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Original Signed by
J. W. Brockett

July 30, 1964

Thomas W. Brockett, Inspection Specialist (Health Physicist)
Division of Compliance

KERR-McGEE OIL INDUSTRIES, INC., GOLDEN, COLORADO - LICENSE NO. SUB-143

Don Walker telephoned on July 16, 1964, with respect to Region IV's findings during a close-out inspection of the subject licensee's facilities. This inspection was requested by DML by memorandum dated June 12, 1964.

Don stated that Phil Sandel had inspected this licensee on July 13, 1964, and had found four buildings at the site in good shape; however, a fifth building where yellow cake had been handled was contaminated and yellow cake was noticeable on the floor. This situation was discussed with Mr. Wayne Hazen, and Mr. Hazen stated that this building would be thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated.

On July 15, Sandel returned to the licensee's facility and found that the room appeared clean and, according to personnel at the building, had been vacuumed, hosed down, and washed with acid. On checking, however, Sandel found alpha contamination levels greater than 25,000 dpm in spots and an average of 3-10 thousand dpm over the floor area.

As a result of the findings on July 15, Don Walker discussed the matter with Mr. V. L. Mattson, Vice President, Research and Development, Kerr-McGee Industries, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mr. Mattson told Don that they would take care of the cleanup immediately and expressed indignation that this building was in this condition. Mattson said that the person who surveys the buildings at this site for Kerr-McGee had not surveyed this particular building. Mattson told Walker that they would prefer to take care of this by pouring an additional 3-4 inch layer of concrete over the floor but they would consider tearing up the floor with a jack hammer and burying it if this was necessary. Mattson asked Don for approval of the use of the additional concrete and Don told him that he could not give such approval--that it would have to come from AEC Headquarters. Don asked me to contact DML to determine if this was a feasible method of taking care of the contamination. He further stated that Mattson would like to take care of this as quickly as possible.

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I related the above information to Leo Dubinski, Jack Roeder, and Don Harmon. Don Harmon in turn discussed the matter with Lyall Johnson.

Don Walker was telephoned later on July 16, with Don Harmon also on the line, and we discussed the procedure that could be followed by Kerr-McGee. Harmon told Walker that the licensee had the alternative of going ahead and putting additional concrete over the floor and taking the chance of getting AEC's approval of this action, or he could play it safer and submit a formal written request for approval of such a measure before actually doing the work. Harmon further stated that should the latter course be taken, the licensee should indicate, along with his request to use the additional concrete, the area involved and define the area, state the levels of contamination presently existing, and measures that have been taken to clean up the area. Also, an explanation should be given as to why this area was not cleaned up along with the other buildings prior to the close-out inspection.

Don Walker indicated that he would contact Mr. Mattson and relay the information to him.

TWB:cs

cc: D. I. Walker, CO:IV
→ D. F. Harmon, DML