

FILES

15 August 1957

C. D. LUKE

MEETING WITH SPENCER CHEMICAL CO., August 13, 1957

J. Delaney asked the writer to attend a meeting with representatives of the Spencer Chemical Co.: L. H. Landrum, D. A. Young, L. G. Stevenson and R. B. Mesler.

Spencer Chemical Co. is planning to install a small plant for recovery of uranium as oxide from uranium hexafluoride or scrap metal. The plant is to be located in a portion of an ammonia plant which the company acquired from the Government. This plant is in Kansas, between Pittsburgh, Kansas and Joplin, Missouri.

There are two alternate head-end treatments. One is a dissolver for metal scrap. The other is a tight container where a cylinder of uranium hexafluoride can be heated; the vaporized UF_6 passes out of the cylinder, through a piping system with remotely operated valves, to a hydrolyzer.

Solutions from the dissolver or hydrolyzer pass through a two-stage solvent extraction, precipitation, filtration, drying and furnacing, to produce uranium oxide which is packaged in a dry box. Processing is continuous from the solvent extraction through the rest of the process.

With regard to hazards, Spencer Chemical is carefully considering safe storage of feed and product, and always-safe equipment for handling solutions, slurries and solids. Attention is being given to provisions for safely recovering leakage of liquids and for filtering and scrubbing normal and emergency releases of gas. There was some discussion of flow of materials and it was agreed that there should be minimum cross flow. For this reason, it was suggested that feed and product be stored in separate vaults.

cc: L. Johnson
J. Delaney

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