

March 10, 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 (March 1–7, 2003)**

**I. Operations:**

**Building JN-1:**

Construction of the Perma-Con enclosure on the High Energy Cell (HEC) Mezzanine was completed [Work Instruction (WI) –1122].

Work continued on WI-1120 for removing the Manipulator Support Area; work is approximately 80% completed and will continue next week.

WI-1125, covering utility removal in the Hot Equipment Storage Room (HESR), is undergoing final manager review.

Material preparations for WI-1154 that covers HEC well decontamination continued.

Work under WI-1155 that covers the removal of the large plugs from the HEC concentrated on cleaning the lead out of the ports. An error appeared in last week's highlights due to reporting prior to close of business on Friday. The last large upper plug was broken loose and was being removed; it was anticipated to be done by COB. The plug became stuck and has not been removed leaving one upper plug remaining to be removed. This is in addition to the one large lower plug and three pass-through-port shield doors.

Work performed this week under WI-1157 for removing the HEC windows included removing lead from around the window liners in accordance with the WI field change. Safety performed lead monitoring using personnel air samplers. The first set of samples tested below the action levels; the second set tested above the action levels. Workers were wearing respirators, so there was no personnel exposure. Work has been stopped pending evaluation of options for controlling the lead. WI-1157 will be closed, and a specific WI will be written to deal with removing the lead upon determination of the path forward. Windows continued to be free-released and packaged, and two windows were shipped to Hot Cell Services.

The purchase orders for all equipment and material dealing with the InstaCote® strippable paint have been processed. The X400 was released and moved to JN-3 for upgrades.

**West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:**

The results of the recently completed proposal evaluation process for the planned JN-12 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer, along with the recommended vendor, were discussed with the DOE-CCP office.

**Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:**

The DOE EM1 requested that the BCLDP stop the March 6 shipment of TRU waste to the Hanford Nuclear Facility. The state of Washington has filed a “Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief” against the DOE’s decision to ship radioactive TRU waste for interim storage at Hanford. When authorized to proceed, the BCLDP will contact the DOE Carlsbad Field Office to make 14-day notification to the corridor states.

The cask shipments have been stopped for a minimum of 45 days due to the complaint filed by the state of Washington. A plan to deal with the delay is being developed.

**Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:**

Two 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell.

Twenty-five cubic feet (25 ft<sup>3</sup>) of compactable LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-compactable low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 and JN-3 were packaged into B-25 boxes, IP-1 Intermodal containers, and IP-2 Sealand containers, for a total volume of 784 ft<sup>3</sup> (769 ft<sup>3</sup> for Envirocare of Utah and 15 ft<sup>3</sup> for Hanford disposal).

Two B-25 boxes of mixed LLW (MLLW) lead from the HEC were packaged; they were staged in the JN-1 “Sheep shed” <90-day Resource Conservation and Recovery Act accumulation area. The MLLW is destined for treatment and disposal at Envirocare. Two 55-gallon drums of mercury-contaminated MLLW were packaged for disposal at Permafrix/M&EC.

Twenty-one cubic feet (150 gallons) of JN-1 mop water were radiologically free-released and transferred into the evaporator. Fourteen cubic feet (14 ft<sup>3</sup>) of clean waste were free-released for municipal disposal. Twenty cubic feet (20 ft<sup>3</sup>) of steel waste were free-released for commercial recycle.

Two radiologically free-released leaded glass windows were shipped to Hot Cell Services in Kent, WA, for reuse/recycle. This action avoided over \$25,000 in transportation and waste disposal fees.

Eight B-25 boxes of LLW were shipped to Fluor-Hanford for disposal. Total volume of LLW shipped was 720 ft<sup>3</sup>.

The last two manipulators were packaged for shipping to Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

#### **WIDE Technology Deployment:**

Staff reviewed the data of the injection cycle testing and prepared procedures for the extraction cycle testing. Engineering modifications to extract water from the field began. Plot 2 subsurface water level monitoring continued (WI-984).

### **II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:**

Safety performance is 164 days and 114,657 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

### **III. Facilities and Equipment:**

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance for the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed. The evaporator is turned on and working well. Buckeye Landscape removed snow and ice at the north site. The battery installation for the Raymond Reach forklift was completed and the truck put back in service. Crane America and BCLDP staff members plan to adjust the drop on the first two festoons of the 10/50-ton crane pendant festoon cable system of JN-1B, thus preventing the festoons from dragging against the new building on the mezzanine. The annual calibration of the HEC AMS-4 and DOP tests of the six HEC HEPA filtration banks was completed. The malfunctioning phone in the JN-3 Annex Machine Shop was replaced with a new unit. The Hyster 6300 forklift remained out of service awaiting backrest replacement. Rising differential pressure levels were corrected with a pre-filter changeout for JN-1 Controlled Access Area HEPA system. JN-2 Radioanalytical Laboratory holding tank water was pumped into carboys and sampled for volumetric data.

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Columbus Closure Project  
March 10, 2003  
Page 4 of 4

Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1131 for the JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing is in the review cycle.
- Mid City ordered the equipment to install the 480-volt transformer for JN-1 in about two weeks.
- Procedure revisions addressing replacement of the JN-1B groundwater sump pump are being implemented. 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