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United States Government

Department of Energy

West Valley Demonstration Project

memorandum

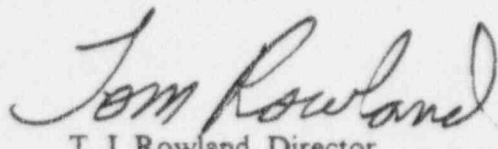
DATE: June 24, 1997

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 June 24, 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. Picialo, NYSERDA-WV

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT
WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
June 24, 1997
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

VITRIFICATION

- o Vitrifaction 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 31 high-level waste transfers from Tank 8D-2 to the Concentrator Feed Makeup Tank is 5,058,035 curies.
- o The West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) will perform a dilute nitric acid flush of the lower pump seal for mobilization pump 55-G-001 in High-Level Waste (HLW) Tank 8D-2. The acid flush, if successful should significantly reduce the amount of seal water added during operations. The acid flush should help to remove any ferrous materials in the lower seal, which are theorized to be the potential cause.

PROJECT COMPLETION

- o Preparations for removal of the G-001 decant pump in Tank 8D-2 continue. A work order has been issued and a purchase order for the Shield Containers has been issued to West Metal Works. The containers are scheduled to arrive July 7, 1997. A purchase order for the high pressure spray ring assemblies has been issued. The first prototype arrived June 23, 1997, to support initial testing and training. The final rings will arrive by July 11, 1997. The rings are used along with the NLB pump for high pressure water decontamination of the G-001 decant pump.
- o Initial testing of the remote clamp and saw equipment to be used for the removal of the decant pump, the heat exchanger, and the corrosion probe have been completed at the vendor. The equipment successfully clamped and cut through a proto-type pump section. The equipment arrived at West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) on June 23, 1997, to support training.
- o Work order to remove Tank 8D-2, M-7 corrosion probe was prepared and is out for review. Actual removal of the corrosion probe is scheduled for the end of July.

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- o The detail design drawings of a Camera/Light Pole for use in M-7 riser of Tank 8D-2 were prepared and sent out for design review. The purchase requisition is being prepared. 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 The Test Stand platform for the prototype Mechanical Arm with sluicing nozzle being fabricated in the Vitrification Test Facility is expected to be completed by June 25, 1997. Components for the prototype Mechanical Arm are being fabricated (the trolley assembly and mast are finished). The assembly of the prototype Mechanical Arm is expected to be complete by July 15, 1997.
- o The zeolite size reduction test results from the grinder pump tests and Glen Mills lab tests have been received. Test results show that after 40 passes through the submersible grinder pump, 91 percent of the zeolite was size reduced to less than 105 microns (140 Mesh). For the Glen Mill disc mill grinder, with the stainless steel toothed disc wheel, 99 percent of the zeolite was size reduced to less than 44 microns (325 Mesh). Zeolite size reduction tests with the Johnson screen/nozzle are planned to begin next month.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- o The soil sorting machine was modified to include beta detectors on the soil sorter. Operations of the soil sorter began on June 17, 1997, using gamma and beta sorting capabilities. The initial run successfully generated clean soil per on-site limits. The soil sorting operation is anticipated to continue sorting soil until July 17, 1997.
- o The contract for the building and foundation for the Low-Level Waste Treatment Facility (LLWTF) has been placed. The Request for Proposals for the process equipment is in preparation by Procurement. The design and work authorization package for the site preparation has been completed and forwarded to construction.
- o The Purchase Requisition for the Fuel Tank Replacement Project to remove the tanks has been delivered to Purchasing. The Request for Quotation (RFQ) is being prepared for distribution to the bidders. Field work is currently scheduled to take place in late July and August of 1997.
- o For the North Parking Lot Drainage project, design sketches for the redirection of the majority of the water, via culverts and drainage ditches, from the main gate area is expected to be completed next week. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) checklist is in progress and will be completed when the final design has been completed and erosion issues settled.

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PROJECT OR PROGRAM SPECIFIC ACTIVITIESo SPENT FUEL

- o Transnuclear Inc. is in the process of arranging a meeting with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to discuss the feasibility studies for full load shipments and REG poison rod elimination. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of July 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) met June 17, 1997. The meeting was entirely taken up by a caucus of CTF members only; Project representatives were not in attendance. The majority of the session was spent discussing groundwater contamination issues. The CTF also initiated a compilation of factors or "values" they consider of importance in their decision making process to develop a recommendation to DOE and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). In addition, the CTF expressed a desire for DOE to have some kind of long term presence at the site, however they recognized the WVDP Act does not necessarily authorize such involvement. It was suggested that local public officials may be contacted to determine if an arrangement for such involvement by DOE is feasible.

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 but one of the reports. Final approval of the RFI Report for the Maintenance Shop Leach Field is expected this month.

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GENERAL

- o A joint Conduct of Operations Assessment/Technical Safety Appraisal of the West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc. (WVNS) was completed during the week of June 16 through 20, 1997. The assessment/appraisal was led by the DOE West Valley Demonstration Project (DOE-WV) with support from the DOE Ohio Field Office (DOE-OH), the DOE Columbus Environmental Management Project, and the DOE Chicago Operations Office. The results of this comprehensive Assessment/Appraisal indicate that the Conduct of Operations and the various elements of the safety program that were reviewed are being effectively implemented by WVNS. Several areas for improvement were also identified by the Assessment Team.
- o Representatives of the Ohio Field Office will conduct a combined audit of DataChem Laboratory, June 23 through 26, 1997. The audit scope will include quality assurance (NQA-1), industrial hygiene, laboratory waste handling, chemical analyses, and a review of general and specific contract requirements. The team will be comprised of Barbara Mazurowski (DOE West Valley Demonstration Project), Lead Auditor, and Bill Kelley (Flour Daniel Fernald) for QA and contract requirements; Debbie Reichard (Flour Daniel Fernald), Craig Stoll (Roy F. Weston, Inc), and Annette Guilds (West Valley Nuclear Services Co., Inc.) for chemical analyses, and Keith Tomlinson (Flour Daniel Fernald) for radiochemical analyses.
- o During the week of June 23, 1997, West Valley will conduct the annual site safety and cleanup week. The major emphasis during the week will be on general housekeeping with an emphasis on safety enhancement, and overall reduction of the site foot print where possible.

MEETING/TRIPS

- o On June 24, 1997, a quarterly public meeting will be held to discuss progress of various programs at West Valley. In addition, the National and DOE Ohio Field Office (DOE-OH) Accelerated Cleanup Plans will be issued as a "discussion draft" at the meeting.
- o On June 24 through 26, 1997, Brian Bower, DOE West Valley Demonstration Project will be attending the National Spent Fuel Meeting being held in Idaho Falls, Idaho. A tour of Idaho National Environmental Engineering Laboratory's Test Area North Facility will take place after the meeting.
- o Todd Jackson of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Region I, will be 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.

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- o Approximately 37 safety and health professionals from various federal agencies and the private sector have signed up to attend the June 25, 1997, meeting of the Federal Safety and Health Council (Buffalo Chapter) at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP). The quarterly meetings serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and will include a presentation and tour of the WVDP operations.
- 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 tasking with performing a feasibility study of the ability to use vitrification to stabilize plutonium. The group is also visiting Savannah River and Hanford.