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## By Hand-Delivery

Mr. Donald B. Mausshardt
Deputy Director
Office of Nuclear Material
Safety and Safeguards
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
7915 Eastern Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation (West Chicago Rare Earths Facility), Docket No. 40-2061, License Amendment Nos. 5 and 6

Dear Mr. Mausshardt:

We have received a copy of Mr. Spelman's letter of December 16, 1982 (copy enclosed), requesting an extension of 30 days within which to file West Chicago's factual statement of relevant issues in the above-referenced proceeding. While Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation ("Kerr-McGee") does not oppose granting West Chicago a reasonable extension of time within which to make its filing, Kerr-McGee is concerned that this "informal hearing" not be unduly delayed. Since West Chicago already has had the documentary material which forms the basis of its request for 20 days, we believe an extension of time for some shorter period might be sufficient to permit West Chicago the time it needs to carefully review the documentary material.

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Mr. Donald B. Mausshardt December 21, 1982 Page Two

The filings due of December 22 were to be simultaneous, and Kerr-McGee still believes this procedure to be appropriate. Therefore, if West Chicago is granted any additional time, Kerr-McGee requests that it too be provided a similar extension, and that both West Chicago and Kerr-McGee be notified by telephone of the new date. We will be prepared to submit our filing on any date you set.

Despite the delay resulting from West Chicago's request, it is Kerr-McGee's hope that you would be in a position to issue your decision in this matter on the schedule initially discussed at the November 17 meeting -- i.e., late January or early February, 1983.

Sincerely yours,

hn B. Rhinelander