

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the staff on this date.

Facility Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation  
 License No. STA 583  
 West Chicago, IL 60185

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
 Notification of Unusual Event  
 Alert  
 Site Area Emergency  
 General Emergency  
 Not Applicable

40-2061

Subject: STEPS TAKEN TO MEASURE AND CONTROL RELEASES OF LEAD-212 FROM SITE

Region III (Chicago) issued a Confirmatory Action Letter to the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation on March 17, 1983, confirming Kerr-McGee's agreement to install a system to suppress lead-212 releases from the thorium tailings pile at its West Chicago, Illinois, facility and add a number of airborne sampling stations in the unrestricted area near the tailings pile.

This action resulted from a special inspection by Region III of the airborne lead-212 levels on and off the Kerr-McGee site. The special inspection was conducted after the licensee provided on-site air sampling data to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NMSS). During this inspection it was found that one on-site sampling station 20 feet from the site boundary had airborne lead-212 levels of 1700 picocuries per cubic meter when averaged over the past 8 months. While this level is well within the restricted area limit in 10 CFR 20, it is likely, from considerations of site topography, that similar levels existed in the unrestricted area outside the boundary. The relevant 10 CFR 20 limit for an unrestricted area is 600 picocuries per cubic meter.

The unrestricted area involved is a narrow strip along a railway embankment with a very low occupancy factor. No significant exposures actually occurred.

The licensee has submitted a decommissioning plan for the site which is currently under review by NMSS.

Region III (Chicago) is issuing a news announcement on the licensee's agreement.

The State of Illinois and the City of West Chicago will be notified.

The Confirmatory Action Letter was issued on March 17, 1983. This information is current as of 1 p.m. (EST), March 17, 1983.

Contact: C. Paperiello <sup>CP</sup> FTS 384-2517 J. Hind <sup>JH</sup> 384-2510

8303220271 830317  
 PDR I&E  
 PNO-III-83-019 PDR

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Applicable Resident Site         

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