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MAR 17 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: John G. Davis, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

THRU: Richard E. Cunningham, Director  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety

FROM: R. G. Page, Chief  
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST

W. R. GRACE SITE IN POMPTON PLAINS, NEW JERSEY

The plant site of W. R. Grace Company in Pompton Plains, New Jersey and vicinity properties are contaminated with thorium from past operations conducted from 1948 to 1971 to extract thorium and rare earths from monazite sand. From 1954 to 1971, the plant operated under a license issued by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Some of the thorium provided at the plant was supplied to AEC under a government contract.

In July 1982 DOE informed NRC that the site appeared to qualify for inclusion under DOE's Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). NRC had already initiated the conduct of a comprehensive radiological survey of the site and agreed to forward the survey results on the site to DOE for its evaluation and any required remedial actions. By letter dated February 18, 1983, DOE notified NRC that it had reconsidered the appropriateness of including the W. R. Grace site under FUSRAP and would no longer include formerly licensed sites as part of the FUSRAP program unless NRC believes remedial actions are required and NRC cannot effect needed remedial actions. The letter asked whether NRC believed remedial actions are required at the W. R. Grace site and whether NRC could effect remedial actions. In reply, we informed DOE on March 11, 1983, that we believed some remedial action is needed at both the W. R. Grace plant site and vicinity properties because the concentrations of thorium in soil and the associated direct radiation levels exceed current NRC guidelines for unrestricted release. We also indicated that NRC has general authority under the Atomic Energy Act to require persons in possession of thorium to take appropriate action needed to protect health and safety of the public. The fact that NRC has authority would not prevent any other agency, such as DOE, from exercising its authority to secure remedial action.

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MAR 17 1983

John G. Davis

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KERR-MCGEE, WEST CHICAGO

W. A. Nixon, FC, visited the Kerr-McGee West Chicago site on March 15, 1983 to observe the location of air sampling stations and to discuss recently obtained Pb-212 air concentration data. On the same day Mr. Nixon attended a meeting between Region III and Kerr-McGee on environmental air monitoring at the West Chicago site. On March 16, 1983, the status of the Final Environmental Statement for the decommissioning of the site was reviewed with the Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) staff.

COMBUSTION ENGINEERING, INC., LICENSE RENEWAL

Combustion Engineering, Inc., was issued a renewal of Materials License No. SNM-1067 on March 14, 1983, for its Windsor Facility authorizing the receipt, possession and use of SNM and source materials related to the fabrication of power reactor fuel assemblies.

Original Signed by  
Ralph G. Page

R. G. Page, Chief  
Uranium Fuel Licensing Branch  
Division of Fuel Cycle and  
Material Safety

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NMSS MEETING NOTICES  
Division of Fuel Cycle and Material Safety

MAR 17 1983

<u>DATE/TIME</u>	<u>DOCKET NUMBER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u>	<u>ATTENDEES/ APPLICANT</u>	<u>NRC CONTACT</u>
3/16/83 1:00 p.m.	40-8724	Willste Bldg.	To discuss the standards NRC will require the Corporation's facility at Newburgh Heights, Ohio, to meet prior to termination of the license. The property under consideration includes the former area of operation and the McGean Dump Site. (Radiation Management Corp-Chemetron Corporation)	Representatives from Rad. Mngt. Corp, consultants for Allegany International B. M. Kosla, NMSS	B. M. Kosla
3/22/83 8:30 a.m.	70-371	Willste Bldg.	To discuss amendment application. (United Nuclear Corporation)	T. Gutman, UNC G. H. Bidinger, NMSS	G. H. Bidinger