

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

West Valley Demonstration Project

M-32

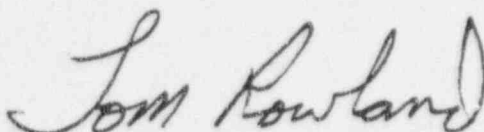
DATE: July 1, 1997

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 (Predecisional Draft), dated July 1, 1997.

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
July 1, 1997
CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

VITRIFICATION

- o Vitrification processing data is as follows: Canister 112 is being filled at the melter from Feed Batch 39 in the Melter Feed Hold Tank. Slurry Batch 40 preparations are in process with the contents of the thirty-first transfer of high-level waste from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank performed on June 18, 1997. One-hundred and seven of the 111 filled canisters have been welded and decontaminated. The total number of canisters in the High-Level Waste Interim Storage Facility is 105 with the latest transfer of three canisters on June 18, 1997. The cumulative cesium/strontium curie transfer total based on analytical results of the 32 high-level waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank is 5,270,359 curies.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o Drawings of the Camera/Light Pole for use in M-7 riser of Tank 8D-2 are being engineering released. The purchase requisition was prepared and delivery of the Camera/Light Pole is planned for August 1, 1997, to support the schedule for removal of the decant pump from Tank 8D-2.
- o Fabrication of the Test Stand platform for checking out the prototype Mechanical Arm with sluicing nozzle was completed. Components for the prototype Mechanical Arm are expected to be delivered by July 3, 1997, with assembly expected to be complete by July 15, 1997.
- o The Cut-off Strategy Implementation Team is currently retrieving purchase orders from the Master Records Center that contain specifications for the Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) and Cement Solidification System (CSS) pumps. These data sheets and pump curves will be used to determine necessary pump modifications, both for Phase I and II of the cut-off strategy. The Cut-off Strategy Implementation team continues to work on waste in-flow studies and 7D-2 to 5D-15B flowpath decision. Other forthcoming tasks include vitrification jumper decision, solids transfer study, and determination of Liquid Waste Treatment System (LWTS) pump design criteria, which is based upon results from the above jumper decision and study. Evaluation of the existing LWTS and Cement Solidification System (CSS) systems are also planned.
- o Westinghouse Science and Technology Center (W-STC) has been requested to perform a decision analysis in support of the technical and economic feasibility based end points. Dr. Perdue of W-STC is the principal investigator. He visited the West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) on June 26, 1997, for a kick-off meeting and to collect preliminary information for the analysis.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o As of June 24, 1997, 11,961 pounds of lead, from the Site Treatment Plan (STP), have been decontaminated with the CO₂ decon system and free-released. Approximately 14,161 pounds of lead (both STP and non-STP lead) have been decontaminated. As of June 26, 1997, operation of the CO₂ is officially complete.
- o The contract for the building and foundation for the Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility (LLWTF) has been awarded to Butler. The Request for Proposals for the process equipment was sent out on June 24, 1997; bids are due to Purchasing on July 10, 1997.
- o The Purchase Requisition for the Fuel Tank Replacement Project for tank removal is out for bid. A pre-bid meeting was held on Friday, June 27. Field work is currently scheduled to take place in late July and August of 1997.
- o The surveyors were on site this week to collect data needed to complete the erosion issues and culvert design for the North Parking Lot Drainage project. The erosion issues should be settled and culvert design should be completed next week. A draft project schedule has been completed.
- o For the Site Emergency Response Vehicle Shelter, work continues on preparation for reuse of the temporary clarifier building. The DOE West Valley Demonstration Project (DOE-WV) approved the Environmental Checklist on June 23, 1997.
- o In conjunction with Cattaraugus County, an initial remediation plan for the Buttermilk Creek/Thomas Corners Road Bridge Sample Station is being developed which will address the erosion of the creek bank, marshy areas of the sloped terrain leading to the sampling station area, and the poor condition of the monitoring equipment. Preliminary sketches are being prepared for the work scope and will be submitted to Cattaraugus County when they are available.

PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

- o SPENT FUEL
 - o The Quarterly DOE/New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Spent Fuel meeting will be held July 2, 1997, via videoconference. The topics for the meeting are storage payments to NYSERDA under the DOE/NYSERDA Spent Nuclear Fuel (SNF) Agreement, Facility Credits Under the DOE/NYSERDA West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Cooperative Agreement, and Shipout Status (to include On-going Fuel Activities, Cask Recertification Effort, Rail Line Abandonment, and Public Relations Planning).

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- o Draft reports on Full Load Shipments versus Half Load Shipments and Poison/Filler Rod Elimination in REG Fuel were received by Lockheed-Martin Idaho Technology Company (LMITCO) from TransNuclear (TN) on June 24, 1997. The draft reports are being reviewed by LMITCO and the West Valley Demonstration Project. A meeting with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to discuss results of the feasibility studies and obtain feedback is scheduled for July 23, 1997.
- o ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
 - o The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) 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. In addition, they prepared an annotated outline for the supplemental National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, which was forwarded to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for their review and input. NRC indicated they have no comments. The outline will be revised to incorporate additional comments received from DOE Headquarters.
 - o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Citizen Task Force (CTF) will meet Wednesday, July 2, 1997. Topics to be discussed include the North Plateau Groundwater plume, the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, and the Accelerated Cleanup Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT ACTIVITIES

- o The West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) continues to implement the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation (RFI) Work Plan. All required RFI reports have been submitted to the regulators and WVDP has received final approval on all of the reports.

MEETING/TRIPS

- o Todd Jackson of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region I, is on site for a scheduled monitoring visit the week of June 30 through July 2, 1997. Mr. Jackson will receive briefings on the status of Vitrification Operations, West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Conduct of Operation activities, Environmental Monitoring programs, Soil Sorting, and other site activities.
- o On July 2, 1997, two personnel from MSI will be representing EM-60 while attending a vitrification lessons learned briefing at West Valley. MSI is tasked with performing a feasibility study of the ability to use vitrification to stabilize plutonium. The group is also visiting Savannah River and Hanford.

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- o On July 8 and 9, 1997, C. Eckert, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project will be in Columbus, Ohio, to participate in the quarterly Ohio Field Office Radiation Protection Managers meeting. DOE Radiation Protection Managers gather to discuss issues, exchange ideas, and review cost saving initiatives. This meeting will focus on 10 CFR 835 issues and performance indicators.
- o On July 9, 1997, Chris White, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project, and Steve Barnes, West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc., will attend the next Quarterly EM/RW meeting in Washington, D.C. In addition, on July 10, 1997, Chris and Steve will have a technical meeting with representatives of EM-30 to discuss a recent request for a modification to the Waste Form Compliance Plan.