

Docket No. 70-3073
License No. SNM-1999

September 23, 1993

Note To File: Kerr-McGee Cushing Site

From: David N. Fauver *DNF*

Subject: Interview with Joanna Allen, GAO.

I was interviewed today by Joanna Allen, GAO, on the subject of the Kerr-McGee Cushing site as a part of the GAO audit of the Site Decommissioning Management Plan. My answers to the specific questions listed in the July 26, 1993, letter from Anthony A. Krukowski, GAO, to John H. Austin are enclosed.

Ms. Allen touched upon several issues that were not specifically covered by the questions including: 1) personal ideas on the solution to the thorium issue, 2) the State of Oklahoma's position on Kerr-McGee's proposal to bury the material onsite, and 3) mixed waste. Regarding the thorium issue, I suggested that some sort of solution other than release for unrestricted use may be appropriate for the thorium contaminated sites. I told her that the State of Oklahoma did not appear to have major concerns over the proposed onsite burial and that the site does not pose mixed waste problems.

cc: J. Austin
T. Johnson

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ANSWERS TO GAO QUESTIONS ON KERR-McGEE CUSHING SITE
(questions on following page)

1. Large quantities of contaminated material and license previously terminated by NRC.
2. 1966.
3. The existence of residual radioactive material on the site has always been known. The concentrations and quantities were not known until a May 1991 characterization report was issued by Kerr-McGee.
4. The site poses minimal short term health and safety risk. Exposure rates as high as 500 mR/hr have been measured at limited areas of the site. The average exposure rate is low.
5.
 - a. essentially complete
 - b. Limited remediation activities were approved in the NRC license that was issued to ensure activities on the site are performed in accordance with NRC regulations in late 1992.
 - c. limited remediation activities are being conducted
 - d. Decommissioning plan is required by license condition to be submitted by 2/1/94.
 - e. no
 - f. no
6. \$ 2.1 million, prepared by Kerr-McGee in conjunction with the license application.
7. Kerr-McGee has a surety bond in place for the \$ 2.1 million in accordance with the financial assurance requirements of the decommissioning rule.
8. The site was not licensed prior to April 1993 and therefor was not routinely inspected. NRC staff made several investigative visits to the site shortly before and after the site was placed on the SDMP.
9. no
10. There are currently no delays in site decommissioning.
11. N/A
12. No obvious ways to expedite cleanup.