

**Parsons
Metals**

number ten tantalum place. muskogee, oklahoma 74401

February 2, 1979

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545
GENERAL INVESTIGATION SECTION

Mr. Earl G. Wright
Radioisotopes Licensing Branch
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Wright:

The construction of Pond III is near completion; preparations are being made for installation of the liner. This communication transmits copies of all phases of the construction of the pond by Muskogee Engineering Co. Daily inspections were made by their personnel and compaction performed at the appropriate times. Work was interrupted by rain in November and then by cold and snow on January 2nd.

The proposed drawing is up-dated with the as-built elevations, slopes and contours. The drawing also shows the location of the perimeter tile system and the elevation of the tile at strategic locations. Also shown is a cross sectional drawing of the tile installation. The test data includes gradation of the crushed stone used in the drain tile system.

A report of the flow rate from the tile is given on the attached sheet. The flow rate has gradually decreased as expected.

We have noted your statement that before approval is granted for use of Basin 3 for storage of licensed material, you will require a free-board of at least 80" to be maintained. We must necessarily take exception to such a requirement for application to our effluent treatment and storage system. First, the basin will be constructed in such a manner that surface water from the outside will not be able to enter the basin. Second, underground water will not be able to enter the basin. Third, there is no rainfall data, historical or projected, which shows any likelihood for an accumulation of rain in excess of 29" during a six hour period. (See Item 8 of Retention Pond Study, September, 1978.) Moreover, surface evaporation will rapidly reduce this level. Fourth, because of the protective means provided by the surrounding dikes and embankment and the relatively small indicated surface area of the contents of the basin, disruption of the surface level by means of wind or other elements of nature will not be significant (i.e. "wave action" will be minimal).

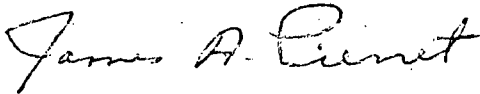
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We are nonetheless willing to provide and maintain for this basin a freeboard of a substantially less but equally adequate amount, namely 40". As an additional safeguard we will install an overflow pipe of 12" in diameter in the basin at the level of 40" measured from the top of the basin. If the level of the surface water in the basin were to rise to the overflow pipe, the excess liquid would be carried by means of gravity through a trough pipe to mixer No. 1, where it would be introduced and processed with other liquids according to the regular plant processing procedures.

This letter completes the requirement for additional information as requested in your letter of December 5th. Hopefully, the necessary review can occur soon. We do have a very urgent need for this new pond to become approved increment of Fansteel-Muskogee effluent system. Weather should permit installation of the liner within thirty days.

Sincerely,



JAMES A. PIERRET
Plant Manager - Muskogee

JAP:nj

Enclosures