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United States Government

Department of Energy

West Valley Demonstration Project

memorandum

DATE: September 16, 1997

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

TO: M. E. Rawlings, Team Leader
West Valley Demonstration Project
DOE-HQ, EM-32, 348/TREV

Attached is a copy of the West Valley Demonstration Project Weekly Activities Report (Pre-discisional Draft), dated September 16, 1997.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

Burt A. McGowan
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

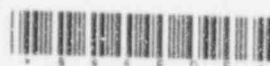
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**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
September 16, 1997
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

VITRIFICATION

- o Vitrification processing data is as follows: Canister 142 is at the melter being filled with Feed Batch 46 from the Melter Feed Hold Tank. The first half of Batch 46 and 46A, prepared with the contents of the thirty-seventh transfer (September 1, 1997) of high-level waste, was transferred to the Melter Feed Hold Tank on September 7, 1997. The second half of Batch 46 and 46B, was transferred to the Melter Feed Hold Tank on September 11, 1997. The thirty-eighth transfer of high-level waste from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank was performed on September 11, 1997. Slurry Batch 47 preparation continues with mixing the glass formers to be added to the contents of the thirty-eighth high-level waste transfer. One-hundred and thirty-eight of the 141 filled canisters have been welded and decontaminated. The total number of canisters in the High-Level Waste Interim Storage Facility is 135 with the latest transfer of two canisters on September 11, 1997. The cumulative cesium/strontium curie transfer total based on analytical results of the 38 high-level waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank is 6,550,775 curies.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o Performance testing of the G-001 decant pump was successfully completed, including testing of the sparge system in the mock-up. Removal of the pump is underway in preparation for fit-up with the split shield plate also to be done on the mock-up platform.
- o Testing of the transfer pump suction bell using a surrogate waste form continues at Westinghouse Science and Technology Center (WSTC), Waltz Mill Facility, the next round of testing to use a larger grain size surrogate. John Drake will travel to Waltz Mill to observe testing on September 18, 1997.
- o The newly installed Tank 8D-2 camera has shown deposits of solids on top of all bottom gridwork horizontal surfaces and a large pile of solids near the tank wall in the vicinity of the M-8 riser.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o The Purchase Order for the process equipment skids for the Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility building was awarded on September 10, 1997, to Diversified Technologies Services, with delivery in four months. Building erection has started. Butler Construction is preparing a proposal for the floor slab, with submittal expected next week. Engineering is continuing work on the designs for all segments of the project. An updated and expanded project schedule has been issued; efforts are underway to pull back the forecast date for turnover to Operations.

Predecisional Draft

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September 16, 1997

- o Work on the Underground Fuel Tank Replacement will begin this week with the removal of the already inerted tank. The remainder of the field work will begin by Friday, September 19, 1997; the project is still on schedule to be completed by September 30, 1997.
- o To date, approximately 25 percent of the north section of the North Parking Lot Drainage Improvements has been completed. Work will start across the Construction Gate area and into the south section of the project on Monday, September 15, 1997. The project is currently on schedule to complete the original scope by September 30, 1997, and the expanded scope by October 15, 1997.
- o ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
 - o The Draft Environmental Impact Statement 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 is continuing the comment resolution process. They also have prepared and submitted "cost benefit" packages that compare the alternatives for each Waste Management Area (WMA). The Cost Benefit Packages for WMA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 are currently under review by DOE and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.
 - o The West Valley Demonstration Project Citizen Task Force (CTF) met on September 3, 1997, where, in addition to providing background information on Waste Management Area 1 (which includes the former nuclear fuel reprocessing plant), the Project responded to previous CTF questions on the in-place closure option for the high-level waste tanks. The next CTF meeting will take place September 16, 1997, to continue discussions on Waste Management Area 1.

ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT ACTIVITIES

- o The West Valley Demonstration Project continues to implement the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation (RFI) Work Plan. All required RFI reports have been submitted and approved by the regulators. The agencies are presently working to make final determinations for five supplemental solid waste management units and eight of the "sealed rooms" in the Process Building. Determinations will be based on previously submitted information and various RFI reports. A quarterly progress/status meeting with the regulators is being planned for the week of September 22, 1997.

MEETINGS/TRIPS

- o On September 16, 1997, C. Eckert, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project will speak at the New York State Conference of Directors of Environmental Health Services, in Chautauqua, New York. Mr. Eckert will describe the resources available through the Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Program and explain how the resources are activated.