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McGean Chemical Company, Inc., 1250 Terminal Tower, Cleveland, OH 44113, 216/621-6425, Telex 98-0403

40-8724

August 21, 1980

CERTIFIED MAIL -
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region 3
799 Roosevelt Road
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Attention: Mr. James G. Keppler, Director

Gentlemen:

On August 19, 1980, your Mr. Donald Sreniawski spoke with me by telephone regarding a letter dated August 13, 1980 addressed to your Commission by Mr. Steven M. Wilner of Allegheny Ludlum Industries, Inc., which advised that further communications regarding depleted uranium at the McGean dump site in Newburgh Heights be sent to my attention. This development has taken us completely by surprise, as an understanding had apparently been reached with Allegheny on this matter at a meeting in Pittsburgh on August 7, 1980.

As you know, it is the Chemetron Corporation subsidiary of Allegheny which holds license SUB 1357 for removing depleted uranium contamination from the adjacent Cleveland plant site at 2910 Harvard Avenue. Chemetron previously held source material license SUB 852 for catalyst manufacturing operations involving depleted uranium at the Harvard Avenue location.

There is a strong inference that the depleted uranium at the dump site originated with operations at Chemetron's plant. Chemetron manufactured a catalyst using depleted uranium from 1965 through 1972. In June of 1974, McGean Chemical Company, Inc. was organized and acquired the Chemetron Inorganic Chemical business. McGean purchased the Cleveland plant and dump site in September of 1975, but Chemetron retained license SUB 852 and all of the catalyst business. Operations of McGean Chemical Company, Inc. have never involved the use of depleted uranium.

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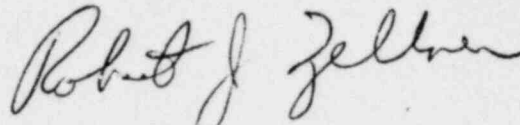
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Clearly, the problem at the dump site is solely that of Chemetron and, therefore, should be remedied entirely at Chemetron's (or Allegheny's) expense. Until then, McGean will continue the security measures at the dump and stands ready to cooperate fully with Allegheny and the NRC and, when Allegheny has made the necessary and appropriate arrangements for cleanup at its sole expense, to provide access to the property for proper disposal of any radioactive material.

We appreciate your urgency in resolving this issue and are immediately addressing the matter with Allegheny.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Zellner
Vice President & Counsel

RJZ/amm

cc: Mr. James T. Dougherty,
Allegheny Ludlum Industries, Inc.