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2/18/86

Talked to W. Crow  
on 2/24/86  
about needed reports

Del File

FCUP:MUJ  
40-2063

Ms. Denise Fort  
Director  
Environmental Improvement Division  
State of New Mexico  
1190 St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Ms. Fort:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, is currently preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement on decommissioning the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation's inactive thorium plant located in West Chicago, Illinois. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the study will evaluate Kerr-McGee's proposed disposal plan and reasonable alternatives of the plan to serve as a basis for NRC to take licensing action related to decommissioning the site.

The purpose of this letter is to request your advice as to whether we should consider as one of the alternatives the transfer of the West Chicago wastes to an existing uranium mill tailings site in New Mexico for permanent disposal. At present, the West Chicago site contains about 160,000 m<sup>3</sup> of ore residues, contaminated soils, inorganic building rubble, and contaminated equipment.

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter are appreciated.

Sincerely,

W. T. Crow, Acting Chief  
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle and  
Material Safety, NRC

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