

OCT 09 1986

Docket No. 70-1257

Exxon Nuclear Company, Inc.  
2101 Horn Rapids Road  
Richland, Washington 99352

Attention: Mr. R. W. McCullough, Vice President  
Engineering and Production

Gentlemen:

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

As a result of the accident involving the release of uranium hexafluoride from Kerr-McGee's Sequoyah Fuels Facility in Gore, Oklahoma, on January 4, 1986, the NRC has decided to conduct an operational safety assessment at each major fuel cycle facility. As described in Mr. J. Montgomery's telephone call to Mr. C. Malody on October 3, 1986, the assessment of your facility will be conducted by a team of five inspectors from the NRC Region V Office, an individual from the local U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office and two NRC Headquarters personnel. This assessment has been scheduled for the week of November 3, 1986. The team leader, Mr. Buddy Brock, will contact your office at a later date to arrange a time for the entrance briefing.

During the assessment, the team will examine existing conditions at your facility to identify potential safety hazards that, when combined with facility operations, could impact public health and safety. The team will also examine whether there are systems and procedures in place to identify the use and handling of hazardous materials which could result in radiological safety consequences, and will determine whether these are adequately implemented. The areas to be covered include personnel training, waste management, and operations, including procedure control, equipment maintenance, nonradioactive chemical control, fire protection and radiological contingency planning.

After the assessment, the NRC will determine if measures are necessary to address any safety problems identified during the review. The assessment is not an inspection; it is intended to provide feedback to both the NRC and fuel cycle facility licensees. However, if a violation of an NRC requirement is identified during the assessment, it will be cited. Records of your reviews and audits of maintenance, training, and contingency plan drills should be made available for review while the assessment team is at your facility.

In order to facilitate the assessment, please provide to this office by October 21, 1986, a copy of your existing procedures which cover employee training, waste management, equipment maintenance, nonradioactive chemical control, fire protection, operational safety and contingency planning.

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The response requested by this letter is not subject to the clearance procedures of the Office of management and Budget as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, PL 96-511.

If you have any questions concerning the assessment, please contact me at (415) 943-3717 or Mr. Brock at (415) 943-3777.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

*Original signed*

Ross A. Scarano, Director  
Division of Radiation Safety and  
Safeguards

cc:

Mr. Charles W. Malody, Exxon  
State of WA

bcc:

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