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April 21, 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 (April 12-18, 2003)**I. Operations:****Building JN-1:**

As part of Work Instruction (WI) -1105, the InstaCote paint was removed from the lower sections and floor of the High Energy Cell (HEC). The InstaCote vendor's polyurea machine was free-released and returned on Wednesday. Battelle's polyurea machine was returned with the upgrades completed. Thursday was spent setting up the polyurea machine in the HEC operations area. Procedure WA-OP-066, "Operation of the Polyurea Machine," was field changed to reflect the upgrades to the polyurea machine. On Friday, the lower sections, including the floor and windows of the HEC, were repainted in preparation for removing the crane.

Lead removal continued in the HEC operations area. Windows 12 and 13 are finished. Window W-16 will be started next week (WI-1129).

The Myers Movers work plan and engineering drawings for removing the cranes and crane rails from the HEC are complete. The WI was approved and personnel will be briefed the beginning of next week (WI-1099).

Work continued on WI-1159, "Utility Removal in the Controlled Access Area (CAA)/Old Back Dock and Old Operations Area," and is anticipated to continue next week. Management approved WI-1158, "Decontaminate and Stabilize the Hot Equipment Storage Room (HESR)," and issued it for work.

The JN1-B Pump Room is being prepared for stabilization. Asbestos was removed from the room and final cleaning was completed.

The satellite radiochemistry lab and its associated ventilation piping have been removed. The concrete floor has been removed above the underground piping in the office area.

Building JN-3

Water is being continually pumped from under the JN-3 basement via the wells and pumps installed in the Pump Room and around the reactor pool.

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

Ground water is being pumped from the wells on the exterior of JN-3.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Five (5) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell. Forty-two cubic feet (42 ft³) of compactable LLW was accepted for packaging. Non-compactable low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 were packaged into B-25 boxes and IP-2 sea/land containers for a total volume of 324 ft³ to Envirocare disposal.

Twelve empty Department of Transportation radioactive B-25 boxes were received from Envirocare for reuse. Seven cubic feet (7 ft³) of compactable waste was radiologically free-released for municipal disposal.

Two concrete HEC roof plugs were shipped as LLW to Envirocare for disposal. Total mass/volume of LLW shipped was 43,150 lbs/384 ft³.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

The DOE agreed to delay the pending litigation over TRU shipments to the Hanford site in order to consolidate two suits addressing State of Washington and State of Oregon issues.

A planning meeting was scheduled for May 14, 2003 at the Hanford site to discuss mixed and contact handled TRU.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Storage:

Discussions were held with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning the implications of storing TRU waste on site. The two possibilities discussed were inside JN-3 and outside in Dufrane units.

Saxton Pin Disposition:

Work on plans for repackaging the Saxton fuel pin and shipping the repackaged pin continued. The drum liner to be used to perform mock-up demonstrations for removing the pin was delivered Friday.

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A planning meeting was scheduled with the GE cask engineer for April 29th at the West Jefferson site. The focus of the meeting will be to review current facility capabilities available for use in repackaging the pin to meet the cask certificate of compliance.

A draft schedule for repackaging/shipping the pin was developed and provided to DOE for comments.

WIDE Technology Deployment:

The advance copies of the injection and extraction procedures are in review. Engineering modifications to extract water from the field continued as parts were received. (WI-984) Planning continued for WI-1132 to begin extraction testing.

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 206 days and 144,039 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 remained off. Annual inspections of the CAA cranes were completed.

Scheduling began for WI-1131 JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing.

IV. Program Administration and Control

The Monthly Status Report for March 2003 was submitted to the DOE Columbus Closure Project on April 15, 2003.

V. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk