

MAR 31 1982

Docket No. 40-2061

Kerr-McGee Corporation
ATTN: Mr. W. J. Shelley
Vice President
Nuclear Licensing and Regulation
Kerr McGee Center, T2102
Oklahoma City, OK 73215

Gentlemen:

This is in response to your letter of March 3, 1982, concerning an inspection of your West Chicago Facility on February 19, 1982, by Ms. N. Nicholson, an inspector from Region III. You enclosed a letter from Mr. Scott Munson dated March 8, 1982, requesting Ms. Nicholson to sign the letter to acknowledge that certain information was discussed during the February 19, 1982, inspection.

It is not our policy to review and concur in documents such as Mr. Munson's letter and we decline to do so in this case. The inspection report which is prepared by the inspector following an inspection of a facility is the official agency documentation of the findings of that inspection. While reports do not purport to be detailed records of all that takes place during an inspection, they do record the substantive areas examined and sufficient information to explain the disposition of the covered items. Given the time detailed documentation would require, it is not an efficient or effective use of inspector resources nor do we believe such detail is necessary. We do not intend to ask inspectors to review and concur in documents such as Mr. Munson's letter. We will, of course, provide you with copies of our written reports, and your people are free to document their discussions with our inspectors in any manner they choose.

As to your proposal that requests for information be in writing, we do not routinely provide written questions as part of the inspection process. We have the authority to conduct unannounced inspections, at all reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, as are necessary to determine compliance with Commission requirements. We believe oral requests for information are a reasonable and effective means of obtaining information and we often rely on responses to such requests to determine if more formal demands are necessary or appropriate.

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In view of the nature of your request, I have asked our legal office to review it. They concur in this response.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
James G. Keppler

James G. Keppler
Regional Administrator

cc: S. C. Munson, Health Physicist
W. Nixon, Uranium Fuel, Licensing
Branch, NMSS
Paul Bollwerk, OGC
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