



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

August 12, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director for Operations

FROM: Ben B. Hayes, Director
Office of Investigations

SUBJECT: OI INVESTIGATION INVOLVING KERR-MCGEE/SEQUOYAH FUELS
CORPORATION (4-86-005)

At your request, the Office of Investigations (OI) is currently conducting an investigation involving Kerr-McGee Corporation and the Sequoyah Fuels Facility. The field work has essentially been completed and the Report of Investigation is presently being written. In order to complete this report and to assist in arriving at a meaningful conclusion, it has become apparent that several questions of a technical nature need to be addressed. These questions are as follows:

1. If a UF6 cylinder is overfilled by 100 - 120 pounds and heated without first evacuating the overfill, is this a safety problem? To what degree?
2. If a UF6 cylinder is overfilled by 500 - 1000 pounds and heated without first evacuating the overfill, is this a safety problem? To what degree?
3. If a UF6 cylinder is overfilled in excess of 1000 pounds and heated without first evacuating the overfill, is this a safety problem? To what degree?
4. Sequoyah Fuels Facility Procedure N-280-1, Revision 6, indicates that cylinder filling must be stopped when it reaches 100 pounds above the maximum allowable for the cylinder being filled. Further, that the overfill should then be evacuated without heating until the maximum net weight is attained. If the management of Sequoyah Fuels Facility either tacitly or knowingly condoned or otherwise allowed the routine violation of this portion of Procedure N-280-1, Revision 6, is this a safety problem relative to the competency and/or integrity of the licensee management? To what degree?

In view of the importance expressed by your staff of OI completing this investigation expeditiously, it is requested that the responses from your staff be forwarded to this office at the earliest convenience.

cc: J. Davis, NMSS
R. Martin, Region IV
D. Driskill, OI:RIV

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