected.

## 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 the week of May 4, 1998.
- o The West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) met on April 21, 1998, to continue work on drafting recommendations to the site regarding their preferences for Project Completion and site closure. U.S. Representative Amo Houghton participated in the meeting via video conference, at the CTF's request, and discussed various issues such as future funding, government's post vitrification role at the site, and cleanup priorities. The CTF will meet again on May 6, 1998, to continue drafting their recommendations. Congressman Houghton may participate in the May 19, 1998, CTF meeting by videoconference.

### o Spent Nuclear Fuel

- o A conference call was conducted on April 27, 1998, among DOE West Valley Demonstration Project (DOE-WV), West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS), Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Co., and Transnuclear Inc. (TN) staff to discuss a draft revision to the Transnuclear Robert E. Ginna (TN-REG) Cask safety analysis report (SAR). The draft revision to the TN-REG SAR documents criticality analyses without poison and filler rods installed in the Robert E. Ginna (REG) Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF). A draft letter of transmittal to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) requesting a change to the Cask certificate of compliance (C of C) to allow shipment of the REG SNF without the poison and filler rods installed was also discussed. TN was directed to send the letter and SAR revision to NRC after the conference call comments were incorporated.
- o DOE West Valley Demonstration Project (DOE-WV) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) received a letter from the law firm representing the Buffalo and Pittsburgh (B&P) Railroad responding to their joint March 27, 1998, letter. The DOE/NYSERDA letter stated that abandonment of the rail line which serves the WVDP will have an environmental impact on the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) SNF, high-level waste (HLW), and low-level waste

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(LLW) shipping programs. A public information meeting on the abandonment was held April 22, 1998, and attended by West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS), DOE-WV, and NYSERDA staff. Erie and Cattaraugus counties are continuing their efforts to purchase the B&P line from Buffalo to Salamanca.

o Remote Handled Waste Project

- o A West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) meeting to discuss comments on the 70 percent draft of the conceptual design of the Remote Handled Waste Facility was held on April 23, 1998. Comments from the review were forwarded to Sciencetech for consideration. Sciencetech is scheduled to be on site on April 29, 1998, for further discussions with WVNS.
- o The final draft of the Remote Handled Waste Facility Site Evaluation Report was delivered to West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. on April 20, 1998. A DOE West Valley Demonstration Project (DOE-WV) team has been assembled to conduct a detailed review of the Site Evaluation Report and its supporting documentation.

#### 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 (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 30, 1998, in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Region 9 offices in Buffalo.

#### MEETING/TRIPS

- o On April 28 and 29, 1998, C. Eckert, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project will attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the DOE Ohio Field Office Radiological Control Managers. The meeting will be held in Miamisburg, Ohio, and is a forum for technical discussions and information exchange as well as an opportunity to address complex wide radiological issues affecting the Ohio Field Office sites.
- o On April 29 and 30, 1998, Ed Martinez, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project, Dan Westcott, West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS), and K. K. Gupta, WVNS, will be attending the Savannah River Site Tank Closure Lessons Learned Workshop in Atlanta, Georgia.

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- o On April 30, 1998, West Valley Demonstration Project representatives will meet with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) in their Buffalo office to status progress on the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Investigation (RFI). All milestones have been satisfactorily met on or ahead of schedule since the RCRA 3008(h) Consent Order was issued in 1992. As a result of the RFI, NYSDEC is requesting continued monitoring for some units, but no Corrective Actions are being required in the short term.
- o On Saturday, May 2, 1998, West Valley Demonstration Project will sponsor a Safe Kids Fair at the Ashford Office Complex. The event will provide an opportunity to educate future leaders and provide them with a solid foundation for a safe lifestyle. Exhibitors and activities will include the Boy Scouts on camping safety, fire safety, swimming safety, Child Identification Program, and the Cattaraugus County Drug Awareness Program.
- o Mike Emery of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) will visit the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Wednesday, May 6, 1998, to participate in the site's Relative Accuracy Test Audit (RATA). The RATA is conducted annually by site personnel to test the accuracy of the monitoring system for nitrogen oxide emissions from the vitrification process. While Mr. Emery is on site he plans on conducting a general compliance inspection of West Valley's air programs.