

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Files

DATE:

MAR 30 1962

FROM : R. E. Cunningham, Chief, Enforcement Branch
Division of Licensing and Regulation

REC

SUBJECT: KERR-McGEE INDUSTRIES, INC.
SHIPROCK, NEW MEXICO

LICENSE NO. R-157

LR:REC

On March 26, 1962, we received a TWX from the Division of Compliance which stated that subject licensee was not performing air surveys within the mill to determine exposure of employees to concentrations of airborne radioactive material and they were not determining the concentrations of airborne radioactive material released to the environment. Further, there was some indication that, on the basis of air samples taken by Kerr-McGee, employees are being exposed to concentrations of airborne radioactive material in excess of the standards and material released to the environment is in excess of standards. The TWX requested priority action with respect to enforcement and stated that an immediate follow-up inspection would be conducted.

On March 29 I met with Mr. Leo Dubinski and Mr. William Kriegsman to discuss this matter. Apparently, air surveys within the mill were insufficient in that the licensee had not related his occupancy studies to his determinations of air concentrations. This deficiency was brought to the attention of Mr. McGee by the inspector. Mr. McGee stated that prompt action would be taken.

It is difficult to pin down the degree to which the licensee was in noncompliance for failure to make surveys, based on the information contained in the TWX or as a result of the meeting. Also, there is some question as to whether or not we do not already have sufficient information to cite the licensee for overexposing personnel. In view of this, it was agreed that Compliance would conduct further inspection without our taking enforcement action on the March inspection. Compliance will return to Kerr-McGee the week of April 8 and obtain sufficient information either by using data the licensee has developed

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RE: Kerr-McGee Industries, Inc.
Shiprock, New Mexico

since the last inspection to relate occupancy to air concentrations or to gather sufficient information themselves to derive this relationship. After this is obtained, Compliance will submit a complete report of the status of the mill, so that we can take enforcement action with respect to the most important aspect in this case, i. e., "Exposure of Personnel."

CC: T. B. Conner, OGC (with copy TWX and memo 3/23/62)