West Valley Demonstration Project

Project Update

Bryan Bower, DOE Director
June 24, 2009
West Valley Citizen Task Force Meeting

Safety Performance

WVES Leads DOE-EM Prime Contractor Sites in FY09 Safety Performance
Safety Initiatives

- Emphasizing “people factor” to maintain site safety
- Follow up on all incidents (even the small ones)
- Working to introduce new employees into WVDP Safety Culture
  - Site Safety Fair June 18
    - Full participation from employees and subcontractors
    - Operations mentors are participating in New Hire training

ARRA Projects

- ARRA Projects
  - Main Plant Process Building
  - HLW canister movement (moved to Baseline)
  - Install solidification system for Main Plant liquids
  - Install Tank and Vault drying system
  - Waste processing acceleration
  - North Plateau Plume mitigation
  - 01-14 Building demolition
  - Lagoon isolation
  - Begin Vitrification Facility demolition
  - Slab and foundation removal
ARRA Projects

- New Hires on Board
  - 49 WVES; 25 subcontract
  - Up to 12 weeks in training
  - Mentors assigned from Operations
  - Introducing new employees to site safety culture
  - Ashford Office Building space used for training

Project Update

- NRC-licensed Disposal Area Cap Performing Well

Gallons of Water Processed
from January 1 - June 23

- Gallons of Water Processed
Project Update

• Main Plant
  – Dismantlement and decontamination work ongoing in multiple locations
    • Process Mechanical Cell Crane Room Extension
      – Waste box removal
    • Extraction Cell – 3
      – Nearly 50% complete with piping removal
    • Acid Recovery Cell
      – Plasma cutting of vessels
    • Analytical Labs
      – Removal of un-needed equipment and fire suppression system for Fume Hoods 4-8 underway

Project Update

• Main Plant Process Building (cont)
  – Hot Acid Cell
    • Preparing to break through exterior wall in for vessel removal

Installation of platform and enclosure atop the Main Plant Office Building for Hot Acid Cell vessel removal
Project Update

Waste Processing

• As of May 31, processed
  – 65,714 cubic feet of legacy (stored) low-level waste (LLW)
  – 28,992 cubic feet of TRU waste

• Start up of CH-TRU processing to new DOE standards

• Major maintenance outage enacted to deal with challenges presented by equipment failures

• Shipped 41 truckloads legacy LLW for off-site disposal when funds became available

Project Update

• Waste Segregation
  – Waste currently classified as “suspect-TRU” waste being processed to separate the TRU waste from LLW
    • Achieving 88% reduction in TRU waste
  – In-Situ Object Counting Scans (ISOCSs) being used to locate TRU waste inside waste containers

ISOCS evaluations illuminate the “hot spots” to operators so they can more readily locate sections of the contaminated equipment, pipe, etc. This technique is being used to segregate TRU waste from the low-level waste.
Project Update

- **HLW Tank and Vault Drying**
  - Design requirements have been established
  - Conceptual design completed in December 2008
  - Competitive bids received on April 30 for Design/Build subcontract
  - Award package provided to DOE on May 29 for approval
  - Installation to begin this summer and finish by December 2010

- **North Plateau Groundwater Plume Mitigation**
  - Zeolite testing program directed by University at Buffalo (UB) in progress
    - Non-radioactive column tests at UB
    - Radioactive tests on site
  - Pump tests completed along proposed permeable treatment wall (PTW) alignment
  - Alternatives to near-surface permeable barrier in swamp ditch evaluated; decision made to defer construction of swamp ditch mitigation until after PTW installed
  - Characterization Report scheduled for completion by end of July and preliminary PTW design in early fall

Dr. Alan Rabideau, UB professor and graduate student Shannon Seneca examine soil samples for the sampling stage of the project.

Column testing at WVDP (above) and UB will provide data for PTW design.

Swamp ditch located downgradient of proposed PTW location.
Project Update

• Railroad Repair
  – Area of significant erosion created landslide on offsite rail line that supports critical future offsite shipping and disposal, including Vitrification components
    • Conducted extension erosion evaluation and developed an erosion control plan
  – Tie and rail change out in area not impacted by landslide is complete
    • Final track conditioning expected to be finalized within 45 days

Rail and ties have already been removed from the repair area at the landslide location.

Project Update

• Demolition Preparations Underway

Cooling Tower

Environmental Lab

Laundry Facility
Project Update

• Public Comment Period Extended for Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement

  – Public Comment Period will close on September 8, 2009

  – Revised anticipated date for Final EIS: February 2010

  – Revised anticipated date for Record of Decision: March 2010