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KERR-McGEE CORPORATION

POST OFFICE BOX 89 • CUSHING, OKLAHOMA 74023

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING DIVISION

April 20, 1992

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Fenton R. Rood
Solid Waste Management Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health
1000 N.E. 10th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152

Dear Mr. Rood:

Pursuant to Section IX.2 of the Consent Order entered in State of Oklahoma v. Kerr-McGee Corporation, No. C-90-91-H, Kerr-McGee Corporation hereby submits the attached written progress report for the month of March, 1992.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (405) 270-2637 (OKC) or (918) 225-7753 (Cushing).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeff Ostmeyer".

Jeff Ostmeyer
Site Coordinator
Kerr-McGee Technology Division

cc:

Bill Fisher - U.S. NRC, Arlington, Texas
William M. Kemp - Radiation Protection Service
David N. Fauver - U.S. NRC, Washington, D.C.
Kerr-McGee Citizens' Oversight Committee

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RADIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION AND REMEDIATION

Decontamination of the floor, ceiling, and beams of the uranium process building is complete, with the exception of some of the seams in the floor.

Final survey of the uranium production area ceilings and beams was completed in March, 1992. Several spots on beams require additional decontamination. Survey of floors and walls was postponed since an NRC "inspection" on March 24 and 25, 1992.

Radioactive contamination has been removed from Skull Creek, except for one small area east of the railroad bridge. Excavation of this area will commence in April, 1992.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is still reviewing the license application submitted on October 17, 1991. NRC will notify Kerr-McGee of deficiencies in the license application and allow time for additional material to be submitted before issuing a license.

A health physics program is being developed for submission to the NRC. The health physics program will consist of approved health physics procedures pertaining to radiation safety, instrumentation, and operating procedures.

Soil piles have been bored and sampled every 0.3 meter vertically on a three meter horizontal grid. Sorting of the piles will be performed when samples are analyzed. Analysis is delayed while gamma spectrum counter is being calibrated.

NON-RADIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION

The pH of Skull Creek at the property line has risen to about 8 on a regular basis since water seepage into the old Skull Creek channel was dammed off. This alleviated the precipitation and pH problems in Skull Creek. Stover & Associates, of Stillwater, OK, sampled along Skull Creek under the current conditions and is preparing a final report describing past events. A copy of the report will be sent to OSDH when it is available.

Surface water that accumulated on the waste pits was transferred to holding ponds and neutralized. No water was discharged from the holding ponds in March.

Oil entering Skull Creek between pit 5 and the railroad bridge is being contained with absorbent booms. Absorbent pads are being used to pick up the oil for storage in drums. Samples were collected and submitted for laboratory analysis.

Progress on the remedial investigation (RI) and risk assessment (RA) projects continues. Data has been transferred to Burns & McDonnell (B&McD). Aquifer tests on wells completed in the Vanoss shale and unconsolidated unconfined deposits were run by B&McD. The RI and RA reports are scheduled to be submitted to the OSDH by May 29, 1992.

Evaluation of applicable technologies for waste pit remediation continues. This information will be used to prepare a feasibility study (FS) report.

A french drain was installed in the old Skull Creek channel to convey acid seepage from pit 5 to the holding pond for neutralization. Water samples taken from the french drain were submitted for analysis. Results of this sampling will be used to submit a modified NPDES permit application to the ORWB. The ORWB has been notified of the present situation.

The west bank of the new Skull Creek channel was covered with top soil and seeded with a mixture of annual and perennial vegetation.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR APRIL, 1992

1. Complete excavation of contaminated soil east of railroad bridge when water levels permit. Option 2 material will be stockpiled with other Option 2 creek sediment. Option 3 material will be drummed for shipment to Barnwell, South Carolina.
2. Survey and clean docks on both sides of uranium process building.
3. Survey and sample under uranium process building.
4. Begin analysis of samples from soil piles.
5. Submit a proposal for an oil interceptor trench to the State.
6. Prepare cleanup proposal for the area north of Deep Rock Road.
7. Attempt to obtain permission from property owners to fence the entire site.
8. Continue to recover oil from Skull Creek before it leaves the site.
9. Continue preparation of health physics program.
10. NRC visit scheduled for April 21, 1992.