

May 11, 1981

Mr. Matthew Stewart  
412 West Blair Street  
West Chicago, Ill 60185

Dea. Mr. Stewart,

I was pleased to be able to speak to you by telephone on Tuesday, April 28 to discuss the problems you identified in your letter to Senator Dixon.

I agree that the empty Kerr McGee factory at Ann and Factory Streets looks like junk. However, the NRC licensing people in Washington, D. C. can not allow Kerr McGee to tear down the buildings and bury them on the south end of the property until an Environmental Impact Statement is issued and approved. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, requires that this be done. An Environmental Impact Statement tells what might happen to the environment if the NRC allows Kerr McGee to tear down the buildings and bury the rubble along with the pile at the south end of the property. Because some of the material that will be buried is radioactive, to predict all that might happen is very difficult and not everyone agrees.

I have been told that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be issued in June. The law allows people, if they wish, to comment on, disagree with or demand a public hearing on this statement. This can cause more delay but the NRC must obey the law. If the Environmental Impact Statement shows that Kerr McGee's plan is acceptable and if everyone accepts this conclusion, a Final Environmental Impact Statement will be issued in the fall and the factory buildings can be torn down.

One of my inspectors checked on the hole in the south gate that you told me about in the telephone call. It was a 3' X 3' hole and it is being repaired.

Thank you for your interest in this problem.

Sincerely,

C. J. Paperiello, Chief  
Emergency Preparedness and  
Program Support Branch

cc:  
A. Grella, IE

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SURNAME	Paperiello								
DATE	5/11/81								129

June 26, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: James H. Snizek, Director, Division of Fuel  
Facility and Materials Safety Inspection, IE

FROM: James G. Keppler, Director, Region III

SUBJECT: TECHNICAL AND LEGAL REVIEW OF  
SPECIAL SURVEY REPORT  
(AITS NO. F03070280)

Enclosed is a report on a special survey conducted by Region III of a released Kerr-McGee facility in West Chicago, Illinois. The survey was conducted at the request of the new owner of the building and the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Included are the results of whole body counting of the owner and his son and an interpretation of the airborne exposure.

We have heard that the present owner has hired a lawyer and plans to sue Kerr-McGee. We feel that this report should be reviewed by Headquarters technical and legal staff before we send it. Because of the nature of this case we are asking that this review be given a high priority.

The cognizant individual on this matter is C. J. Paperiello (384-2511).

James G. Keppler  
Director

Enclosure: as stated

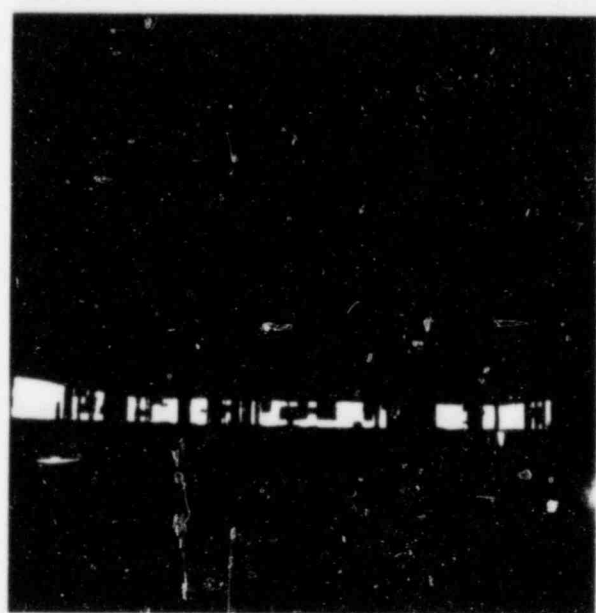
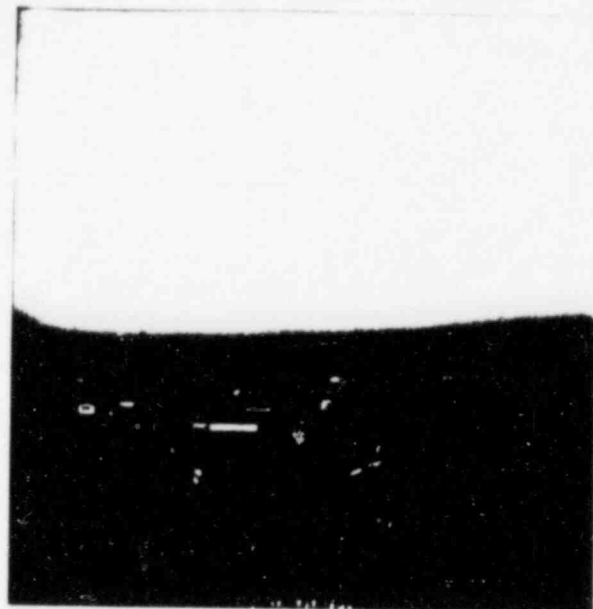
*noted - J. H. Rose*

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Photographs

March 1981



A.B. Dove

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file  
West Chicago

The Honorable A. Eugene Rennels  
Mayor of City of West Chicago  
475 Main Street  
West Chicago, Illinois 60185

Dear Mayor Rennels:

This is in reply to your December 28, 1979 letter addressed to our Mr. Nixon concerning the Kerr-McGee site in West Chicago. We wish to assure you of our continuing concern for this site. We have taken, and will continue to take actions which we believe will protect the public and the environment. Our responses to the specific issues in your letter are as follows:

1. The improved air sampling and radiation detection program is described under Item 3 below. This program was established to provide information needed to assure the protection of the public and the environment. With respect to the elevated background reading obtained at the Eberline Instrument Corporation south of the site, the increase occurred in October, 1979, lasted two days, and has not recurred. The reason for the increase (if indeed it was a real increase and not instrument or analytical error) has not been identified.

Formal or  
informal?

2. NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement in Glen Ellyn periodically reviews air-sampling data to assess off-site exposures near the Kerr-McGee site. Potential off-site exposures from long-lived radioisotopes have been below applicable Federal standards. Calculations, based on conservative assumptions, indicate that potential off-site exposures from short-lived radioisotopes (Radon-220, -222 and progeny) are also below Federal standards. To continue to confirm these conclusions, NRC will have Argonne National Laboratory perform special sampling and analysis for these radioisotopes over an extended period of time.

Status?  
compare NRC &  
EPA & state results.

3. In addition to the air-sampling program required of Kerr-McGee, which is evaluated periodically by NRC, the NRC has installed two continuous air-sampling stations for the Kerr-McGee site and is installing six dosimeter stations to determine direct environmental radiation exposures attributable to the Kerr-McGee site, and one additional air-sampling station. Also, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has installed an air sampler directly east of the disposal site and the Illinois Department of Public Health has installed dosimeters near the site. We believe this total program provides adequate information to assess airborne and direct radiation from the site to the environment.

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4. Regarding your request for the Kerr-McGee security plan, detailed security plans normally are withheld from the public domain as a precautionary measure; however, Kerr-McGee and its contractor, Gloss Guard and Investigation Service, Inc., have been in contact with city and county law enforcement agencies. In November, 1976 Kerr-McGee officials committed to the following actions to further secure the facility from public access:

- "1. The site perimeter fence will be restored to its original height of 6 feet above ground level and 3 strands of barbed wire will be placed atop those areas of the perimeter fence which presently are devoid of barbed wire.
- "2. Action will be taken to establish a five-foot clear zone exterior to the site perimeter fence. The presence of shrubs and trees in this zone will be minimized to the extent possible.
- "3. Signs bearing the conventional radiation caution colors and symbol and the wording, 'Caution - Radioactive Material' will be attached to the site perimeter fence at no more than 50-foot intervals.
- "4. The entire site perimeter fence will be patrolled at least once every 8 hours."

NRC personnel from the Glen Ellyn office have confirmed that the above actions had been completed and have periodically checked to assure that these measures are still in effect.

5. Kerr-McGee is committed to train personnel involved in the decommissioning work in fire protection and fire prevention techniques and to supply fire extinguishing equipment. Further, NRC's Region III office has informed us that Kerr-McGee has met with your local fire department personnel and has discussed contamination control as it would apply to fire-fighting efforts at Kerr-McGee. If you desire further training for your fire department, please contact the NRC Region III office in Glen Ellyn.

In regard to evacuation plans, the NRC staff does not believe that a fire at the Kerr-McGee facility poses an eminent radiological threat off-site; however, we will reevaluate this accident potential and inform you of our findings in the near future. Evacuation plans, when needed, are normally prepared by state and local governments, and not the Federal government. The Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency would probably

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be the state agency having responsibility for doing this. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been designated by the President as the lead Federal agency for all off-site nuclear emergency planning and response; NRC has been directed to review FEMA findings and determinations on the adequacy and capability of implementation of state and local plans. NRC also makes decisions with regard to the overall state of emergency preparedness for nuclear accidents.

Sincerely,

William J. Dircks, Director  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety  
and Safeguards

Distribution: EDO-08185

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ELeins

RECunningham

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BClausser

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Docket File No. 40-2061

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MAR 4 1980

Kerr-McGee Chemical Company  
ATTN: Mr. Ivan Denny  
Project Officer  
Kerr-McGee Center  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

License No. STA-583

Gentlemen:

This refers to our investigative report No. 40-261/79-01. Exhibits I-IV were inadvertently omitted from that report. Please ensure the attached enclosures are added to report No. 40-261/79-01.

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

James G. Keppler  
Director

Enclosures:

1. Exhibit I, Ltr 11/2/79 frm  
Dean Hansell
2. Exhibit II, Ltr 11/19/79 frm  
Dean Hansell
3. Exhibit III, RIII Memo 12/6/79
4. Exhibit IV, Typed Transcript of  
handwritten statement

cc: Central Files  
Reproduction Unit NRC 20b  
PDR  
NSIC  
TIC

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SURNAME	Wellington	Nordius	Keppler			
DATE	2/29/80	2/29/80	3/1/80			

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FEB 13 1980

Kerr-McGee Chemical Company  
ATTN: Mr. Ivan Denny  
Project Officer  
Kerr-McGee Center  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

License No. STA-583

79-01

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Gentlemen:

This refers to the investigation conducted by Mr. C. H. Weil of this office during the period December 20, 1979 through January 20, 1980, of activities at the Kerr-McGee Chemical Company facility, West Chicago, IL, authorized by NRC License No. STA-583, and to the discussion of the findings with you at the conclusion of the investigation.

This investigation was conducted into an allegation that an unsurveyed, steel beam had been removed from the Kerr-McGee, West Chicago, facility and installed in a private residence during 1976. The enclosed copy of the investigation report identifies the areas examined during the investigation. Within these areas the investigation consisted of personal interviews, records reviews and a survey of the steel beam in question.

The allegation was not substantiated, and the investigation did not disclose any items of noncompliance with NRC requirements.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter and the enclosed investigation report will be placed in the NRC's Public Document Room, except as follows. If this report contains information that you or your contractors believe to be proprietary, you must apply in writing to this office, within twenty days of your receipt of this letter, to withhold such information from public disclosure. The application must include a full statement of the reasons for which the information is considered proprietary, and should be prepared so that proprietary information identified in the application is contained in an enclosure to the application.

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Kerr-McGee Chemical  
Company

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FEB 13 1980

We will gladly discuss any questions you have concerning this investigation.

Sincerely,

James G. Keppler  
Director

Enclosure: IE Investigation  
Report No. 40-261/79-01

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