

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Region III Files

DATE: October 29, 1962

FROM : Walter A. Radeloff *W.A.R.*
Investigation SpecialistSUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH NEWS REPORTER OF THE DAILY JOURNAL, WHEATON, ILLINOIS
IN REGARD TO ALLEGED CONCERN ABOUT LINDSAY CHEMICAL DIVISION, AMERICAN
POTASH AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS OPERATIONS

On October 29, 1962, the writer accompanied by John G. Davis visited the offices of The Wheaton Daily Journal and discussed with Mrs. Joyce M. Berckmann, the news reporter, the matter concerning which she telephoned this office on October 23. Miss Berckmann related that she was present at a West Chicago council meeting on October 22, 1962 at which time a George Brown, City Collector of West Chicago, appeared concerned to the effect that a health hazard may exist in the neighborhood of the Lindsay Chemical Division plant on Ann Street in West Chicago. Mrs. Berckmann added that someone else (unidentified) told her that a friend of one Mark Eichelberg(er) who is deceased and was formerly employed by Lindsay had heard the latter state that children who go clamming in the DuPage River should not even put their hands in the River water since it is so contaminated with radioactivity.

Mrs. Berckmann could volunteer nothing further. However, she stated that before she would write such a story, she wished to be sure of the facts in the matter and consequently she was concerned sufficiently to call this office last week. Mrs. Berckmann was assured by Mr. Davis and the writer that she nor the citizens of West Chicago should have any fear about Lindsay's operations inasmuch as this office has inspected this company's operations periodically and to date has found no hazards due to excessive radiation. She was also informed that in the last six months Region III has expended 10 man-days inspecting the Lindsay premises; she was told that air, soil and water samples were taken and analyzed with negative results.

Mrs. Berckmann introduced a Robert Nystedt, Editor of The Wheaton Daily Journal to the AEC representatives. Nystedt suggested that Mrs. Berckmann prepare a draft article for publication in The Wheaton Daily Journal and that Davis and the writer review the article and if satisfactory, that they approve it.

A draft was received from Mrs. Berckmann. It will be reviewed and amended as necessary, following which we plan to contact Joe Fouchard HQ Division of Public Information, through Compliance, and obtain his concurrence.

October 29, 1962

On October 29, 1962 both Davis and the writer interviewed George Brown, City Collector, West Chicago, Illinois in his City Hall office.

Mr. Brown said that neither he nor the other members of the council had any fears or apprehensions concerning the operations of Lindsay Chemical. He did state that at this "open" meeting the matter of Civil Defense was discussed by some of the citizenry (in view of the then current crisis over Cuba) and during the discussion some person, whom he believes was a newspaper reporter, expressed concern about radioactivity originating as a result of Lindsay operations. Brown stated that the concern was noted by council and that they dismissed the matter, inasmuch as they are aware of Lindsay's activities and realize that its operation is as safe as any other industrial type of activity. Brown added that the City of West Chicago has built a new waste treatment plant during the last two years and that they analyze the effluent from Lindsay's operations as well as from other sources. He stated that to date there has been no reason for alarm or concern about Lindsay.

Brown stated in his opinion the only reason there had been any remarks at all concerning Lindsay is the fact that there is a sign on the Lindsay property line fence in regard to radioactive materials being present at their site.

cc: E. G. Outten, CO:HQ

| MEMO ROUTE SLIP Form AEC-98 (Rev. May 14, 1947) | | See me about this. Note and return. | For concu. n. For signature. | For action. For information. |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| TO (Name and unit) Robert G. Nystadt Editor The Daily Journal Wheaton, Illinois | INITIALS DATE | REMARKS CONFIDENTIAL | | |
| TO (Name and unit) | INITIALS DATE | REMARKS | | |
| TO (Name and unit) | INITIALS DATE | REMARKS | | |
| FROM (Name and unit) W. A. Radeloff USAEC Division of Compliance Region III Chicago | REMARKS Per my promise, returned herewith is the draft news release regarding matter of your interest. Please let me know when you plan publication of this item, preferably in advance of such publication. | | | |
| PHONE NO. 654-1680 | DATE 10/29/62 | cc: E.G. Outten, CO:HQ (2) H. C. Baldwin, COO (1) | | |

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

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DRAFT NEWS RELEASE PLANNED BY THE
DAILY JOURNAL - WHEATON, ILLINOIS

WEST CHICAGO (Special) - - As a result of interest recently expressed at a West Chicago council meeting, inquiry was made of the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) regarding the use of radioactive materials in Lindsay Chemical operations in the area.

Officials of the AEC stated that as a result of several routine inspections in the past, they could find no hazards due to the use of radioactive materials in the plant of Lindsay Chemical Division of American Potash and Chemical Corp. located on Washington and Wood Streets and on Ann Street.

The radiation health-safety measures taken by this plant are periodically inspected by AEC health physicists. A portion of the inspection includes the collection of air, water, and surface samples in areas adjacent to the plant. Analysis of these samples revealed no hazard. Representatives of AEC's Division of Compliance, Region III, made the periodic inspections.

Lindsay is licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission for its use of radioactive materials. An AEC spokesman said that each licensee must conform to stringent regulations. These regulations are intended to protect licensee employees and the public from any radiation hazards.

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