

United States Government

m-32  
Department of Energy

West Valley Demonstration Project

# Memorandum

DATE: May 19, 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 May 19, 1998.

Please advise me if we can provide any further information.

*T. J. Rowland*  
T. J. Rowland, Director  
West Valley Demonstration Project for

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  
May 19, 1998  
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

### **VITRIFICATION**

- o Vitrifaction processing data is as follows: Canister 204 is being filled, with three airlifts completed. Two hundred and three canisters have been filled. Of these, one hundred ninety-seven have been welded and decontaminated, and one hundred ninety-seven are being stored in the High-Level Waste Interim Storage Facility, with the latest transfer of four canisters on May 12, 1998. The second of two transfers of feed batch sixty-one to the Melter Feed Hold Tank was completed on May 19, 1998. The first portion of the fifty-third transfer of high-level waste from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank was completed on May 19, 1998. The cumulative cesium/strontium curie transfer total based on analytical results of fifty-one high-level waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank is 8,965,635 curies.

### **PROJECT COMPLETION**

- o Assembly and pressure testing of the Floway mobilization pump G-017A was completed Friday, May 8, 1998. Upon start-up, the unit's performance was out of specification with high vibration, and testing was halted. At present, Floway with West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) assistance is convening a team of outside experts to define and fix the problem.
- o Waste Tank Farm (WTF) Operations will be completing installation of the Mechanical Arm in the South Training Platform this week and proceeding with system checkout and operator training.
- o Field work on the Scrap Removal Room (SRR) and Process Mechanical Crane Room (PMCR) shield windows is complete. The SRR window was converted from a zinc bromide (hazardous compound) window to an oil filled, lead glass window (non-hazardous). The window now has the equivalent shielding capacity of three feet of standard concrete. The PMCR window zinc bromide was drained out and the window left empty. The zinc bromide from both windows (200 gallon) is being sent off site to Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) for reuse at the Isotopes Facility (formerly Test Reactor Area).

### **PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

#### 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

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some of those comments is complete and was incorporated in a revised cost benefit comparison report, that will be transmitted to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) following DOE/NYSERDA review.

- o The West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) met on May 6, 1998, to work on drafting recommendations to the site regarding their preferences for Project completion and site closure. The CTF will meet again on May 19, 1998, to continue this process. The CTF decided to postpone future discussions with U.S. Representative Amo Houghton until after completing their draft recommendations.

Spent Nuclear Fuel

- o Transnuclear, Inc. (TN) submitted a recommendation on modification and relicensing of the 125B cask for shipment of the failed spent nuclear fuel. The recommendation also included cost and schedule estimates. The recommendation is currently being reviewed by the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) and the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL)

Remote Handled Waste Project

- o Sciencetech is on schedule to deliver the conceptual design to West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) for design review by May 22, 1998. A formal, interactive design review of this design package is being set up for June 12, 1998.

## GENERAL

- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) received word from Bill Fortune, DOE-HQ (EH-413) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finalized the Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) Phase IV rule. WVDP has been working with DOE-HQ and EPA over the past three years to ensure the chromium LDR standard will not adversely impact the approximately 20,000 drums of solidified waste that results from high-level waste pre-treatment. Language in the final rule clarifies that the rule applies only to the waste treated after the effective date of the new standards, therefore the cement drums remain in compliance with the LDRs, and no further treatment will be necessary.
- o An audit of the High-Level Waste (HLW) Quality Assurance Program was completed during May 11 through 13, 1998. Representatives from DOE-EM Headquarters, DOE Savannah River, DOE Richland, DOE West Valley and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority conducted a performance based audit of HLW activities of both the West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) and the DOE West Valley Demonstration Project. The audit team determined that both programs continued to effectively implemented. Eight concerns and two Deviation and Corrective Action Reports were noted for the WVNS QA program.



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- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) hosted a Regulatory Roundtable on Wednesday, May 13, 1998. Representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region II, and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) received briefings regarding Project status and future planning, followed by a site tour. The Roundtables have been held at least annually since 1993, providing a forum to communicate Project goals and potential regulatory issues to the Management staff of the various agencies.

#### MEETING/TRIPS

- o On Tuesday, May 19, 1998, P. Suggs, DOE-SR, and two Westinghouse - SRS employees visited the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) to participate in a lessons-learned exchange on the attributes of zeolite as an ion exchange resin in the treatment of high-level waste.