



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

JUN 6 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files *J.G. Radtke for*
THRU: W. H. Schultz, Acting Chief, Materials Radiological
Protection Section 1
FROM: C. T. Oberg, Radiation Specialist
SUBJECT: KERR-MCGEE CHEMICAL CORPORATION, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
LICENSE NO. STA-583
TOUR OF FACILITIES AND OTHER WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
SITES

On March 17, 1978, a RIII inspector and a Section Chief toured the subject licensee facilities, Reed-Keppler Park and the residential area South of Rt. 38 and West of Plainfield Rd.

At the licensee facility, some of the CRM signs required to be posted at 50 ft. intervals on the fence line were missing. The gate on the West side of the plant area which was previously forced off its tracks to permit access had been properly replaced and wired closed with heavy wire. Along this same side of the plant, some sections of barbed wire along the top of the fence were observed to be missing. No apparent traffic of any type was evident in the rather deep snow around either the plant or the waste storage areas.

RIII personnel were unable to enter the plant area office building because the site representative was not available, apparently at lunch.

At Reed-Keppler Park, RIII personnel observed some of the posts which maintain the fence around the area containing thorium contamination to be damaged and one was missing. Speculation presumed this to have been caused by some vehicular interaction with the fence. The fence was still intact, integrity maintained, with no apparent openings to allow access to the protected area. Some of the CRM signs, which had been posted on stakes set back a distance from the inside of the fence, were missing. No sign of traffic was evident in the deep snow at the locked gate or within the confines of the fence.

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During the tour of the residential area South of Rt. 38, off Plainfield Rd., no significant changes were evident or observed.

Subsequent to this tour, the subject licensee site representative was contacted by telephone and informed of the tour of the facilities. He was also appraised of the observations with respect to the missing CRM signs and barbed wire. He stated these would be corrected.

Additional tours and inspections of this subject licensee facilities will be performed as necessary to maintain cognizance of the status of the facilities and any work in progress.

C. T. Oberg

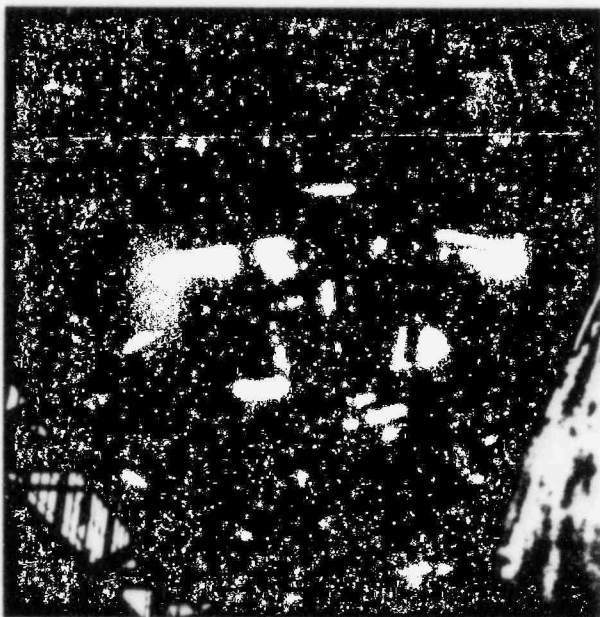
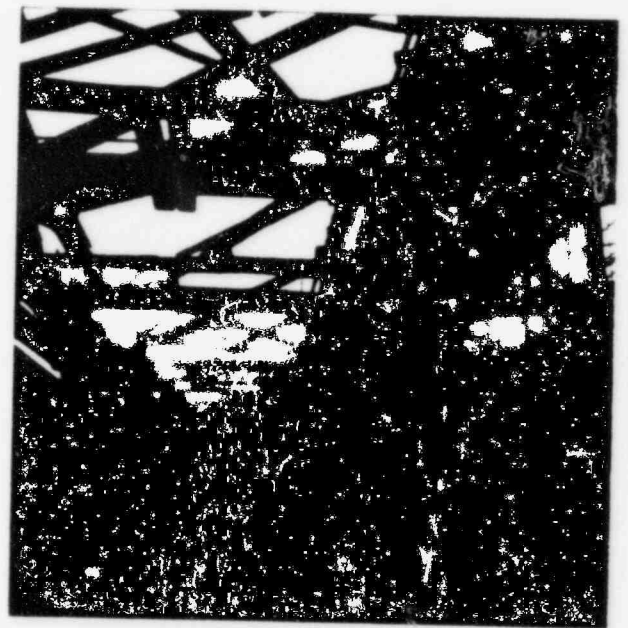
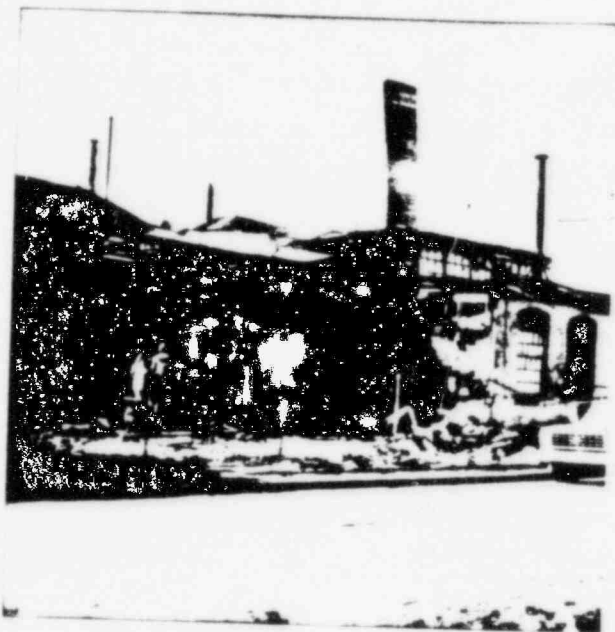
C. T. Oberg
Radiation Specialist

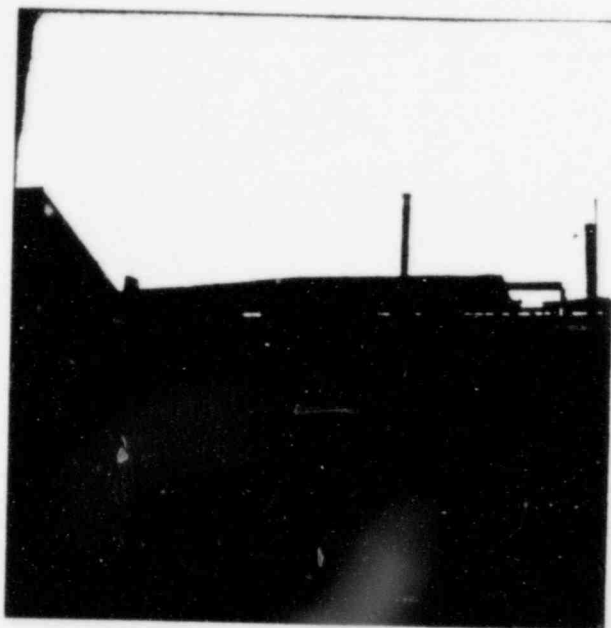
cc: A. B. Davis
T. H. Essig

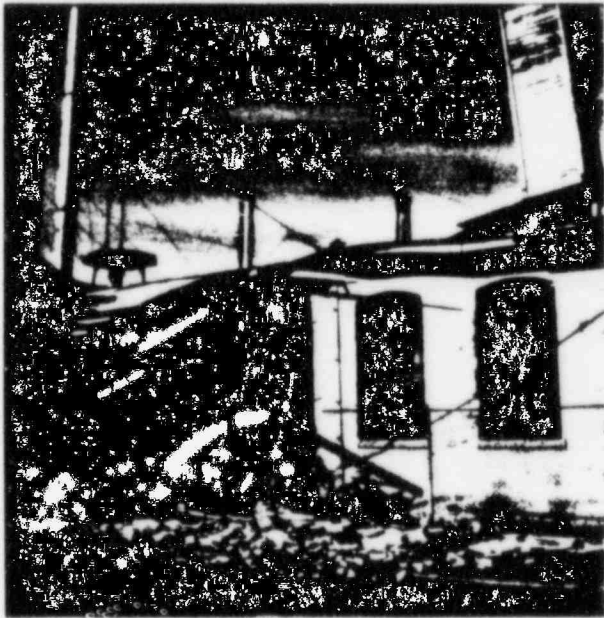
Photographs

March 1979











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MAY 25 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files *gabaguard*
THRU: W. H. Schultz, Acting Chief, Materials Radiological
Protection Section 1
FROM: C. T. Oberg, Radiation Specialist
SUBJECT: KERR-MC GEE CHEMICAL CORPORATION, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
LICENSE NO. STA-583
OBSERVATION OF WASTE AREA SAMPLING AND DISCUSSIONS WITH
PERSONNEL

On April 5, 1978, RIII personnel were at the subject licensee facilities to observe sampling being performed for the determination of nonradioactive soluble salts in the waste piles by appropriate analyses. Samples were taken from a depth of two to three feet by digging into the waste residue piles with a back-hoe type of power shovel on caterpillar tracks and then hand shoveling material from within this hole into five-gallon buckets. The buckets were subsequently taken to the factory area where the material was thoroughly mixed and blended by hand within the bucket. Three smaller, representative aliquot samples were then removed from each of the homogeneous mixes for distribution to the agencies performing the required analyses (ANL, IL State EPA and Kerr-McGee at Oklahoma City, OK). Representatives from the subject licensee's contractor, ATCOR (R. Levesque, Corp., RSO); ANL (N. Frigerio, Ph.D.), and a local construction company were on site performing and overseeing the various operations in progress. Personnel from ATCOR were acting in behalf of Kerr-McGee. RIII personnel requested of ATCOR a copy of summary information on the work being performed. They said that they would forward this information. RIII personnel observed sampling of one residue pile which was overgrown with grass and shrub, located just east of the major large pile, and subsequent preparations to get to and to sample the top of the major residue waste pile. Approximately 8 to 10 samples had been taken by this time and about 10 to 15 additional samples were anticipated. ATCOR personnel stated they would perform the required Rad. Con. and H. P. coverage on personnel

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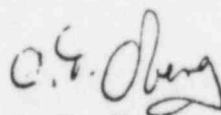
and equipment at the conclusion of the job at the end of the day. They had appropriate survey and dosimetry instrumentations on site with them and were performing surveys of the waste piles and samples.

RIII personnel went to the plant area where the samples were being blended. A brief review of this operation was made. A tour of part of the factory area was made to review the present status. No major changes were observed.

RIII personnel met with Dr. Silvernail (retired K-M employee) and reviewed his plans to take the dismantled electrical switchgear, motors and possibly some steel tanks from the plant. Dr. Silvernail questioned the amount and locations of surveys required to obtain NRC approval for release. He was informed that there were no specific requirements for this except that there should be a sufficient number from reasonable and representative areas to verify and confirm that the equipment was acceptable to be released for unrestricted use in accordance with "GUIDELINES FOR DECONTAMINATION OF FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT." under procedure No. 83895B. Dr. Silvernail and the K-M site representative were both informed that RIII required approval from the subject licensee's management for this work to be performed, for the individual qualified to provide required radiological protection and perform the necessary H. P. coverage. RIII personnel were informed this would be done and that K-M management from Oklahoma City, OK would be in touch with RIII.

A draft copy of the "Guidelines" procedure No. 83895B was subsequently mailed to Dr. Silvernail from RIII.

Further inspections of the subject licensee facilities will be performed as necessary to remain cognizant of the status of the site and any work being performed.



C. T. Oberg
Radiation Specialist

cc: A. B. Davis
T. H. Essig