



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

AUG 30 1977

Memo to Files

FROM: G. Wayne Kerr, Assistant Director
for State Agreements Program
Office of State Programs

SUBJECT: TELECON WITH CHARLES HARDIN, STATE OF KENTUCKY

On August 29, 1977, Mr. Hardin informed me of a meeting held with Nuclear Engineering Co. on August 25. Trench 46 is currently being dug and prepared for future burials. At this time no burials have taken place in this trench. However, last week some rain water accumulation at one end of the trench had some elevated concentration of cobalt 60. Some wet areas in both sides of the trench and on the south end at the sandstone layer level (about 12 feet under the surface) resulting in water showing about 400 pc/ml of cobalt 60. A surface reading at these points showed 2-3 mr per hour. The State sent staff members to the site on August 26 and State representatives are there this week also. Soil samples in the surrounding area, including off-site, show no evidence of elevated activity. As of today, August 29, the damp spots have dried up. The State and NECO believe that one or more of trenches 37, 38 and 39 contributed to the activity since one of those trenches did have a water problem. It should be noted that those trenches were not dug below the sandstone layer. Hardin indicated that some heavy rains occurred approximately two weeks ago and may have been the initiating event for the movement of this activity. NECO has made proposals to determine if the material has moved any further towards off-site and if necessary to grout the channels. It was also noted that water only emerged at one end of the trench. The State has sent a letter to NECO ordering that no material is to be buried in this trench, that efforts be devoted to remove the water from trenches 37, 38 and 39 and that other burials at the site be halted until the problem is resolved.

G. Wayne Kerr
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cc:P. Lonaus