



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION III
799 ROOSEVELT ROAD
GLEN ELLYN, ILLINOIS 60137

June 29, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Region III Files

THRU: G. T. Lonergan, Chief, Materials Radiological
Protection Section

FROM: C. T. Oberg, Radiation Specialist

SUBJECT: KERR-MC GEE CHEMICAL CORPORATION, WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
LICENSE NO. STA-583
BRIEF TOURS OF FACILITY BY REGION III INSPECTOR

On June 27, 1977, an NRC Region III inspector made two brief tours of the subject licensee's West Chicago, Illinois Rare Earth Plant in a continuing effort to maintain cognizance of the status of the facility.

The Action Items (AI) No. 1 through 4, as agreed to by the licensee in their letter dated November 30, 1976, appear to remain satisfied. With respect to AI No. 5, Atcor, Inc. of Park Mall, Peekskill, New York, has been contracted by Kerr-McGee to remove high concentration, source material residues and equipment from the Kerr-McGee waste disposal/storage area at the West Chicago plant (see Exhibit 1 attached). Work on this was to have started on this date; the inspector had planned to be on site to meet with Atcor, Inc. personnel and review their plans. These contractor personnel did not arrive in the morning when the inspector was first on the site. They arrived just after noon so the inspector made a second trip to the site to meet with Atcor personnel.

During the first tour in the morning, the inspector was informed that Kuhn and Auer Co. have terminated their sales agreement with Kerr-McGee effective July 1, 1977 for purchase of the West Chicago plant. In addition, starting July 1, 1977, Kerr-McGee will be employing the Gloss Agency to provide security patrol coverage of the plant and waste area. The patrol will continue on a once per shift basis.

Kerr-McGee site personnel have completed repairs on the fence around the south end of the plant area. The site personnel are still having difficulties with trespass problems apparent in both the plant and the waste areas. Kuhn and Auer Co. are still removing switch gear from the plant plus a couple of clean tanks to be sold to an outside purchaser. They should be completed within a week or so.

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Kerr-McGee personnel informed the inspector that they have not used a commercial waste (clean) disposal company and dumpster since the plant operations were terminated. As they recalled, it was West (----) Disposal Co. which they did not believe belonged to either Kuhn or Auer. These dumpsters were only used for clean plant trash and not used in connection with any product or waste material.

During the second trip to the Kerr-McGee site, the inspector met with the Atcor, Inc. representatives (Mr. Williams and Mr. Levesque) and obtained from them a copy of their "Radiation Work Permit" and Procedure (see Exhibit 2, attached). They plan to establish a control point at the north storage shed and work from there packaging source material/residue in 55 gallon gasketed and sealed drums. They also plan to use sealed (flanged) tanks and sealed (lids) tote bins for containment of the material. The tanks and tote bins will be surveyed, decontaminated if contaminated and subsequently painted if necessary to seal in any non removable activity if level is low. The contained material will be loaded onto contracted and licensed haulers (NECO and/or Tri-State), and taken to Sheffield, Illinois (NECO) for burial. The trucks will be surveyed prior to release for transporting the material. All sealed containers will be identified by number and recorded on their "Radioactive Shipment Record" form (see Exhibit 3, attached). Weight will be determined on a total load basis by weighing the truck empty and then when loaded, Kerr-McGee site scales will be used. Surveys will be recorded on "Atcor Radiological Survey Data Form", a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 4.

Personnel will be badged for personnel monitoring and will also make use of dosimeters until radioactivity levels have been diminished (see Exhibit 5, attached). Atcor, Inc. plans to employ local help for such work as welding, rigging, high lift and backhoe operators, etc. only under direct supervision and subsequent to a brief orientation on the basic problems associated with the radiation hazards of the particular tasks. Atcor, Inc. has air particulate monitoring systems and survey instruments for use on the job (see Exhibit 2, attached). They also have acceptable respirators for use, but do not intend to request credit for their use, they will cease operation if air activity (dust) levels exceed limitations.

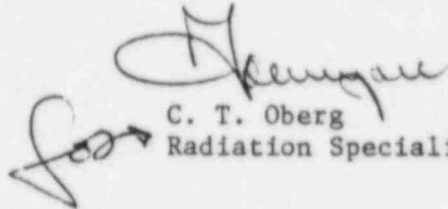
The rest of this week will be spent by Atcor, Inc. in establishing staging required for the operation, the personnel (a total of four individuals at this time) do not anticipate initiating any packaging or loading operations until the week of July 5, 1977. As time and work progresses, Atcor Inc. supervisory personnel will determine the need for additional personnel required from the New York office to continue the operation most expeditiously.

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Additional tours of the Kerr-McGee, West Chicago plant will continue as necessary to maintain the required NRC cognizance.


C. T. Oberg
Radiation Specialist

Attachments: as stated

cc w/attachments:
J. M. Allan

ATCOR'S COPY

CUSTOMER'S COPY

Driver's Copy (Retained by Receiver)

Driver's Copy (To be returned to ATCOR upon completion of shipment)

Driver's Copy (Retained by Carrier)

Survey of: _____

Date of Survey: _____ Surveyed By: _____

Type of Survey: _____

Radiation: Beta-Gamma ☐
 Gamma ☐

Surface Contamination

Loose Surface ☐ Beta-Gamma ☐
 Fixed ☐ Alpha ☐

Instr: _____

Instr: _____

Count Time _____ Min. BKG _____ CPM

Efficiency CF _____

Location	dpm/100 cm ²	Location	dpm/100 cm ²
		27	
		28	
		29	
		30	
		31	
		32	
		33	
		34	
		35	
0		36	
1		37	
2		38	
3		39	
4		40	
5		41	
6		42	
7		43	
8		44	
9		45	
0		46	
1		47	
2		48	
3		49	
4		50	
5		51	

(Exhibit 5)

ATCOR INC.

D O S I M E T E R L O G

Week Ending _____

Name:		Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
	In							
	Out							
	Total							
	In							
	Out							
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