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

January 25, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files

THRU: G. T. Loneragan, 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 IE:III INSPECTOR

On January 21, 1977, an IE:III inspector made another brief tour of this licensee's West Chicago, Illinois facility to determine the status of the facility and the Action Items (AI) agreed to in licensee's letter of November 30, 1976.

The first four of these AI's appear to remain satisfied. In further compliance with AI No. 2, which specifies a five foot clear zone exterior to the fence, two garages bordering the fence line (at the end of East Street) have been razed and the debris deposited within the licensee's waste area, south of the storage sheds, between these and waste pond No. 3.

The inspector reviewed the log sheets turned in on a weekly basis by contracted security patrol. This security patrol started January 10, 1977 and the logs reviewed through January 17, 1977 showed no evidence of security breach in the fence line. Kerr-McGee site personnel are to be notified if a breach in the security fence is found. The contracted security personnel use German Shepard dogs for personal protection. Prior to January 10, 1977, Kerr-McGee site personnel performed the security patrols. The record of these back to September 1976 was reviewed and several cases of breaks in the fence line, and subsequent repairs were noted. Kerr-McGee site personnel presently make additional check on the fence security during regular working hours.

No discussion was held with respect to AI No. 5. During this tour, however, the inspector met three individuals from ATCOR Company, a Health Physics consultant firm from New York (Peekskill), who were performing a



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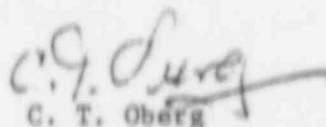
January 25, 1977

comprehensive radiation survey of the plant facilities. As inferred by the IE:III inspector, this firm will evaluate the survey data, present and discuss their findings with Kerr-McGee management and assist them in establishing a plan of action with respect to decontamination.

During the discussion with the Kerr-McGee site personnel, the inspector was given to understand that the railroad tank car on the site siding is now empty but that the railroad will not pick it up until the tracks have been cleared of snow.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

Inside the south end of the plant area, the IE:III inspector observed three flatbed tractor-trailers, two flatbed trailers, one tractor, about four automobiles, a couple of high lifts and three or four individuals. There appeared to be some loading and shipping work in progress. One trailer was loaded with two large tanks and another trailer appeared to be moving into place to load a tank. When questioned about this work, site personnel informed the inspector that the tanks were being hauled away; that the tanks loaded on the trailer had been surveyed previously and had been awaiting loading and shipment. The inspector was present when wipes, taken from a "new and unused" fiberglass tank from building 2, were counted and gave no evidence of radioactive contamination. Presumably this tank was the one that the trailer was preparing to load. The inspector requested to review the records of material surveyed and shipped from the plant site. Kerr-McGee personnel could not locate these records because they had been put away by another individual who is presently in the hospital recuperating from a hernia operation. These records will be made available for the next tour by the IE:III inspector.


C. T. Oberg
Radiation Specialist

cc: J. M. Allan
G. T. Lonergan

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Region III Files

KERR-MC GEE CHEMICAL CORPORATION, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
LICENSE NO. STA-583
BRIEF TOUR OF FACILITY BY IE:III INSPECTOR

On January 13, 1977, an IE:III inspector made a brief tour of the licensee's West Chicago, Illinois facility in a continuing effort to remain appraised of the status of these facilities and the Action Items (AI) delineated by NRC-III to which licensee agreed in letter of November 30, 1976.

The inspector observed that the waste area fence modifications have been completed and was informed that the fence perimeter patrol was continuing on a once per eight hour shift frequency. The completion of the fence modifications appears to satisfy the first four AI's.

With respect to the remaining AI, the Kerr-McGee, West Chicago site personnel believe that the bids for the cleanup/removal work are to be submitted to Corporate Headquarters on January 15, 1977.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

With the exception of the Northwest section of the waste area in which random piles of brush and tree cuttings from the 5 foot clear zone cleanup are stacked, no apparent evidence of traffic of materials within, into and/or out of the waste area could be observed.

The inspector observed the presence of two automobiles, a van and a high-lift type scoop vehicle on the ground of the south area of the plant site, just inside the locked, east gate. In addition, smoke was observed to be coming from a stack through the roof of the large truck garage in this area. Evidence of pedestrian traffic in the snow was also observed at the rear (south) door of this same garage. A railroad tank car was on the spur section of track within this south area. The previously observed (January 5, 1977) pallets of wood stake were no longer in evidence. Truck trailer and car previously observed (January 3, 1977) were still in the area.

When questioned with respect to the foregoing observations, Kerr-McGee



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January 17, 1977

site personnel stated that as a condition of the purchase contract between Kerr-McGee Corporation and Auer and Company (Kuhn as partner with Auer) the purchase was authorized to use and/or lease the area, to sell as junk, any material (not used with thorium) remaining in the area, that the purchaser will clean up the facility at his expense and that the complete and final purchase agreements are subject to the approval of release for unrestricted use by the NRC. Further that the vehicles belong to Auer, Kuhn and/or the tenants (local businesses to whom Auer and Company has leased ground in hopes of eventually renting building space), heat is maintained within this garage building to keep the water pipes from freezing, the railroad tank car contains chemical for anti-freeze which is trucked out by a tenant to his local bottling plant, and that Kerr-McGee site personnel perform surveys on materials leaving the plant (as junk). The purchaser has taken over the utility payments, for the most part, and is paying for the waste area fence perimeter patrol.

Additional brief tours will be made by IE:III inspectors on approximately a weekly frequency.

The IE:III inspector believes that it would be quite beneficial if NRC-III could obtain an official and legal document of the terms and contract of the sale of the West Chicago, Illinois facility between Kerr-McGee Corporation and Auer and Company.

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