PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-77- 104

PDR advance Cy per I Pottigune

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of an event of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information presented is as initially received without verification or evaluation and is basically all that is known by IE staff on this date.

Facility: Kerr-McGee Corporation (Reed-Keppler Park) West Chicago, Illinois

Subject: NEWS ARTICLE REGARDING REMOVAL OF THORIUM ORES

A copy of a news article which appeared in the June 16, 1977 edition of the Chicago Suburban Tribune indicating that residents of West Chicago, Illinois, were banding together to fight the Illinois Department of Public Health's "easy way out" for dealing with the thorium ore residues in Reed-Keppler Park in attached. The State's action apparently resulted from a proposal made to the Department of Health by a "Blue Ribbon Panel" consisting of Argonne National Laboratory personnel and State and local representatives. An NRC Region III representative attended several meetings of the panel as an observer but did not participate in formulating panel recommendations.

Reportedly Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation has not committed itself to accepting the residuals. The \$180,000 the Department of Health requested was apparently based on the assumption K-M would accept the material.

Contact: GHSmith, IE x27353 GHBidinger, IE x27353 GWRoy, IE x27261

Distribution: Transmitted H St 5:15 pm. Chairman Rowden C. C. Kammerer, CA Commissioner Kennedy S. J. Chilk, SECY Commissioner Gilinsky Transmitted: MNBBS 2 L. V. Gossick, EDO S. H. Hanauer, EDO

J. A. Harris, PA W. G. McDonald, MIPC R. G. Ryan, OSP H. K. Shapar, ELD

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G. F. Murphy, JCAE H. H. Whiteside, SCNR H. R. Myers, HCEE

SS Bldg 8:34 C. V. Smith, NMSS

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E. Volgenau, IE Region /1 8:42

ON NON

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

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