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Dr. Philip F. Gustafson, Director  
Division of Environmental  
Impact Studies  
Argonne National Laboratory  
9700 South Cass Avenue  
Argonne, Illinois 60439

Dear Phil:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm a telephone conversation we had on Monday, August 15, 1977, regarding future Argonne actions on Kerr-McGee West Chicago plant site and the Reed Keppler Park.

Firstly, it was agreed that the existing Argonne report which analyzes subsurface environmental conditions at the Kerr-McGee plant site should be modified to include an analysis of the above-ground conditions. NRC staff has reviewed the report on the subsurface conditions and considers it a very good technical product.

Secondly, an analysis similar to that done for the Kerr-McGee plant site will be put together for the Reed Keppler Park. It is expected that some of the information in the Kerr-McGee plant site report would be useful in preparing the Reed Keppler Park report.

Thirdly, Argonne staff will contact the State EPA and make sure that their people are fully informed of the content of the technical reports and are satisfied. This contact is necessary since State EPA people raised most of the questions regarding chemical releases, and the State EPA people were inadvertently not invited to the recent meeting among state, federal, and town officials. It is important that the State EPA feel as if they are participating in this so that we do not unnecessarily create hard feelings.

Fourthly, it was agreed that regardless of the alternatives for dealing with the Kerr-McGee plant site which are currently being developed by Kerr-McGee, an environmental impact statement or very detailed appraisal will be required. Argonne should begin immediately to prepare such a document. By starting now, we should be able to get a great deal of the work done so that finishing the appraisal or impact statement when the Kerr-McGee alternatives are received would be a simple proposition and result in minimum time loss. It was agreed that for completeness sake, the appraisal should include the entire problem including the plant site, the park site, the sewage treatment plant, and any other areas identified in the upcoming ARMS fly-over.

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Dr. Philip F. Gustafson

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The Argonne staff should put together a program plan and schedule for accomplishing this work such that we can review it during the next routine work review which we should try to have in the next week or two.

Sincerely,

*JB*

John B. Martin, Assistant Director  
Fuel Cycle Safety and Licensing  
Division of Fuel Cycle and  
Material Safety

8/17/77

OFFICE	FCSL					
SURNAME	JB Martin					
DATE	8/17/77					





# Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

217/782-6760

October 21, 1977

P. F. Gustafson, Director  
Division of Environmental Impact Studies  
Argonne National Laboratory  
9700 South Cass Avenue  
Argonne, Illinois 60439

RECEIVED  
OCT 24 1977

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STUDIES

Dear Mr. Gustafson:

This is in response to your recent letter which requested Agency comments on your Division's "Environmental Assessment - related to - Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation - West Chicago: Characterization of Geohydrology and Subsurface Chemistry".

As you know, this Agency is preempted by law from any authority or responsibility relative to radioactive wastes. However, in the Kerr-McGee waste matter, the chemical waste pollution is, indeed, Agency concern and responsibility.

The summary and conclusions reached in your above mentioned report on pages 66 and 67 verify the Agency's worst fears, i.e:

"2. In general, site subsurface materials are water-saturated and permeable."

"5. There is a hydraulic connection between the site subsurface water table and the Silurian dolomite aquifer."

"6. Site-associated chemical elements, radioactive and non-radioactive, are present in the water table." ..

"8. Non-radioactive site-associated substances (sulfate, chloride, total dissolved solids) are currently present in the dolomite aquifer, and represent sources of pollution."

"10. A storm sewer running parallel to the western boundary of the site is transporting site-associated pollutants to Kress Creek during periods of surface runoff."

Your excellent report describes a defective hazardous waste storage/disposal site that has polluted ground and surface waters of the State in the past, at the present time and will continue to do so in the future, baring quick, effective remedial action by those charged with the responsibility. (NRC, IDPH, Kerr-McGee and the Agency)

2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706

G/S

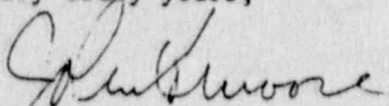
Kerr-McGee

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Because the Kerr-McGee waste has the dubious distinction of being able to pollute the environment with both radioactive and chemical pollutants, the Agency feels it must be an integral part of the problem solving deliberations and actively participate in the "final solution" of this vexing problem.

Thank you for sending a copy of your report. You may be assured of our support and assistance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John S. Moore".

John S. Moore, Manager  
Division of Land/Noise Pollution Control

JSM:TEC:mr/1251/2-3

cc: Mike Mauzy