



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

May 4, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files

THRU: G. T. Lonergan, Chief, Materials Radiological  
Protection Section

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, IE INSPECTOR

On May 3, 1977, a NRC, Region III, IE 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. No further information was available on the progress of AI No. 5.

During this tour, the inspector reviewed the licensee's records on shipments leaving the site. The records showed that only office furniture, electrical fixtures, piping, tanks and scrap iron have been shipped off site from 1975 through March 3, 1977; a total of 46 shipments. All shipments had been surveyed and appeared to be acceptable for unrestricted use.

The inspector informed the site personnel that some lumber slightly contaminated with radioactivity, had been transmitted to the public, the source of which was not yet identified. The licensee's personnel stated that they had not shipped any lumber off site.

During further discussion, the inspector learned that another shipment containing some electrical fixtures was to go out this day.

The inspector questioned the licensee's representatives with respect to further information on analytical results on samples taken by Argonne National Laboratories (ANL) and also about further decisions from the Headquarters in Oklahoma City on the disposition of the waste material. The site personnel stated that they had heard nothing from ANL and that they have had no contact with Oklahoma City for about six weeks.

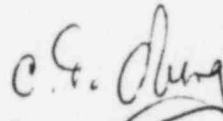
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The inspector was informed that Illinois State Health Department personnel had been to the site to relocate an air sampler which had previously been on private property. The property owner had asked that the air sampler be removed and the State Health Department requested Kerr-McGee that the sampler be placed on their waste area property. The unit is now located in the northeast corner of the Kerr-McGee waste area but is not operational because of the lack of electrical power.

The inspector was shown a mutilated "Danger - Radioactive Material" sign which the licensee had posted and subsequently replaced. The sign had been nearly destroyed by what appeared to be bullet and pellet gun holes.

There were no signs of any type of operations in progress in any of the site area; activities appeared to be status quo.

Brief tours of the licensee's West Chicago, Illinois facility will continue as necessary.



C. T. Oberg  
Radiation Specialist

cc: J. M. Allan  
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