



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

July 20, 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 CORPORATION, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
LICENSE NO. STA-583
BRIEF TOUR OF FACILITY BY REGION III INSPECTOR

On July 15 and 18, 1977, an NRC Region III inspector made a brief tour of the subject licensee's West Chicago, Illinois Rare Earth Plant in a continuing effort to maintain cognizance of the status of the facility.

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. Progress on AI No. 5 continues under contract by Kerr-McGee to Atcor of Peekskill, New York.

Inspector was informed by Atcor personnel that two additional individuals will be arriving on July 18, 1977, from New York to assist with the work in progress. In addition, Atcor has contracted individuals (Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin Jr.) from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to perform the necessary welding on tanks to be used to contain the low integrity drums of waste source material and to operate a back-hoe for loading ore into containers. Atcor has also obtained a Gelman Co., high velocity air sampler which they will operate from their 110 A.C., gasoline powered generator.

Copies of data from battery powered air samplers, the last shipment (July 13, 1977), dosimeter readings and other measurements have been obtained by the inspector and are on file with the Kerr-McGee package.

The RIII inspector questioned Atcor personnel with respect to having periodic radionuclide analyses performed on material as it is removed from the storage shed. Atcor did not believe that this would be necessary because the waste material shipped and being prepared for shipment at present contains the highest specific activity source material residue.

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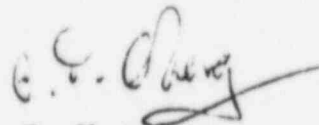
Rain storms on July 18, 1977, slowed progress on preparing "tote" boxes for shipment. Atcor has about 27 of these boxes just about ready to be shipped to NECO, Sheffield, Illinois. They are tentatively planning to make three shipments, one per day on July 19, 20 and 21, 1977. As with the previous loads, Atcor personnel anticipate shipping nine boxes each day.

The RIII inspector toured the remaining Kerr-McGee facility in West Chicago, Illinois and has no additional comments on observations beyond those made in the previous report on the inspection tours of July 6, 12 and 13, 1977.

During discussions with the Kerr-McGee personnel, the inspector was informed that there have been no new developments with respect to the product source material sold by Kerr-McGee nor with the removed electrical switch gear awaiting shipment.

The inspector reviewed the security guard logs through July 11, 1977. Items such as "Door forced open in North Building," "Caught boys cutting fence," "signs missing from fence," "boys on bikes got thru fence and left again" (July 2, 1977, while Atcor on site working) and a call to their office to verify "authorized personnel in area" (Atcor personnel). The Security personnel appear to be performing their task appropriately.

Brief inspection tours of the Kerr-McGee, West Chicago, Illinois facility will continue as necessary to maintain cognizance of the facility and the work in progress.



C. T. Oberg
Radiation Specialist