

January 28, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (January 18-24, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

The 1,500-gallon tank has been removed from the JN-1B Pump Room. The cut lines for size reduction of the 5,000-gallon tank are marked. (Work Instruction [WI] -1114)

The selection process was completed for a vendor to supply an evaporator/condenser for the water treatment system in the JN-1 Pump Room. The purchase order was placed for procurement of the system.

The High Energy Cell (HEC) overhead decontamination and utility removal was initiated (WI-1142). Two shifts were utilized to accomplish the following work:

- Prepared the Cask Wash Down Room as a support area
- Installed temporary flooring around the well covers and hatches on the north side of the HEC
- Removed from the HEC contaminated rags generated during the small plug removal
- Placed the man-lift into the cell and installed the contamination control cover
- Dry vacuumed the entire overhead of the cell including the crane and trolley rails
- Wet washed approximately half of the cell from the ceiling to the floor. Four partial drums of water were processed, which in turn generated one pool filter.

WI-1155, which addresses the removal of large plugs from the HEC, was approved and will be issued next week. Staff members will be briefed after in-cell overhead decontamination is completed in the HEC. A second steel pallet is being procured to allow two separate crews to remove plugs simultaneously.

WI-1127 that covers removing the HEC shield door is being edited to address reviewer comments and should be signed off next week. The work will be performed as fill-in work when staff members are available.

WI-1099 addressing removal of the HEC cranes and WI-1126 addressing removal of the HEC windows are under development.

The work under WI-1100 is almost complete. As staff is available, the remaining manipulator will be disassembled for disposal. The remaining two manipulators will be packaged for transfer to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory once the shipping crate is delivered.

Building JN-3:

Core cutting and well drilling have started for installation of 44 dewatering wells in the JN-3 Basement (WI-1113).

Building JN-4:

Schematic design of utilities and alternate roadway was received from the architect/engineer subcontractor for the JN-4 Isolation Plan.

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

Two of three groundwater-monitoring holes have been bored to the bedrock level (WI-1136).

Work continued on the planned JN-13 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer to be located on top of the existing footers outside JN-3. A pre-bid site walkthrough and conference were held, and supplementary specification information was provided to the three potential vendors.

Comments on the draft specification for the Radioanalytical Trailer were received. The final request for proposal/revised specification will be issued this week.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

The DOE Ohio Field Office conducted a review of the TRU waste package loading records for the next shipment of TRU waste to Hanford. Two discrepancies were identified.

Corrective actions were initiated and the discrepancies will not impact the shipment schedule.

Arrangements were completed for return to West Jefferson of the DOE owned and Duratek rented 10-160B casks. These casks will be loaded next week for the Hanford shipment scheduled for February 3rd.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Eighty-eight cubic feet (88 ft³) of compactable LLW was accepted for packaging. Packaged non-compactable low-level debris from RMAs in JN-1 into B-25 boxes for a total volume of 116 ft³ (98 ft³ for Envirocare and 8 ft³ for Hanford disposal.)

Wrapped and transferred three 22,000 lb. concrete/steel HEC roof plugs to the Waste Storage Shed pending radiochemical analysis necessary to determine shipping classification.

Technology Deployment:

Staff injected 3,000 gallons of water into the soil of Plot 2 of the WIDE system. The water level is recorded over many different time intervals. Procedure documentation is being gathered to begin writing operating procedures. Sauer is scheduled to begin the needed engineering modifications for extraction early next week (WI-984).

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 780 days and 510,207 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance of the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed.

The evaporator continues to work well.

The Factory Mutual representative visited the site for insurance purposes.

Hyster checked the digital readout display and replaced the bulb in the strobe light of the Hyster 65 electric forklift. The battery was replaced in the Clark 24,000-pound forklift.

Midwest Mechanical measured the generators for installing battery boxes to protect personnel.

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The HEPA filters in the Mechanical Test Cell of JN-1 were DOP tested.

Buckeye Landscape continued to remove snow and ice at the north site.

The JN-1 High Level Cell rough filter, which had elevated levels of activity on contact, was changed; and the DP dropped to 0.6 inches.

Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1119, covering the JN-6 reroofing, is in the review cycle; but, the start of work will depend on the weather.
- The vendor for the new JN-1 transformer, which will supply electricity to breathing air and eventually to the new water processing room, has projected February 15, 2003, as the shipping date.
- WI-1131 for the JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing is in the review cycle.

Plans continued to replace the JN-1B groundwater sump pump. The current pump's float switch has failed.

IV. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk