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December 2, 1989

DOCKETED  
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FEDERAL EXPRESS

Douglas Rathe, Esq.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Environmental Control Division  
100 West Randolph Street, 12th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60601

Re: Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (West Chicago  
Rare Earths Facility) Docket No. 40-2061-ML

Dear Doug:

As you know, the testimony submitted by Kerr-McGee's experts included a discussion of the forecasts in the SFES of cyanide in groundwater at the West Chicago site. Among other points, the testimony discussed and set out at Table 8 certain data resulting from analyses for cyanide in groundwater samples that were collected in August 1986. In that sampling, cyanide was either not detected or was measured at levels only slightly above the detection limit.

Because the detection limit in the 1986 sampling was high and because there may be questions about the significance of measurements slightly above the detection limits, samples of groundwater from wells in the glacial aquifer were recently collected and were subjected to analysis for cyanide. As you know the State had not raised an issue about cyanide; the sampling and analysis were initiated immediately upon receipt of the Board's order of November 20 raising this issue. I enclose a copy of the preliminary results. As you will see, the recent results are consistent with the State's measurements of cyanide in 1986 -- no measurements above the detection limits were observed.

Our witnesses may rely on this recent data at the upcoming hearing. I am sending this information to you so that you will have the opportunity to question the Kerr-McGee witnesses about it on December 5.

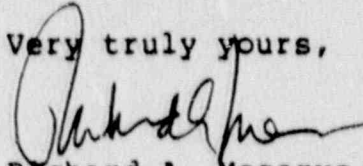
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Douglas Rathe, Esq.  
December 2, 1989  
Page 2

Your recent letter does adequately reflect the procedural arrangements for the upcoming depositions. I understand that I am to receive a copy of the State's testimony on December 5 so that I may depose the State's witnesses on December 7.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Meserve", written over the typed name.

Richard A. Meserve

RAM:lmb

Enclosure

cc: Service List

Roy F. Weston Inc./Gulf Coast Laboratories  
Inorganics PRELIMINARY Data Summary Report 11/30/89

CLIENT: Kerr-McGee  
WORK ORDER: 2687-06-01-0000

WESTON BATCH #: 8911G264

SAMPLE	SITE ID	ANALYTE	RESULT	UNITS	REPORTING LIMIT
-001	MW-B1	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-002	MW-B2	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-003	MW-B3	Cyanide, Total	0.020	u MG/L	0.020
-004	MW-B4	Cyanide, Total	0.020	u MG/L	0.020
-005	MW-B5	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-006	MW-B6	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-007	MW-B7	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-008	MW-B8	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-009	MW-B9	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-010	MW-B10	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-011	MW-B11	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-012	MW-B12	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-013	MW-B13	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-014	MW-BC14	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-015	MW-BC14 Dup	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-016	MW-BC15	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-017	MW-BC16	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010
-018	MW-FB	Cyanide, Total	0.010	u MG/L	0.010

Project Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Laboratory Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE: FORM MUST HAVE TWO VALID SIGNATURES BEFORE RELEASE !!!)



SENT BY: Xerox Telecopier 7020 : 12-1-89 : 9:59 :  
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Roy F. Weston Inc./Gulf Coast Laboratories  
Inorganics PRELIMINARY Accuracy Report 11/30/89

CLIENT: Kerr-McGee  
WORK ORDER: 2687-06-01-0000

WESTON BATCH #: 8911G264

SAMPLE	SITE ID	ANALYTE	SPIKED SAMPLE	INITIAL RESULT	SPIKED AMOUNT	%RECOV
-004	MW-B4	Cyanide, Total	0.20	0.020 u	0.20	99.0

Project Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Laboratory Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

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3122955044: 4

Roy F. Weston Inc./Gulf Coast Laboratories  
Inorganics PRELIMINARY Precision Report 11/30/89

CLIENT: Kerr-McGee  
WORK ORDER: 2687-06-01-0000

WESTON BATCH #: 8911G264

SAMPLE	SITE ID	ANALYTE	INITIAL RESULT	REPLICATE	% DIFF
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
-003REP	MW-B3	Cyanide, Total	0.020 u	0.020 u	NC

Project Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ Laboratory Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

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