



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

October 15, 1990

DOCKET NO: 40-2061
LICENSE NO. STA-583
APPLICANT: Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (Kerr-McGee)
West Chicago, Illinois
SUBJECT: SAFETY EVALUATION REPORT FOR LICENSE AMENDMENT REQUEST
DATED JULY 18, 1990

Background:

Thorium-contaminated soils and materials have been identified at various offsite locations in DuPage County, near the City of West Chicago. These contaminated deposits are relatively small in area, but are a source of radiation exposure and concern to nearby residents.

By letter dated July 18, 1990, Kerr-McGee, the licensee, requested that their license be amended to authorize receipt, storage, and disposal of the thorium-contaminated soil onto the West Chicago Rare Earths Facility site. Approximately 40 sites have been identified for remediation. Kerr-McGee plans to excavate contaminated areas reading 35 uR/hr or higher to background levels (approximately 15 uR/hr). Excavated locations will be refilled with clean soils to pre-existing property contours. An amendment to the Rare Earths Facility Materials License is required to permit Kerr-McGee to receive and store the contaminated material on the site.

In the period June 1987 to April 1990, staff regarded the off-site contamination (excluding that in Kress Creek and the West Branch of the DuPage River) as being under the jurisdiction of the State. On April 27, 1990, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Court issued an opinion to the effect that the off-site material, being very much like the on-site material and having come from the facility, should be considered 11.e(2) byproduct material (mill tailings) and managed accordingly.

Discussion:

The clean-up program entitled, "Off-site Thorium Removal Program Unincorporated Residential Neighborhoods West Chicago," attachment to the July 18, 1990 license amendment request, would be performed using procedures consistent with those used in an earlier program in which thorium contamination was removed from residential and commercial properties within the City of West Chicago. Permission to receive and store the contaminated material from small scattered sites in the City of West Chicago and the West Chicago Sanitary Treatment Plant was authorized in License Amendment No. 10 and No. 11, dated July 10, 1984, and May 13, 1986, respectively.

9010180235 901015
PDR AD0CK 04002061
C FDC

October 15, 1990

Staff has estimated, based on experience with the earlier program, that the quantity of off-site thorium-contaminated soil to be moved onto the Rare Earths Facility site, exclusive of that in Reed-Keller Park and at the Sanitary Treatment Plant, would be roughly 20,000 cubic meters. This is a small increment to the 376,400 cubic meters which the licensee is currently authorized to dispose, and would not significantly alter the evaluation of environmental impacts and costs presented in the SFES. Indeed, the quantity is appreciably less than the 48,600 cubic meters which is included as a contingency amount in the 376,400 cubic meters.

Project management of the off-site clean-up program will be under the direction of Kerr-McGee facility management and will include a health physicist. Kerr-McGee will provide the survey team and excavation team consisting of trained personnel.

The removal program will exclude soils adjacent to and within waterways and below the existing water table. Off-site thorium-contaminated material will be stockpiled separately from other materials onsite and documentation will be maintained showing the origin of the excavated material, quantities received, date of receipt, and level of radiation.

Oral permission from property owners to survey a property will be obtained by Kerr-McGee. The survey will be conducted by a trained Kerr-McGee survey team equipped with appropriate gamma field survey instruments. Any area on a property determined to have an external gamma radiation level that exceeds 35 uR/hr at one meter above the surface will be marked for removal subject to permission of the property owner. Areas identified as exceeding the removal criterion will be noted on sketches or maps of the property.

Kerr-McGee will, in a careful and expeditious manner, remove identified thorium-contaminated materials using hand equipment and/or small machinery as appropriate to minimize property disturbances. Excavation on a property will be started only after: (1) Kerr-McGee has obtained the property owner's written permission, (2) the existing physical conditions have been documented with photographs, and (3) the appropriate county excavation/fill permit authorizations have been applied for and received.

Kerr-McGee will conduct the excavation of the thorium-contaminated materials in accordance with procedures contained in (1) the "Kerr-McGee West Chicago Facility Health Physics Manual," previously approved in License Amendment No. 7, dated March 22, 1983, and (2) "Off-site Thorium Removal Program, Unincorporated Residential Neighborhoods, West Chicago, IL," August 23, 1989. Kerr-McGee will place the excavated thorium-contaminated material in appropriate containers and promptly transport the material to the Kerr-McGee West Chicago facility for management in accordance with U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission license conditions. Appropriate control measures will be implemented at the excavation and loading areas to ensure thorium materials are not spread by the transport operation. To ensure the safe transport of the thorium-contaminated material, the following condition is proposed:

October 15, 1990

*During transport of the thorium-contaminated material removed from offsite locations in DuPage County, the licensee shall implement control measures to prevent dust dispersion and spillage from the transport vehicles.

Kerr-McGee will resurvey the area excavated using gamma survey instrumentation to assure that the thorium-contaminated material has been removed to the extent practicable. If an area marked for removal includes a structure, Kerr-McGee and the property owner will consult and agree on a course of action in consideration of the physical conditions and potential for exposure to the material.

The removal of the thorium-contaminated material should not impose any problems during storage as long as the material is treated to prevent dusting; therefore, the following condition is recommended:

*Thorium-contaminated material from offsite locations which is stored onsite shall be covered or treated to prevent dusting.

Environmental Effects:

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.31, an Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the requested license amendment. This Assessment supports a Finding of No Significant Impact.

Conclusion:

In consideration of the April 27, 1990, Opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Court, that the off-site material should be considered 11.e(2) byproduct material and managed accordingly, and in consideration of the public health and safety advantages to be gained by removing the thorium-contaminated soil from the immediate vicinity of people's residences and workplaces, staff recommends that Kerr-McGee's license be amended to authorize the licensee to proceed with the decontamination of off-site residential and commercial locations in DuPage County, Illinois, and receive and store the waste material on the Rare Earths Facility site and dispose of it with the 11.e(2) byproduct material which is presently on the site, in accordance with the licensee's application dated July 18, 1990, and with its attachment, the "Off-Site Thorium Removal Program, Unincorporated Residential Neighborhoods, West Chicago, IL," August 23, 1989. Issuance of the amendment is recommended subject to the following conditions:

1. During transport of the thorium-contaminated material removed from offsite locations in DuPage County, the licensee shall implement control measures to prevent dust dispersion and spillage from the transport vehicles.

October 15, 1990

- 2. Thorium-contaminated material from offsite locations which is stored onsite shall be covered or treated to prevent dusting.

The proposed amendment was discussed with Mr. Donald Sreniawski, Region III, who had no objections.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Keith K. McDaniel, Project Manager
 Advanced Fuel and Special
 Facilities Section
 Fuel Cycle Safety Branch
 Division of Industrial and
 Medical Nuclear Safety
 Office of Nuclear Material Safety
 and Safeguards

Approved by:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Jerry J. Swift, Section Leader
 Advanced Fuel and Special
 Facilities Section

KM/KM SER

*see previous concurrence

OFC	: IMAF	: IMAF	: IMAF	: OGC	: IMSB	:
NAME	: KMcDaniel	: ls:FBrown	: JSwift	: PJehle	: CHaughney	:
DATE	: 10/3/90	: 10/03/90	: 10/02/90	: 10/02/90	: 10/10/90	:

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Location

Cape Crozier, Arrival Heights, and Linnaeus Terrace Sites of Special Scientific Interest—Antarctica.

Dates

December 1990–January 1991.

Charles Myers,

Permit Office.

[FR Doc. 90-24095 Filed 10-11-90; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 50-261]

Carolina Power & Light Co., H.B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2 Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an exemption from the requirements of appendix R to 10 CFR part 50 to Carolina Power & Light Company (the licensee) for the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant, Unit No. 2, located in Darlington County, South Carolina.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The exemption would revise the combustible loading value identified for the component cooling water (CCW) pump room.

The exemption is responsive to the licensee's application for exemption dated July 30, 1990, as supplemented by letter August 16, 1990.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption is needed because the existing cable trays cannot accommodate the additional fire loading from installation of new cables and routing of the new cables in dedicated conduits would not be practical. The features described in the licensee's request regarding the existing fire protection at their plant for these items are the most practical method for meeting the intent of appendix R and literal compliance would not significantly enhance the fire protection capability.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption will provide a degree of fire protection that is equivalent to that required by appendix R for other areas of the plant so there is no increase in the risk of fires at this facility. Consequently, the probability of fires has not been increased, and the

post-accident radiological releases will not be greater than previously determined nor does the proposed exemption otherwise affect radiological plant effluents. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with this proposed exemption.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed exemption involves features located entirely within the restricted area as defined in 10 CFR part 20. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes that there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action involves no use of resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement Related to the Operation of H. B. Robinson Nuclear Steam-Electric Plant, Unit 2, dated April 1975.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact

The Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption.

Based upon the foregoing environmental assessment, we conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

For further details with respect to this action see the application for the exemption dated July 30, 1990, as supplemented by letter dated August 16, 1990, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document, 2120 L Street, NW., the Gelman Building, Washington DC, and at the Hartsville Memorial Library, Home and Fifth Avenue, Hartsville, South Carolina 29550.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland this 9th day of October, 1990.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,
Elinor G. Adamec,

Director, Project Directorate II-1, Division of Reactor Projects I/II, Officer of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 90-24097 Filed 10-11-90; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

[Docket No. 40-2081]

Environmental Assessment, Findings of No Significant Impact, and Opportunity for Hearing Related to Amendment of Materials License No. STA-583; Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp., West Chicago, IL

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuing an amendment of Materials License No. STA-583, held by Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (Kerr-McGee), to authorize the receipt and storage at the Kerr-McGee Facility in West Chicago, Illinois, of thorium-contaminated materials which are being removed from off-site residential and commercial locations in DuPage County, Illinois.

Summary of Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

By letter dated July 16, 1990, Kerr-McGee, the licensee, requested authorization to receive, store, and dispose of thorium-contaminated soils currently located in off-site residential and commercial locations in DuPage County.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The areas of thorium-contaminated soil are relatively small in area, but are a source of radiation exposure and concern to the nearby residents. In recognition of this situation, Kerr-McGee has undertaken a program to remove these deposits and store them on the Kerr-McGee Rare Earths Facility. An amendment to Kerr-McGee's Material License STA-583 is required to permit Kerr-McGee to receive and store the thorium-contaminated material onsite.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

Currently, the contaminated soils are located at approximately 40 different locations offsite. Removal of the soils would result in the consolidation of material, thereby improving control.

Kerr-McGee will excavate the thorium-contaminated material in accordance with approved procedures. Water sprays and/or dust control measures will be used as needed to control airborne particulate emissions during excavation, transportation, loading/unloading, and storage activities. Air samples will be collected during all work activities to determine the airborne particulate concentrations in work areas. Kerr-McGee's existing environmental monitoring program will be continued to confirm that the

material is not dispersing offsite once stored.

The disposal site at the Kerr-McGee Facility is a restricted area so that unauthorized people will not be able to gain access to the contaminated material. The thorium-contaminated material will be stored separately from other materials onsite, and documentation will be maintained showing the origin of the excavated material, quantities received, date of receipt, and level of radiation.

Transportation accidents could result in the spillage of the thorium-contaminated soils. However, spilled soils can be readily cleaned up, and the short-term effect of dust dispersion at an accident site would be insignificant.

Previous permission to receive and store thorium-contaminated material from small scattered sites in the City of West Chicago and the West Chicago Sanitary Treatment Plant was authorized in License Amendments No. 10 and No. 11, dated July 10, 1984, and May 13, 1988, respectively. Estimates based on experience with the earlier clean-up programs indicate quantities of off-site contaminated soils, exclusive of that in Reed-Keppler Park and at the Sanitary Treatment Plant, would be roughly 20,000 cubic meters. This is a small increment to the 378,400 cubic meters which the licensee is currently authorized to dispose, and would not significantly alter the evaluation of the environmental impacts and costs presented in the April 1989 Supplement to the Final Environmental Statement related to the decommissioning of the Rare Earths Facility, West Chicago, Illinois. Indeed, the quantity is appreciably less than the 48,800 cubic meters which is included as a contingency amount in the 378,400 cubic meters.

Conclusion

The staff believes that receipt and storage of the thorium-contaminated material can be accomplished in an environmentally safe manner and that the operation is expected to have an insignificant environmental impact. Therefore, the staff concludes there will be no significant impacts associated with the proposed action. Consequently, consolidating the various deposits of off-site thorium-contaminated soils onto a restricted site will provide greater protection to the public.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

One alternative to the proposal is to leave the thorium-contaminated material where it is now. Due to the unrestricted areas in which the material currently is located and the radiation

exposure and concern to the nearby residents, this alternative is not favored.

Another alternative would be to move the thorium-contaminated material to another location. Any location to which the material is ultimately moved will have to be restricted to control access to the material. Measures would also have to be taken to prevent the spread of contaminated material. Any location chosen would have to be dedicated to the purpose and would become unavailable for other activities. Because the thorium-contaminated material originated from the Rare Earths Facility and the disposal site is already restricted, storage at the Kerr-McGee West Chicago Facility would appear to be the best solution.

Agencies and Persons Contacted

The NRC staff held informal discussions with State of Illinois and City of West Chicago agencies.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the foregoing Environmental Assessment, the Commission has determined not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and has determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate.

Opportunity for a Hearing

Any person whose interests may be affected by the issuance of this amendment may file a request for a hearing. Any request for hearing must be filed with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555, within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the Federal Register; be served on the NRC staff (Executive Director for Operations, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852); on the licensee Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation, ATTN: Mr. John Stauter, Kerr-McGee Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125; and must comply with the requirements for requesting a hearing set forth in NRC regulation, 10 CFR part 2, subpart L, "Informal Hearing Procedures for Adjudications in Materials Licensing Proceedings." These requirements, which the requester must describe in detail, are:

1. The interest of the requestor in the proceeding;
2. How that interest may be affected by the results of the proceeding, including the reasons why the requestor should be permitted a hearing;
3. The requestor's areas of concern about the licensing activity that is the subject matter of the proceeding; and
4. The circumstances establishing that the requests of hearing is timely, that is,

filed within 30 days of the date of this notice.

In addressing how the requestor's interest may be affected by the proceeding, the request should describe the nature of the requestor's right under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, to be made a party to the proceeding; the nature and extent of the requestor's property, financial, or other (i.e., health, safety) interest in the proceeding; and the possible effects of any order that may be entered in the proceeding upon the requestor's interest.

The July 18, 1990, application, and the Commission's Finding of No Significant Impact and the Environmental Assessment are available for public inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street NW, Washington, DC 20555 and the Local Public Document Room at the West Chicago Public Library, 325 E. Washington Street, West Chicago, Illinois 60185.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 4th day of October 1990.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission,

Charles J. Hughes,

Chief, Fuel Cycle Safety Branch, Division of Industrial and Medical Nuclear Safety, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

[FR Doc. 80-36086 Filed 10-11-90; 8:40 am]
BILLING CODE 7530-01-0

(Docket Nos. 50-208, 50-381 and 50-822)

Southern California Edison Co. et al.; San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to Provisional Operating License No. DPR-13, Facility Operating License No. NPF-10 and Facility Operating License No. NPF-15 issued to Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, the City of Riverside, California and the City of Anaheim, California (the licensees), for operation of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, Unit Nos. 1, 2 and 3, located in San Diego County, California.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of Proposed Action

The proposed amendments would reflect changes in the ownership of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station which will result from the merger of Southern California Edison Company and San Diego Gas and Electric