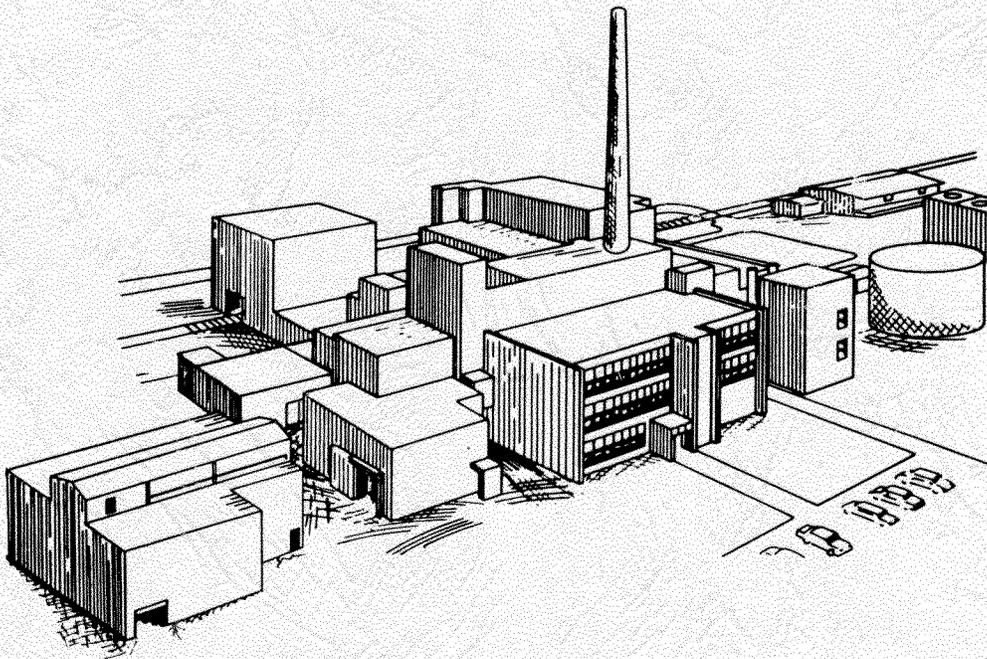




WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT SITE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1988



May 1989

West Valley Nuclear Services Company, Inc.
Rock Springs Road
West Valley, New York 14171-0191

PREPARED FOR:
U.S. Department of Energy
Idaho Operations
West Valley Project Office
Under Contract DE-AC07-81NE44139



Department of Energy

Idaho Operations Office
West Valley Project Office
P.O. Box 191
West Valley, NY 14171

Greetings:

Enclosed is the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) Annual Site Environmental Monitoring report for 1988. This report contains a summary of all radiological and nonradiological environmental monitoring data collected at the WVDP during the 1988 calendar year.

Collection of air, water, soil and food chain samples allows for the comprehensive detection and evaluation of any radioactive or hazardous material which may migrate off-site. During 1988, the Project did not exceed or even approach any regulatory limit on radioactivity or radiation dose. Nonradiological plant effluents, which are controlled and permitted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), were also generally below regulatory limits. Exceptions occurred in some waste water discharges permitted under the New York State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) program. Several instances occurred when the SPDES permit standards were exceeded for iron concentration, pH, and biological oxygen demand. While these short duration excursions did not have a significant impact on the environment, control programs and equipment have either been installed or are being evaluated to eliminate future excursions of this type.

Recently the WVDP received a thorough environmental audit performed by a team of specialists representing DOE headquarters. This audit included a comprehensive review of all environmental monitoring programs. The team reviewed monitoring and data reporting of air, soil, surface water and groundwater parameters, as well as WVDP practices in waste management, hazardous and toxic materials management, quality assurance, and National Environmental Policy Act documentation. A total of 41 findings were identified in the August 1989 environmental compliance assessment report, of which 15 were related to federal, state, or DOE order requirements. No significant environmental compliance issues were identified. The remaining 26 findings were in the Best Management Practice category, which recommends improvements to pro-

cedures, the majority of which could be administratively or technically corrected with minor effort. The most significant team findings dealt with long-term waste management practices and were not directly related to environmental monitoring activities. Specific findings involved accelerating the scheduled upgrading of the existing monitoring network to conform to newly revised DOE Orders. The WVDP is working aggressively to complete monitoring program upgrades and expects to implement the majority of changes within the next year. Three exceptionally noteworthy practices were identified by the team and attributed to the environmental surveillance program.

The WVDP is preparing for negotiations with New York State and the Environmental Protection Agency to address radioactive mixed waste management activities within the context of a Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement. The WVDP has been proactively meeting with both regulatory entities to discuss technical issues and provide facility background. A signed agreement is anticipated for mid-1990.

This Report fulfills many DOE and regulatory reporting requirements and demonstrates that public health and safety are being protected with respect to the operation of the WVDP and the concerns associated with the waste materials being stored there. If you have any questions, please contact me at (716)942-4313.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. W. Bixby".

W.W. Bixby, Director

West Valley Project Office

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PREFACE

Environmental monitoring at the West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) is conducted by West Valley Nuclear Services Company, Inc. (WVNS), under contract to the U.S. Department of Energy. The data collected provide a historical record of radionuclide and radiation levels within the survey area attributable to natural and manmade sources. Data are also collected to monitor the quality of water discharged by the Project. In addition, wells adjacent to the site are routinely sampled.

This report represents a single, comprehensive source of off-site and on-site environmental monitoring data collected during 1988 by WVNS Environmental Monitoring Laboratory personnel. Appendix A is a summary of the sampling and analysis plan. Appendices C through E contain summaries of all data obtained during 1988 and are intended for individuals who are interested in more detail than is provided in the main body of the report.

Requests for additional copies of the 1988 Environmental Monitoring Report and questions concerning the report should be referred to the WVDP Community Relations Department, P.O. Box 191, Rock Springs Road, West Valley, New York 14171 [(716) 942-4610].



The West Valley Demonstration Project Site



Servicing a Perimeter Air Sampler



Counting a Water Sample in the Environmental Laboratory