

APR 20 1987

Docket No. 70-687

License No. SNM-639

Cintichem, Inc.
ATTN: Mr. James J. McGovern
Plant Manager
P. O. Box 816
Tuxedo, New York 10987

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL SAFETY REVIEW

As a result of the accident involving the release of uranium hexafluoride from Kerr-McGee's Sequoyah Fuels Facility in Gore, Oklahoma, on January 4, 1986, the NRC has decided to conduct an operational safety review at selected major fuel cycle and materials facilities. The review at your Tuxedo, New York facility will be conducted by a team from the NRC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region II Office. The review has been scheduled for the week of May 18, 1987. The team leader, Mr. Jerry Roth, will contact your office at a later date to arrange a time for the entrance briefing.

During the review, the team will examine existing conditions at your facility to identify potential safety hazards that, when combined with facility operations, could impact public health and safety. The team will also examine whether there are systems and procedures in place to identify the use and handling of hazardous materials which could result in radiological safety consequences, and will determine whether these are adequately implemented. The areas to be covered include personnel training, waste management, and operations, including procedure control, equipment maintenance, non-radioactive chemical control, fire protection and radiological contingency planning.

After the review, the NRC will determine if measures are necessary to address any safety problems identified during the review. The review is not an inspection; it is intended to provide feedback to both the NRC and fuel cycle and materials licensees. However, if a violation of a federal requirement is identified during the review, it will be cited. Records of: reviews and audits conducted by your personnel, maintenance, training, and contingency plan drills should be made available for review while the review team is at your facility.

In order to facilitate the review, please provide to this office by May 4, 1987, a copy of your existing procedures which cover employee training, waste management, equipment maintenance, nonradioactive chemical control, fire protection, operational safety and contingency planning.

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The response requested by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of Management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

If you have any questions concerning the review, please contact me at (215)337-5280 or Mr. Roth at (215)337-5205.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By:
James H. Joyner

Thomas T. Martin, Director
Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

cc:

W. G. Ruzicka, Manager, Nuclear Operations
C. Konnerth, Manager, Site Operations
Public Document Room (PDR)
Local Public Document Room (LPDR)
Nuclear Safety Information Center (NSIC)
State of New York

bcc:

Region I Docket Room (with concurrences)
J. Roth, DRSS
R. J. Bores, DRSS
A. T. Clark, NMSS
R. Bellamy, DRSS
R. Keimig, DRSS
G. Sjoblom, IE
D. Sly, IE
N. Blumberg, DRS
J. McFadden, DRSS
C. Gordon, DRSS
G. Comfort, NMSS
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