

October 29, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jack H. Hind, Director, Division of Radiation Safety
and Safeguards

FROM: Charles H. Weil, Investigation and Compliance Specialist

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION RE: IMPROPER BURIAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES
AT THE COMBUSTION ENGINEERING FACILITY, HEMATITE, MO
(70-00036) (AMS NO: RIII-85-A-0173)

On October 17, 1985, Walt Purier of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (telephone number 314-849-1313) telephoned Region III. Purier advised that he had been contacted by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency with information that during the 1950s and 1960s contaminated material and equipment, including a contaminated bulldozer, were buried in porous soil on the property of "United Nuclear Facility," now Combustion Engineering, Hematite, Missouri. Purier provided the name of the individual furnishing the information.

On October 18, 1985, that person was contacted and provided the following information:

From 1959 until 1967 [] at the Gulf United Nuclear facility, now Combustion Engineering, near Hematite, Missouri, [] During the period [] and into the 1970s, the facility manufactured fuel for nuclear submarines. Waste from that fuel was placed in metal barrels and buried in trenches on the Gulf Nuclear property until disposal shifted to Oak Ridge Laboratory in the early 1970s. The burials were made in an area []

[] opening trenches, pushing barrels into the trenches, crushing the barrels in the trenches and then covering the trenches. Often the barrels were uncovered when they were pushed into the trenches. On occasion the ground water seeped into the trenches "overnight" and to a depth of one inch. [] the barrels contained "nickel, cadmium and silver used in the fuel process."

[] bulldozer became contaminated and could not be use for three days while it was being decontaminated. Another time [] got contaminated and it had to be washed until it was decontaminated.

[] present concern was that the buried material may have contaminated the waters of Jochiam Creek and [] wanted an environmental sampling program.

Information in this record was deleted
in accordance with the Freedom of Information
Act, exemptions 7c
FOIA-2004-0234

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In discussing this matter with Fuel Facility Inspector G. M. France and Section Chief L. R. Greger, it became apparent that burials at the facility in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s were permitted by regulations applicable at that time. France further advised that he had already scheduled a routine inspection at the facility for mid November 1985 and would look into the licensee's environmental monitoring program at that time. This matter was discussed with Eugene T. Pawlik, Director, Office of Investigations Region III Field Office, on October 25, 1985, and it was concluded that an investigation by OI:RIII was not warranted as wrongdoing was not specifically alleged. Accordingly, this matter was assigned within the Allegation Management System to the Division of Radiation Safety and Safeguards for resolution.

Original signed by
Charles H. Weil

Charles H. Weil
Investigation and Compliance
Specialist

Enclosure: AMS Form

cc w/enclosure:

OI:RIII

W. D. Shafer

L. R. Greger

RIII


Weil/Jr

10/29/85

