

September 5, 1973

H. D. Thornburg, Chief, Field Support and Enforcement Branch
Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Headquarters

KERR-MCGEE CHEMICAL CORPORATION, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
LICENSE NO. STA-583 (DOCKET NO. 40-2061)
PROPOSED PLANT CLOSING

During a recent inspection (July 5, 1973) of subject licensee, it was learned that Kerr-McGee intends to phase out thorium processing operations at the West Chicago facility.

During a telephone conversation on August 27, 1973, with Dr. W. L. Silvernail, Manager of Technical Services for the West Chicago plant, these plans were confirmed to me. Silvernail stated Kerr-McGee intends to have the entire operation shut down by the end of CY 1973. According to Silvernail, the reason being is that the West Chicago operation "doesn't fit in" with future Kerr-McGee plans and the on-site process waste settling pond is not permitted under State of Illinois EPA regulations. I suggested to Silvernail that Kerr-McGee be in early contact with DL regarding their plans.

According to Silvernail, a decision has not been reached to "mothball" the facility or to attempt to sell it. In any case, there are several areas that DL may wish to pursue. These are:

1. Disposition of the contaminated process equipment and facilities.
2. Disposition or stabilization of the tailings pile located on the licensee's "12 acre" storage area. Previous inspections indicate these tailings average about 0.25% thorium.
3. Process waste holding ponds at the licensee's 12 acre and 15 acre areas. The 12 acre and 15 acre areas are located about 1/3 mile south of the main plant. These areas are fenced and posted.

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James M. Allan, Chief
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