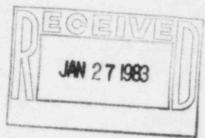


ORION CHEMICAL COMPANY

FINE REAGENT CHEMICALS



Jan. 25, 1983

Dear Sirs:

Payment of this \$500.00 fine does not represent admission of irresponsible conduct and lack of concern for health safety. It rather represents a lack of time and means to fight the government in court, about who did the right and responsible thing at the time of conflict between the NRC regulations of 15 lbs/150 lbs per year, v.s. the continued employment of 350 people in the manufacture and fabrication of the defense weapon.

I respect the NRC and the need for regulation of health hazards, but I also maintain the safety of our product (insolubility in waterhuman systems, low specific activity of depleted uranium, etc.) and deny the belief that we lack respect for peoples health, responsible waste disposal, etc. Because of inflammatory words (see newspaper clipping enclosed) used by Utah public officials, and the news media hype for sensationalism, this incident was blown out of proportion, and when I applied for a business license, I ran into a buzz saw of criticism from lot of misinformed people, thinking Orion Chemical Co. mas some sort of nuclear monster and health hazard menace to society. upon us. How does a one man company have a chance when no one regulates the regulators, watching to see if they treat people fairly (showing the little guy around to satisfy authoritative egos), or no one cheaks the integrity of the news media, knowing they almost have a monopoly or public opinion molding (criticism and sensationalism). Now that this fine will be made public knowledge, the newspapers will publish it, and people will call me up asking how I got into trouble again; what am I doing that they should know about; and it will star all over again. I am glad this is all over with. I guarantee that Grion Chemical will never be subject to criticism again.

John P Janson

John F. Larsen Orion Chemical Company P.S. We have now invested thousands of dollars in two fume hoods, a consultant, painting, new floors, monitoring devices, clothing, cleaning, etc.

8303180301 830125 NMS LIC30

PDR

P.O. BOX 7475 PROVO UTAH 84602 AREA CODE (801) 375-9033 orage-44-64

METALS INORGANIC ORGANOMETALLIC

Notables

P.S. Earl Warren was called up the next day by a talk show in New York wanting to know how Orion Chem. Co. got hold of U235, assuming that a fissionable bomb was being made at the "plant".



The Net Effect of this article was to ... Sell alot of FEAR to the public Thus newspapers are sold.

MANNE CHANNER OF

Orion Chemical is shut down for spilling radioactive material

OPEM - A uranium processing plant in Orem has been ordered shut down because it allegedly dumped radioactive material near the laboratory and failed to protect its young

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission temporarily suspended the license of Orion Chemical Co. to receive and handle radioactive material and gave the company 25 days to file a written answer to show cause why the license should not be permanently revoked.

"It's atrocious," said Darrell Warren, director of radiation control for the state. He said Orion "had radioactive materials on floors and countertops," and had indiscriminately disposed of material outside the

The NRC's order accuses Orion of refusing to make certain records available to the agency, contaminating areas outside the firm's premises, possessing more radioactive material than its license permits and keeping

John P. Larsen, Orion's owner, said the NRC has blown the problem out of proportion.

"I'm not a public health hazard," Larsen said. "They are making a mountain out of a mole hill. I don't think they really understand what we're doing."

Orion's headquarters at 958 N. Industrial Park Road was locked up Thursday, and nearby workers said there had not been anyone working at the plant this week. The company's telephone has been disconnected.

Warren said Orem firefighters noticed high

IS THIS FAIR AND ACCURATE? OR MAYBE INFLAMMATORY?

WAS IT AN ATROCITY?

City

"It's atrocious," says Darrell Wa ren, director of radiation contifor Utah. He said Orion "he radioactive materials on floors are countertops"

DEPLETED UNISPECTATE

WE USUALLY WERE CHANED UP

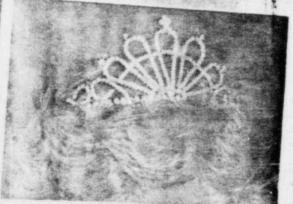
TRUTH, AT THE TIME OF INSPECTA

dust levels and a noxious odor during a rout

inspection of the plant August 17

inspection of the plant Aug. 17 and the notified the state and the NRC. Warren sa they inspected the plant Aug. 20 and for radiation levels in the plant to be significant higher than background levels.

He said the seven employees - most college students - weren't wearing adequaprotective clothing and lacked prope training. He said the main health hazar would be from inhaling or ingesting the



SAID TO MR. KANE I WOULD HAVE THE RECORDS IN THE MORNING.

INACCURATE See ORION on B-2 THEY WERE WORKING / DAY NOT REGULARLY EMPLOYED.

-3:15 p.m., David Conon taouta gate stage).

—3:30 p.m., Disney's World on Ice (Salt Palace).
Music Express (bandstand), Judgan Farm Bureau
Cookou! King Contest (center of grounds).

—4 p.m., Log rolling (south gate area). Junior Livestock sale exhibitor and buyers dinner.

-4:15 p.m., Tooele High School Band (band-

Orion

Continued from B-1

Warren said state officials have asked the "NRC for the authority to tae urine samples from the employees to determine possible, amounts of exposure.

"This is probably the worst case we'll ever see of the 300 to 400 users of radioactive material in Utah," Warren said.

the material they were handling had the radioactivity removed — but were not toki of the hazards of inhalation.

While the uranium 235 being handled does not have the gamma emissions of uranium 238, it is more potentially hazardous by ingestion, he said.

"Wranium 235, depleted uranium, has very weak gamma, but when inhaled provides more radiation exposure to the inner lining of the lungs. It's just as potentially hazardous as uranium 238, which is the stronger gamma emitter," Warren said.

Employees, the director said, were not protected against inhalation. He said the workers repeatedly wore the same coveralls contaminated with radioactive dust, and used only paper surgical masks to prevent ingestion of the dust,

"They all should have been wearing closed hoods," he said, and the coveralls should have been — but were not — washed daily."

Orion combines depleted uranium with another chemical to produce the compound uranyl-acetylacetonate, used as a catalyst to speed up the drying of a plastic component in land mines.

Larsen admitted he kept more uranium on hand than the 15-pound limit. But he said he was trying to fill a large product order and was forced to have more depleted uranium on hand than his license allowed.

"Three hundred and fifty employees were depending on those shipments, so I kept more than I was supposed to."

He said he has applied for a license allowing him to keep more material on hand, "but the government is so slow I haven't gotten it yet."

Larsen also admitted to not having his records ready for inspectors. "But it was a surprise visit, and I am a one-man company. It's hard to keep all the records you have to keep for all the regulators you have to satisfy," he said. "I'll have the records ready for them in 25 days, and every inspector who wants to can come inspect me."

Larsen said the material outside the facility "was a spill — not a dump." He said the material was accidentally spilled while being transported and was cleaned up with a shovel.

He said the seven students were only hired for one day because he had a large order. He denied exposing them to any danger.

