



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

NOV 2 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files

THRU: G. T. Lonergan, Chief, Materials Radiological
Protection Section No. 1

FROM: C. T. Oberg, Radiation Specialist

SUBJECT: KERR-MC GEE CHEMICAL CORP., WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
LICENSE NO. STA-583
BRIEF TOURS OF FACILITY BY RIII INSPECTOR

On September 16 and 19, 1977, an NRC RIII inspector made brief tours of the subject licensee's West Chicago, Illinois Rare Earth Plant in a continuing effort to maintain cognizance of the status of the facility and the work in progress.

The Action Items (AI) No. 1 through 4, as agreed to by the licensee in their letter dated November 30, 1976, appear to remain satisfied. Work on AI No. 5 is about completed.

ATCOR personnel under contract to the subject licensee, to package and ship waste source material to NECO, Sheffield, Illinois, for burial, have completed packaging and final shipments will take place during the week of September 19, 1977.

On September 16, 1977, the inspector discussed the status of source material remaining on site in the plant area with Kerr-McGee (K-M) personnel and was informed that thorium product material would be shipped next week. The inspector observed two Kuhn and Auer Co. personnel steam cleaning high-lift vehicles in preparation for surveying and release. In addition, the inspector was informed that Kuhn and Auer Co. would terminate all activities at the subject site by the first of October, 1977. The inspector reviewed the manner in which security of the site was being maintained. A guard is on duty on the roof from 4:00 p.m. until dark; from the vantage point, practically the entire site is under surveillance. After dark, the guard patrols the plant area until midnight. During the weekends and on holidays, the guard is on the roof from 8:00 a.m. until dark. A patrol of the site is also made during the third shift. K-M personnel patrol the site the first thing in the morning and are on site during each working day.

8507090496 850408
PDR FOIA
RAPKIN85-30 PDR

NOV 2 1977

No ATCOR personnel were available at this time. The RPO had taken the workers to the airport for transportation back to Peekskill, New York. The RPO and one other worker will remain at the K-M site until the remaining packaged waste material has been shipped to NECO, Sheffield, Illinois for burial.

During the morning of September 19, 1977, the inspector was at the K-M site to conduct a close-out meeting with the ATCOR RPO and review the work performed for K-M under contract for AI No. 5 referenced in a preceding paragraph. ATCOR personnel (the RPO and one other) were loading a NECO truck for shipment. These individuals anticipated that the remaining packaged waste material will be loaded and shipped to NECO by the end of the week.

The waste storage shed from which the material was removed by ATCOR was viewed by the inspector and observed to be almost void of material. That which remained in the shed was quoted to contain minimal source material and below the level specified by the contract. Beta-gamma surveys showed the general area around the shed to be in the order of 0.2 to 0.5 mR/hr. At about half the length of the west side of the shed, an area was found to give high readings of between 10 and 20 mR/hr. The drums awaiting shipment gave readings in the order of 10 to 15 mR/hr. Subsequent to completion of the final shipment, equipment used will be decontaminated for release or sealed in a 55 gallon drum as waste.

The RIII inspector requested copies of the survey data obtained subsequent to cleanup of the equipment used. In addition, a copy of any comprehensive survey of the waste area and/or shed was also requested. Also, if ATCOR personnel who worked at the K-M site are subsequently whole body counted, RIII requested a copy of these results.

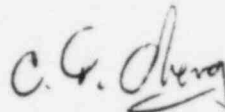
The ATCOR personnel also agreed to advise RIII of their decontamination plan for Moore Chemical Co. Storage Barn in Andres, Illinois and the date on which work will start at that location.

Later in the day on September 19, 1977, RIII personnel toured the K-M site, Reed-Keppler park and then went to the Plannmaster hangers at the DuPage County Airport to review the status of the West Chicago, Illinois over-flight survey being performed by EG&G Co. The over-flight survey was fairly well completed with another day or two anticipated for finalization. The data grids obtained to date were viewed and no unanticipated activity deposits were noticed. Some additional flights will be performed using only one of the NaI(Tl) gamma detectors, in the bank of 20 used for the routine grids, for verification of the high activity levels obtained.

NOV 2 1977

These measurements will be made between the grid lines presently flown and measured. Personnel from the ANL were also on hand to review the survey data. Personnel present established that EG&G will furnish to RIII and ANL grid survey results, on a plot, and a photograph for overlay purposes. Additional copies of the survey grid results will be made by ANL if necessary.

Brief inspection tours of the subject licensee's facility, the DuPage County Airport and the Marvin Moore Chemical Co. Barn, Andres, Illinois will continue as necessary to remain cognizant of the status of these facilities and the work in progress.



C. T. Oberg
Radiation Specialist

cc: W. L. Fisher