

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

*Document 40-2061*  
*(Mr. [unclear])*  
*40-2061*

Date: 2/6/81

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURENCE--PNO-III-81-16 Page 1 of 2

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff as of this date.

FACILITY: Kerr McGee  
798 Factory Street  
West Chicago, Illinois

License No. STA-583

SUBJECT: SHOW CAUSE ORDER ISSUED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

The EPA Region V (Chicago) Office issued a show cause order today to Kerr McGee (K-M) based on radon-222 emanation levels from the residue piles on the K-M site and thorium contamination in Kress Creek near the K-M site in excess of the ad hoc standards established by the EPA Office of Radiation Programs. These levels were determined by recent surveys in the West Chicago area by EPA radiation specialists. NRC measured gamma levels are consistent with EPA measured thorium concentrations. No radiation or concentration levels are specifically identified in this order. Radiation and concentration levels are below 10 CFR 20 limits.

According to this order, Kerr McGee representatives must show cause at a hearing why this matter should not be referred to the Attorney General's Office for judicial action. EPA officials expect Kerr McGee to present air monitoring, radon emanation, groundwater, and Kress Creek water sampling data at a hearing to be held within fifteen days within receipt of this order. EPA assumes runoff is migratory from the site and is using the order as a vehicle to discuss this matter with Kerr McGee.

Region III (Chicago) does not plan to issue a press release. News media interest is expected.

Region III received this information initially in a telephone call from a member of the EPA Region V legal staff.



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This information is current as of 4:00 p.m. CST, February 5, 1981.

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