

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
February 10, 2003
Page 1 of 3

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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 (February 1-7, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

Work began on Work Instruction (WI) -1155 covering removal of the large plugs from the High Energy Cell (HEC) and will continue next week.

The remaining manipulator arm was disassembled and packaged for disposal. The two remaining arms will be packaged for shipment to the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory once the shipping crate is delivered. (WI-1100)

Staff were briefed on draining the window oil, removing the expansion tanks and associated hardware, and removing the external window frame covering for the HEC windows. (WI-1126)

Three quarters of the HEC floor was aggressively decontaminated with the Rotopeener. The Rotopeener broke and new parts should be received within the next two weeks. The surface of the newly exposed floor was coated with epoxy paint. The air lines were replaced to limit the spread of loose surface contamination on the newly painted floor. (WI-1142)

Building JN-4:

The Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project (BCLDP) met with Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon (Architects/Engineers) and discussed issues with Battelle Columbus Operations (BCO) personnel. Issues addressed included:

- Layout and location of new access road to JN-4
- Routing of fiber optics and telephone lines.

Preliminary engineering drawings are due the week of February 10, 2003.

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

Work continued on the planned JN-12 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer to be located on top of the existing footers outside JN-3. Two of the three vendors submitted bids and proposals that are currently being evaluated for selection and contract award.

BCLDP met with prospective trailer suppliers and casework and fume hood suppliers to discuss issues with the relocation of Radioanalytical Laboratory facility. Proposals to provide a modular RAL facility are due Thursday, February 13, 2003.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

The BCLDP shipped two CNS 10-160B casks to the Hanford Nuclear Facility, with five 55-gallon drums of remote-handled (RH-) TRU waste in each cask (see attached photo). The shipments arrived at Hanford on February 6, 2003. The casks are now staged at the solid waste burial trench for offloading scheduled February 11, 2003. The next shipment of RH-TRU waste is scheduled the week of February 24, 2003.

BCLDP staff attended an RH-TRU Waste Characterization/Packaging meeting. Topics discussed included Battelle's use of the CNS 10-160B cask and potential use of the 72-B cask. Discussions were also held with Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory representatives and a University of Tennessee-Battelle representative from Oak Ridge regarding the BCLDP's TRU program and to share information with those groups.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Two (2) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell. One hundred forty cubic feet (140 ft³) of compactible LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-compactible low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 was packaged into B-25 boxes, for a total volume of 375 ft³ (245 ft³ for Envirocare and 130 ft³ for Hanford disposal).

Fourteen cubic feet (14 ft³) of clean compactible waste from JN-1 were radiologically free-released for municipal disposal.

Three cubic feet (3 ft³) of lead-acid batteries were free-released to BCO Waste Management for disposal.

Technology Deployment:

Staff injected 7,000 gallons of water into the soil of Plot 2. The plot subsurface water level is recorded over many different time intervals. Operating procedures are in the review cycle. The second-stage HEPA unit was placed in line on the extraction outlet. The order was placed for the dual-stage HEPA canister for tank vents. (WI-984)

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 794 days and 520,001 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. Staff responded to an after-hours door and panel alarm received by Security. Inspections found standing water in the JN-1 roof drain, which was fixed. The evaporator continues to work well. Buckeye Landscape continues to remove snow and ice at the north site. Annual calibrations of the JN-1 Pool, JN-1 HLC, and the JN-1 Storage AMS-4 are complete. The Yale 4,000-pound propane forklift is tagged out of service because of a leaking fuel line.

Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1119 covering the reproofing of JN-6 is in the review cycle, but start of work depends on the weather.
- WI-1131 covering the JN-1B Pump Room roof resurface is in the review cycle.
- Plans continue 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