



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

September 14, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files

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

FROM: C. T. Oberg, Radiation Specialist

SUBJECT: *Paul K...* KERR-MCGEE CHEMICAL CORPORATION, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
LICENSE NO. STA-583  
BRIEF TOUR OF FACILITY BY REGION III INSPECTOR

On September 12, 1977, NRC Region III personnel made a brief visit to 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.

ATCOR personnel under contract to the subject licensee, have just about completed packaging waste source material from the storage shed in the waste area and are preparing final shipments to NECO, Sheffield, Illinois, for burial. They anticipate that the shipments will be completed during the week of September 19, 1977. Cleanup of vehicles and equipment for final check and removal from the waste area will be undertaken during this week (September 12, 1977). Subsequent to completion of the removal of high concentration material from the licensee's waste area and storage shed for termination of the existing contract, some ATCOR personnel will remain onsite to perform surveys and feasibility studies to develop a plan for ultimate disposition of the entire site. This work will be undertaken by ATCOR under contract to Kerr-McGee.

During discussions with both Kerr-McGee and ATCOR personnel, RIII individuals were informed that Kerr-McGee management will meet with ATCOR at their headquarters in Peekskill, NY to discuss arrangements for the study of disposition of the West Chicago, Illinois site. In addition, they will most likely be discussing the results of the survey performed by ATCOR for Kerr-McGee at the Marvin Moore Chemical Company storage barn, Andres, Illinois, after the removal of 12 drums containing thorium source material by ATCOR. They will also possibly discuss further decontamination steps necessary to release the storage barn for unrestricted use.


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RIII personnel were also informed that Kerr-McGee management personnel will be at the West Chicago, Illinois site on Thursday, September 15, 1977.

RIII personnel discussed with site personnel the status of other material shipments from the Kerr-McGee site. One individual employed by Kuhn and Auer Co. (K&A Co.) still remains on site to oversee removal and shipments of used equipment sold by K&A Co. under their conditional purchase contract with Kerr-McGee. Some large equipment has recently been moved off site subsequent to being sold by K&A Co. The dismantled electrical switch gear still remains on site awaiting removal by purchaser. Thorium product source material which has been sold by Kerr-McGee is being picked up by purchaser in partial shipments. Kerr-McGee personnel were preparing for another shipment at the time of the RIII visit.

Kerr-McGee is still maintaining a security guard at the West Chicago, Illinois site. Security patrols are made at least once per shift and a guard is on duty during daylight hours. Site personnel continue to perform and retain records of radiation surveys for loose and fixed contamination on all material which leaves the plant site.

Brief inspection tours of the subject licensee's facility will continue as necessary to remain cognizant of the status of the facility and the work being performed.

  
C. T. Oberg  
Radiation Specialist