

125 West Hazel
West Chicago, IL 60185
April 1990

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY
DOCKETING & SERVICE
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Secretary of the Commission
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Secretary to the Commission:

I am sure that by now you know where West Chicago, Illinois is and why it has recently become known to the NRC. I am sure you also know that the Fox-MoE company wants to bury a large amount of thorium tailings within said community seemingly without regard to local residents' well-being and/or feelings. I am a resident of West Chicago and that is why I am writing this to you.

The proposed burial site is in the midst of a residential area and in very close proximity to 5 schools. My 2 children attend 2 of those schools and I work at a 3rd. My home is within 2 blocks of the proposed dump site. Obviously I have a very strong interest in how my family and I along with a large share of this community's population would be impacted by this proposed burial if it were to ultimately occur.

The location of a possible dump in the middle of a residential area is not my only concern. I also am concerned about the clay capsule method of burial. I am sure this is great in theory but since this is a new method of disposal, shouldn't it first be tried somewhere where flaws in the design and/or construction could not effect so many people?

In keeping with the approach of Earth Day, I am dis-

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turbed about the impact on our environment. If the seals were to leak for any reason, our air and water are only here in West Chicago but wherever that air and water goes could also have potentially serious contamination.

Also it ~~seems~~ ^{appears} that money has been allowed to be the deciding factor about whether Kerr-McGee would be given permission for on-site burial. Your own guidelines do not allow that. I do not think anyone would argue with you that a clean-up and off-site burial would be very expensive but I think the health and well-being of a large number of people should be the deciding factor not the dollar amount.

I therefore urge you to award control of this radioactive material to the state of Illinois. I truly feel that its representatives and experts ultimately will be able to secure a safe and appropriate solution to what is a big and serious problem. Unfortunately problems of this nature are no longer uncommon or isolated. We, as a nation, have got to find solutions to waste disposal problems that are not going to endanger our citizens or our environment. I feel the NRC needs to reconsider its decision to give Kerr-McGee a license for on-site burial because otherwise they would only be helping to perpetuate these kinds of problems. The State of Illinois has pledged to help with this particular disposal problem - please give them the authority to do so. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Linda R. Hawryszewski
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West Chicago, Ill. 6018