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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD

OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
BRANCH

Before Administrative Judges
John H Frye, III, Chairman
Dr. James H. Carpenter
Dr. Jerry R. Kline

SERVED NOV 21 1989

In the Matter of
Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation
(West Chicago Rare Earths
Facility)

Docket No. 40-2061-ML
ASLBP No. 83-495-01-ML
November 20, 1989

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

The Board, in reviewing the SFES and the Kerr-McGee Engineering Report, finds a perplexing contrast. The staff analysis is based on the estimated or guessed values for the distribution coefficients for a number of chemical species. These values are used to calculate the retardation factors and directly affect the source term. In contrast, the Engineering Report analysis is based on direct measurements of the concentrations of chemical species in leachate tests.

The leachate test results appear to be significantly different than the staff assumed distribution coefficients. For example, in the case of lead, the difference is approximately 30 fold. The Board requests staff to testify

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at the upcoming hearing as to why the Kerr-McGee test results are not pertinent to staff's analysis or, to the contrary, how staff results would be changed by using the Kerr-McGee observational data.

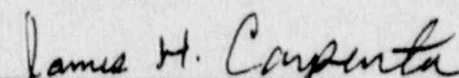
The Board does not understand the SFES forecasts of cyanide contamination of the ground water, in terms of the confidence that can be placed in the analysis. We ask staff and Kerr-McGee to testify on this issue at the upcoming hearing.

It is so ORDERED.

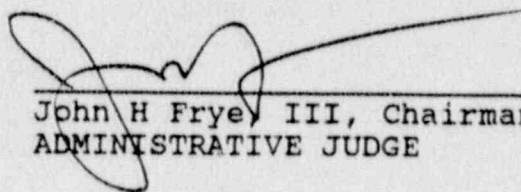
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board



Dr. Jerry R. Kline
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE



Dr. James H. Carpenter
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE



John H. Frye III, Chairman
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Bethesda, Maryland
November 20, 1989

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of

KERR-MCGEE CHEMICAL CORPORATION
(West Chicago Rare Earths Facility)

Docket No.(s) 40-2061-ML

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing LB M&O DTD 11/20/89 have been served upon the following persons by U.S. mail, first class, except as otherwise noted and in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR Sec. 2.712.

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

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Docket No. (s) 40-2061-ML
LB M&D DTD 11/20/89

Dated at Rockville, Md. this
21 day of November 1989

Patty Henderson

Office of the Secretary of the Commission