



KERR-McGEE CORPORATION

KERR-McGEE BUILDING • OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73102

March 12, 1970

Mr. Donald I. Walker
Director, Region IV
Division of Compliance
United States Atomic Energy Commission
10395 West Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80215

Reference: Source Material License No. SUB-1010,
Docket No. 40-8027

Dear Mr. Walker:

In accordance with Condition 2 of Annex A to the reference license, Kerr-McGee Corporation hereby notifies that effective February 23, 1970 a respiratory protection program was initiated at the Sequoyah Facility. Allowance for the use of respiratory protective equipment in determining employee exposures shall comply with the AEC licensed conditions and specifications.

Sincerely,

G. E. Wuller
Nuclear Division-Staff Engineer
Licensing and Regulation

GEW:jws

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PDR FOIA PDR
BURR85-229

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 19, 1970

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg
Atomic Bldg.
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

It has come to my attention that a private business is currently dumping radioactive waste materials onto open ground so that the matter eventually seeps into a nearby river, thereby exposing all those who use the water to dangerous radiation. The practice poses such a grave danger to those living in neighboring areas that I am certain the AEC will take immediate corrective measures.

As you know, Kerr-McGee of Oklahoma City produces UF₆ at its facility in Gore, Oklahoma. In the process of treating uranium bearing ore with solvents such as tri-butyl phosphate, hexane, and nitric acid, radioactive waste material (raffinate) is produced.

According to information that I have received, Kerr-McGee asked the AEC for permission to pump the raffinate into a deep well, but the Commission refused to license the procedure. Instead, the company is now dumping the waste matter directly into a rock sump hidden in the woods to the south of the plant. From there it drains into nearby rivers.

In order to eliminate this hazardous situation, I would like the following information:

- (1) A description of the Commission's negotiations with Kerr-McGee about disposal of the raffinate, as well as a statement of the AEC's final decision about waste disposal at the Gore facility;
- (2) On the assumption that you will have an investigator from the Commission check into the information contained in this letter, a report about the current practices followed by Kerr-McGee for waste disposal;
- (3) A statement of AEC's rules and guidelines for disposing of radioactive waste;
- (4) A description of what steps the Commission is taking to prevent Kerr-McGee from continuing this hazardous dumping.

In addition, questions have been raised about the adequacy of the gas scrubber in removing H_2F and HF gas from the air. In order to assure that this practice does not constitute a health hazard to those living near the plant, please supply me with the following information:

- (1) An explanation of gas scrubbing operations at the plant;
- (2) Present AEC guidelines and rules on gas scrubbing;
- (3) A statement of how much H_2F and HF are allowed to escape per day, or in the event that these figures are not available, an explanation of the Commission's basis for saying that Kerr-McGee's gas scrubbing does not present a danger to the public.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Allard K. Lowenstein
Allard K. Lowenstein

AKL:rp

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

(Date) _____

TO: REG
Com

____ For appropriate handling

Com Reply for Chairman's signature

For information: GM _____ Commissioners ☒ DR ☒

Remarks _____

Julius H. Rubin
For the Chairman

Ken McGee