

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

February 16, 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 February 11, 1977, an NRC, Region III, IE inspector made a brief tour of the subject licensee's West Chicago, Illinois, Rare Earth Plant in a continuing effort of updating on the status of the facility and the Action Items (AI's) agreed to by the licensee in their letter dated November 30, 1976.

With the exception of No. 5, the AI's appear to remain satisfied. There have been no new developments on AI No. 5 since ATCOR, the Health Physics Consultant firm, personnel completed their survey of the plant and waste areas. The IE inspector reviewed the waste area security patrol log through February 7, 1977, and observed that there have been no recorded incidents; all notations indicate the fence to be secure.

During discussion with plant site personnel, the inspector learned that the licensee is planning to sell some of the rare earth product material (other than thorium) still on inventory. They are also hoping to be able to sell the remaining thorium product to a lantern mantle manufacturer. The inspector was also informed that the licensee is considering the sale of some of the rare earth material presently stored in the East shed of the waste area. This material was said not to contain any thorium and was surveyed by ATCOR and found to emit no radiation above background levels.



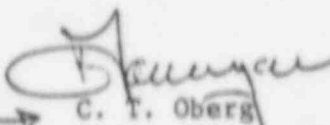
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February 16, 1977

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

During this tour, the inspector observed that, except for the gates of the plant area, fence signs indicating the presence of radioactive materials were not posted at fifty feet intervals around the plant area as they are around the waste area. However, there are people present in the plant area daily and there is a guard on duty until midnight.

Within the grounds of the south end of the plant area, two flat-bed (one stake type) and a box type trailers, and a trailer tractor were observed. Site personnel indicated that these would be moved out next week by Kuhn and Auer Company who are loading their materials presently stored on site.

for 
C. T. Oberg
Radiation Specialist