

# West Valley Demonstration Project Disposition of Tank 8D-4 Contents

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### WVDP Underground Tank 8D-4

Stainless steel tank

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- 14,300 gallon capacity
- Enclosed within an underground concrete vault with identical Tank 8D-3
- Active HEPA-filtered tank ventilation provided by the Permanent Ventilation System (PVS)
- Contains ~4600 gallons of contaminated liquid and sludge



Results of sampling in 2012 determined that the liquid is:

- Generally clear liquid
- Consistent dose rate throughout entire liquid region in tank (~ 170 to 200 mR/hr as measured at the recirculation line of the sampler)
- RCRA metals chromium, mercury, and selenium exist above 6 NYCRR 371 characteristic levels
- Contains ~ 5% dissolved solids, minimal suspended solids, and pH of ~ 9.5
- Gross alpha radioactivity of ~2E-02 μCi/ml
- Gross beta activity of 3E+01 μCi/ml
- No oil sheen noted on top of liquid layer



Results of sampling in 2012 determined that the sludge is:

- Generally brown fine, easily suspendable "ash-like" particles with a high water content (~20% of total volume)
- Dose rates ranged from approximately 500 to 5,000 mR/hr for the 50-ml nominal sludge/liquid samples
- RCRA metal mercury exists above 6 NYCRR 371 characteristic levels
- After centrifuging, exhibits 50 to 60% moisture and pH of ~9.3
- Gross alpha radioactivity of  $\sim$ 3E+01 µCi/g
- Gross beta activity of 3E+03  $\mu$ Ci/g
- No visible elemental mercury seen during sampling of sludge or other matrices

#### **WVDP Waste Tank Farm**

• Two large carbon steel tanks: 8D-1 and 8D-2, 760,000 gallons each

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- Two small stainless steel tanks: 8D-3 and 8D-4, 14,300 gallons each
- Tanks enclosed within underground concrete vaults
- Active HEPA-filtered tank ventilation provided by the Permanent Ventilation System (PVS)





#### WVDP Waste Tank Farm History

- Tanks 8D-2 and 8D-4 previously contained HLW from spent fuel reprocessing: 1966-72
- HLW retrieved and vitrified into 275 canisters between 1996 and 2002
- Over 90% of remaining residual liquid removed and processed in 2003
- 26,000 gallons remained in four underground tanks
- Decisions on Tank Farm closure will not be made until 2020



WVDP Waste Tank Farm

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- Tanks are managed to prevent corrosion and leaks
- Active HEPA-filtered tank ventilation provided by the Permanent Ventilation System (PVS)
- Installed a tank and vault drying system in 2010 to:
  - Evaporate residual waste liquids in the four tanks leaving only solids – no liquids to leak
  - Evaporate groundwater in the vaults eliminate the need to pump pan & vault liquid
  - Reduce the humidity inside and outside the tanks – greatly reduces tank corrosion
  - Prolong tank life better accommodate any closure alternative



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### Tank & Vault Drying System Basics

- Inject very dry air into the tanks and vaults
- The dry air forces out the moist/saturated air that existed before system operation
- The dry air picks up moisture from
  - Wetted surfaces
  - Standing liquids
- The dry air with moisture picked up is exhausted from the tanks and vaults
  - Vault exhaust air is recirculated through the air dryer to remove moisture
  - Tank exhaust air is routed to the existing HEPA-filtered ventilation system and up the stack
- Desiccant dryer reactivation air is directed to the same ventilation system





## Tank & Vault Drying System Schematic Tank 8D-3 and 8D-4



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### **Benefits of the Drying System**

- The drying system has proven its effectiveness in evaporating liquids from the underground tanks and vaults and reducing internal humidities; tanks 8D-1, 8D-2, and 8D-3 are dry
- Pan and vault liquid pumping has been eliminated none over the past 5 years
- No measurable increase in HEPA filter differential pressure has been observed
- If additional waste is to be removed from Tanks 8D-1, 8D-2 and 8D-3, this can be accomplished using solid retrieval techniques
- Additional waste can be removed from Tank 8D-4 using conventional liquid and solid retrieval techniques

Tank or Vault	Air Flow
Tank 8D-1 & 8D-2	510 cfm each
Tank 8D-3 & 8D-4	85 cfm each
8D-1 Pan/Vault	510 cfm
8D-2 Pan/Vault	910 cfm
8D-3/4 Vault	85 cfm
Full air flows of the T&VDS	

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- Evaporation was reduced in April 2013 to allow more time to resolve the disposition of the tank and its contents before the bottom sludge is uncovered
- Added 30 gallons of 50 wt% NaOH in July 2015 to increase the liquid alkalinity and reduce the potential for chloride pitting of the stainless steel tank
- Planning to sample the tank contents in December 2016 to determine whether additional pH adjustment is needed



#### Red 8D-3 Tank Green 8D-4 Tank



- Planning to issue Sources Sought/Request for Information in early 2017 for capabilities statements from parties interested in disposition of the Tank 8D-4 heel
  - Waste Tank Farm documentation, drawings, and photographs will be provided
- Looking for innovative approaches from capable sources that
  - Minimize the radionuclide inventory
  - Minimize the potential for orphan waste (the WVDP has no access to a disposal facility transuranic waste)