



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

FEB 22 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert M. Bernero, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS *REC*

FROM: Leland C. Rouse, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

NRC staff met with Argonne National Laboratory on February 16-17, 1989, to discuss the finalization of the Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement related to the decommissioning of the Rare Earths Facility, West Chicago, Illinois. Final text changes and responses to comments were discussed. The document is scheduled for April publication.

*Leland C. Rouse*

Leland C. Rouse, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety, NMSS

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FEB 03 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety

FROM: Leland C. Rouse, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC. (NFS) ERWIN, TENNESSEE

On February 1, 1988, NRC staff (OGC, NRR, and NMSS) met with NFS Corporate Officials. The NFS representatives indicated that since 1979, they have made annual contributions to the escrow account which is required by a license condition for the facility decommissioning, and NFS took the contribution as deductible for tax purposes. However, the 1987 tax reform act would eliminate this privilege. NFS is interested in seeking any alternative avenue which would reduce their tax burden regarding the annual contribution. Two avenues were proposed by NFS: one is to invest the annual contribution in municipal bonds, and the other is to request their customer (DOE) to undertake the obligation for decommissioning. The NRC representatives indicated that the NRC's position on decommissioning is to ensure for health and safety purposes that the licensee has the ability financially to decontaminate the facility at the end of the plant life. The NRC staff will evaluate the licensee's proposal on the basis of the NRC position.

KERR-MCGEE, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

On January 27, 1988, representatives of NMSS and OGC met with Argonne National Laboratory to discuss the comments received on the Draft Supplement to the FES for decommissioning and preparation of the final.

BABCOCK & WILCOX CO., NAVAL NUCLEAR FUEL DIVISION

On January 28, 1988, a representative from NMSS attended a Performance Improvement Program (PIP) meeting at NNFD. The B&W staff provided a briefing to the NRC Region II staff on the status of PIP.

ALCHEMIE

The meeting with AlChemIE, scheduled for February 10, 1988, at the Maryland National Bank Building, has been cancelled.

FEB 03 1988

DRY SPENT FUEL STORAGE

On February 1, 1988, NMSS staff met with FW Energy Applications, Inc., (FWEA) and General Electric Company of the United Kingdom (GEC) regarding the review of FWEA's topical report for its Modular Vault Dry Store (MVDS) design. Much of the meeting centered on site-specific interfaces and final design information requirements for a site-specific license submittal. FWEA and GEC are in serious discussions with a utility (which they decline to identify publicly) regarding the MVDS.

WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The staff has received a report from the Department of Energy on the June 19, 1987, radiological contamination incident at West Valley. A subcontract worker's hand was contaminated while handling a cable in a riser above the high-level waste tank. The area had been considered free of contamination, so the worker was not surveyed when he left his work station. The contamination was subsequently spread to several radiologically uncontrolled areas. Ten additional workers received skin contamination before two of them set off alarms at the main gate portal monitor. Most of the eleven workers with skin contamination, plus two additional workers, received slight internal contamination as well. The estimated 50-year dose commitment to the most highly contaminated individual is about 30 mrem. No contamination was carried beyond the site boundaries by this incident.

Original Signed By  
John P. Roberts  
for

Leland C. Rouse, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and Medical  
Nuclear Safety, NMSS

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SEP 8 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director  
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THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety

FROM: Leland C. Rouse, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

KERR-MCGEE, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

On August 31, 1987, representatives from NMSS's Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety participated, together with counsel from OGC and personnel from the Argonne technical assistance team, in a public discussion held as part of a city council meeting. The topic was the NRC's Draft Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement and the proposed action of permanent disposal of the thorium-contaminated soil and rubble on the Kerr-McGee site in West Chicago. Other participants were the Mayor, members of the City Council, Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation, Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, and a retired health physicist from ANL. Questions were received from the Mayor and City Council members and written questions were received from the audience. The City of West Chicago plans to submit all questions/comments received at the meeting as part of the City's comment package. The comment period on the Draft Supplement is open until October 1, 1987. The Mayor, at least some members of the Council and the majority of citizens at the meeting (about 50-75) indicated strong opposition to the proposed disposal of the thorium contaminated residues at the Kerr-McGee site.

STATUS OF HEARINGS

1. Sequoyah Fuels, Gore, Oklahoma, Comprehensive Waste Disposal Plan

Sequoyah Fuels Corporation submitted the Comprehensive Radiological Solid Waste Management Plan as required by Source Material License No. SUB-1010, Condition 21 on November 13, 1986. There has not been a schedule set for this proceeding. On March 25, 1987, Sequoyah Fuels Corporation petitioned for termination of the proceeding on the basis that no onsite disposal is now planned. The staff is not a party to the proceeding, but has responded to a request from the Presiding Officer for its views on the status of Sequoyah Fuels' actions that would support its petition. Subsequently, on June 26, 1987, the Presiding Officer deferred ruling on SFC's motion to terminate the proceeding pending completion of its efforts to implement the new Plan and required SFC to file a report on the status of those efforts within five days. Staff responded to the status report on July 28, 1987, recommending that the Presiding Office withhold further action pending Region IV's decision regarding Quivira Mining Company's application to process raffinate sludge.

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2. Kerr-McGee, West Chicago, Illinois, Kress Creek Decontamination

On May 28, 1987, the staff filed a motion to terminate the Kress Creek proceeding and to vacate the licensing Board's initial decision dismissing the Order to Show Cause. On June 23, 1987, the Appeals Board rejected the motion on the basis that the staff had mischaracterized the Creek bed contamination as source material rather than byproduct material under Sec. 11e(2). As source material, the State would have jurisdiction over the matter under the provisions of the recent Sec. 274(b) agreement. On July 13, 1987, the staff filed a Petition for Commission Review of the Appeal Board's Order denying the termination request.

3. Kerr-McGee Rare Earths Facility, Decommissioning Plan, West Chicago, Illinois

This hearing is being held in abeyance pending the staff's completion of the supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement. The Draft Supplement was made available on June 26, 1987. The current schedule calls for issuance of the Final in late 1987. The Board has indicated that they may resume a portion of the Hearing after the Draft is issued.

Original Signed By

Leland C. Rouse, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety

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AUG 20 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle, Medical, Academic and  
Commercial Use Safety

FROM: Leland C. Rouse, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

KERR-MCGEE, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Mayor Eugene Rennels of West Chicago, Illinois, has organized a public discussion for the evening of August 31, 1987. The topic is NRC's draft Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement and the proposed action of permanent disposal of the thorium-contaminated soil and rubble on the Kerr-McGee site in West Chicago. Representatives from NMSS's Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety will participate, together with counsel from OGC. Other participants will be the Mayor, members of the City Council, staff of Kerr-McGee, the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety, and possibly EPA. The comment period on the draft Supplement is open until October 1, 1987, and a related ASLB hearing is presently in abeyance.

DEFECTIVE VALVES-ORDER MODIFYING LICENSES

An Order modifying the licenses of ten users of 30- and 48-inch uranium hexafluoride cylinders fitted with certain Superior valves has been issued. The Order prohibits the heating, filling, emptying, or delivering to a carrier for transport of cylinders fitted with valves manufactured in Superior Valve Company lot numbers 16 through 22 inclusive. The Order was necessary because cracks were observed in some valves in these lots by the Department of Energy at Oak Ridge.

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION

As part of a licensing action, NMSS representatives toured new expansion facilities at the Westinghouse Fuel Fabrication Plant at Columbia, South Carolina, on August 12, 1987. No problems were identified and the amended license authorizing activities in the new additions was issued on August 14, 1987.

BABCOCK & WILCOX, NAVAL NUCLEAR FUEL DIVISION

On August 19, 1987, NMSS representatives met with Babcock & Wilcox representatives to discuss licensing actions concerning a recent reorganization, changes in ventilation and contamination control, and a new fabrication process at the Naval Fuel Fabrication Plant. A future site visit with EPA was also discussed in relation to closure of two ponds on the B&W Naval Fuel Fabrication Plant site and disposition of contaminated soils.

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STATUS OF HEARINGS

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Leland C. Rouse, Chief  
Fuel Cycle Safety Branch  
Division of Industrial and  
Medical Nuclear Safety

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APR 01 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Hugh L. Thompson, Jr., Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety

FROM: Leland C. Rouse, Acting Chief  
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

ADVANCED NUCLEAR FUEL CORPORATION

On March 17-18, 1987, M. Horn and E. Shum visited the Advanced Nuclear Fuel (ANF) facility in Richland, Washington. The purpose of the visit was site familiarization and to discuss additional information to conduct the environmental assessment related to ANF's license renewal and incinerator operation. Staff was given a complete tour of the facility while there.

SEQUOYAH FUELS UF<sub>6</sub> TO UF<sub>4</sub> FACILITY

On March 25, 1987, the Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety (FC) staff issued a license amendment to Sequoyah Fuels Corporation (SFC) authorizing the conversion of depleted uranium hexafluoride to depleted uranium tetrafluoride. The SFC amendment request transmitted by letter dated January 24, 1985, was the subject of an informal hearing held in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, the week of January 11, 1987. Judge J. H. Frye, III, the presiding officer, ruled that the amendment authorizing the conversion of UF<sub>6</sub> to UF<sub>4</sub> could be issued by staff subject to the following conditions:

1. Within one month following issuance of the license amendment, SFC is to ascertain whether all residences within a two mile radius of the facility have telephones and make provisions acceptable to Staff to notify any that do not;
2. SFC is to verify that all telephone numbers listed in its emergency response plan are accurate at each major exercise of the plan;
3. SFC is to maintain the level of staffing outlined at Tr. 556-61 unless a change is authorized by Staff, and SFC is to promptly report to Staff any significant changes in the duties as described on those transcript pages; and

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4. SFC's President and its General Manager each are to spent at least one full workday each month at the UF<sub>4</sub> production facility while it is in operation.

NMSS and Region IV staff have incorporated 11 additional conditions related to health and safety into the license amendment.

#### DOT SPONSORED TRANSRAM WORKSHOP

On March 24-25, 1987, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, DOT sponsored the second in a series of five regional workshops on the transportation of radioactive materials. Representatives from NRC, DOE, and FEMA also participated in the workshop. The workshop agenda was developed by State and Indian tribal representatives from the southwest region. The workshop was moderated by a state representative and focused on issues of particular concern in the region, including transport of defense waste to the WIPP facility, emergency response preparedness for radioactive material transport, training, and funding. NRC participated in the information exchange by providing a description of several activities, including the Modal Study, the West Valley Study, the update of NUREG-1620 on State Emergency Response Capability, and plans for an updated transportation radiological impact analysis. DOT plans tentatively call for the third workshop to be held in the mid-west in June 1987.

#### WEST CHICAGO

Representatives of NMSS/FC and OGC visited the Kerr-McGee site in West Chicago on March 31, 1987. The facility is continuing with the incinerator burns, cleanup, and volume reduction activities. A meeting was also held with Argonne personnel on March 30 - 31, 1987, to discuss the comments on the draft supplement to the FES. A publication dated of June 1987 now seems likely.

#### STATUS OF HEARINGS

1. Sequoyah Fuels, Gore, Oklahoma, Comprehensive Waste Disposal Plan

Sequoyah Fuels Corporation submitted the Comprehensive Radiological Solid Waste Management Plan as required by Source Material License No. SUB-1010, Condition 21 on November 13, 1986. There has not been a schedule set for this proceeding. Several parties have filed their complaints in the case and Sequoyah Fuels Corporation will be responding to these. The Staff informed the Judge in January that they would not be a party to the proceeding.

2. Kerr-McGee, West Chicago, Illinois, Kress Creek Decontamination

The ASLB decision dated June 19, 1986, dismissed the Order to Show Cause issued to Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation on March 2, 1984. On August 11, 1986, the staff filed an appeal with the ASLAB. The ASLAB ruled that they are deferring consideration of the staff's appeal at this time.

3. Kerr-McGee Rare Earths Facility, Decommissioning Plan, West Chicago, Illinois

This hearing is being held in abeyance pending the staff's completion of the supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement. The current schedule calls for issuance of the Draft Supplement in June 1987, and the Final in late 1987. The Board has indicated that they may resume a portion of the Hearing after the Draft is issued.

Original Signed By:

Leland C. Rouse, Acting Chief  
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle and  
Material Safety

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OCT 23 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: John G. Davis, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety

FROM: W. T. Crow, Acting Chief  
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

OTA REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

In July 1986, the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) issued a report on the transportation of hazardous materials including spent fuel. Among its conclusions, OTA stated that NRC performance standards yield cask design specifications that provide a level of public protection higher than any other hazardous material shipping activity. OTA suggested areas for improvement in overall safety could be found in quality assurance measures in cask manufacture, maintenance activities, driver training, and inspection. To increase the level of preparedness and public confidence in the emergency response area, OTA recommended that federal, state, and local governments develop a national strategy to improve training and funding for hazardous materials transportation enforcement and emergency response.

KERR-MCGEE-WEST CHICAGO

On October 20 and 21, 1986, representatives of the Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety and the Office of General Counsel, met with Argonne National Laboratory personnel to discuss progress on the draft supplement to the Final Environmental Statement for the West Chicago Rare Earth facility.

BABCOCK & WILCOX, COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR FUEL PLANT (CNFP) MEETING

Mr. R. A. Aito, Manager, Nuclear Fuel and Specialty Manufacturing, Babcock & Wilcox, CNFP, and members of his staff are scheduled to meet with Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch staff members on October 23, 1986, to discuss their planned reorganization.

NUCLEAR FUEL SERVICES, INC. (NFS)

The sludge samples collected from the Erwin municipal sewage treatment facility have been analyzed by Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). Preliminary results indicate that the U-234 concentrations range from 168 to 390 pCi/g and U-238 concentrations range from 1.5 to 4.1 pCi/g with uranium enrichment from 24 to 43 percent. Other isotopes such as Ra-226 and Th-230 will also be analyzed to determine background levels. The analysis from NFS also confirmed

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enriched uranium in the sludges. The staff is taking steps to require NFS to eliminate all sources of possible contamination from going to the sanitary sewer system with the exception of showers and commodes.

STATUS OF HEARINGS

1. Sequoyah Fuels, Gore, Oklahoma, UF<sub>6</sub> to UF<sub>4</sub>

By memorandum and order dated July 23, 1986, the conference of parties to the informal hearing scheduled for August 11 was delayed until a date yet to be determined. On October 3, 1986, the Commission concluded that a formal hearing was not required.

2. Sequoyah Fuels, Gore, Oklahoma, Comprehensive Waste Disposal Plan

The hearing is being held in abeyance pending submittal of a new plan as part of the revision to the decommissioning plan required by Source Material License No. SUB-1010, Condition No. 21.

3. Kerr-McGee, West Chicago, Illinois, Kress Creek Decontamination

The ASLB decision dated June 19, 1986, dismissed the Order to Show Cause issued to Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation on March 2, 1984. On August 11 1986, the staff filed an appeal with the ASLAB.

4. Kerr-McGee Rare Earths Facility, Decommissioning Plan, West Chicago, Illinois

This hearing is being held in abeyance pending the staff's completion of the supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement. The current schedule calls for issuance of the Draft Supplement on or about December 1, 1986, and the Final by July 1, 1987. The Board has indicated that they may resume a portion of the Hearing after the Draft is issued.

Original signed by:  
W. T. Crow

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

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MAR 13 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: John G. Davis, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety

FROM: W. T. Crow, Acting Chief  
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

Argonne

Representatives of NMSS and ELD met with Argonne personnel at Argonne on March 11, 1986, to discuss progress on the Supplement to the FES for the West Chicago Rare Earths Facility. A brief trip to the West Chicago site was made.

Update of Environmental Impacts of Transportation of Radioactive Materials

The 1977 "FES on Transportation of Radioactive Material by Air and Other Modes" (NUREG-0170) contains information on transportation impacts that is becoming dated. A contractor study to incorporate new information on the shipments of spent fuel and high-level radioactive waste to the repositories provided under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) is being planned. Because the results of the study will be used in the NRC's licensing reviews for DOE's proposed MRS facility and high-level waste repository, the ELD staff has advised that the work of developing new information for the study must be done by a contractor who is not involved in work under the DOE NWPA program. This potential conflict of interest problem is considered to rule out the possibility of having the work done at one of the DOE National Laboratories or at one of the major nuclear service contractors who is also working for DOE under NWPA, or for a nuclear utility who will be shipping radioactive material. Considering these limitations, the staff is investigating the feasibility of having the work done at the Federally Funded Research and Development Center which NMSS is proposing to establish for reasons which include the avoidance of conflict of interest problems with DOE programs.

Japanese

On Tuesday, March 11, 1986, a Japanese delegation, with representatives from various organizations within their Science and Technology Agency, met with NRC staff to discuss exemption rules for disposal of small quantities of radioactive waste. The NRC representatives were Dr. L. Roche, FCMS/NMSS, Mr. Stan Neuder and Mrs. Kitty Dragonette, WM/NMSS, Dr. Robert Alexander, RES, and Mr. Robert Senseney, IP. The Japanese representatives were: Mr. Shigern Kumazawa,

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MAR 13 1986

Principal Scientist, Radiation Dosimetry Division, Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI); Mr. Tsutomu Ohhata, Deputy Manager, Radiation Control Division, JAERI; Mr. Shohei Kato, Researcher, Radiation Control Division, JAERI; Mr. Izumi Kurihara, Assistant Manager, Nuclear Safety Research Associations; Mr. Hideaki Yamamoto, Technological Staff, Science and Technology Agency of Japan.

Original Signed By:

W. T. Crow

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

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MAY 2 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: John G. Davis, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety

FROM: W. T. Crow, Acting Chief  
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

KERR-MCGEE, WEST CHICAGO

On April 24, 1985 members of the NMSS and ELD staffs visited Argonne National Laboratory to discuss the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement concerning Kerr-McGee, West Chicago. A tour of the Kerr-McGee, West Chicago facility was also made.

KERR-MCGEE, WEST CHICAGO

On April 30, 1985 a call was received from Mayor Rennels of West Chicago. Mayor Rennels wished to know how long it would take to process an amendment application from Kerr-McGee to move the contaminated residues from Reed-Kepler Park and the Sanitary Waste Treatment Facility to the Kerr-McGee site. The Mayor was informed that since the quantity of material at the Sanitary Waste Treatment Facility was small action might be completed in a short time. However, application to move the material from Reed-Kepler Park may take a lot longer because of the large volume of material involved. In either case, the Mayor was assured that any request involving the movement of material in the West Chicago area would receive top priority by the Fuel Cycle staff.

Original signed by  
W. T. Crow

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

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