DL0021 3530300Z

PP HQ KC OC

DE DL

P 190130Z DEC 78

FM FBI DALLAS [redacted] P

b3
b7E

TO DIRECTOR FBI PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

UNSUBS, AKA [redacted] ALLEGED PLAN TO STEAL PLUTONIUM MATERIAL

b6
b7C

FROM KERR MC GEE CORPORATION, CRESENT, OKLAHOMA: AEA. OO:

OKLAHOMA CITY.

ON DECEMBER 18, 1978, [redacted] NUCLEAR REGULATORY

b6
b7C
b7D

COMMISSION, 611 RYAN PLAZA, ARLINGTON, TEXAS, [redacted]

ADVISED [redacted] TACTICAL SQUAD, GARLAND, TEXAS PD, REPORTED

TO HIM THIS DATE THAT AN INFORMANT OF THE PD HAD BEEN [redacted]

[redacted] STATED PLUTONIUM VERY DANGEROUS AND INDICATED HE

b6
b7C

REPORTED THIS INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS IN

WASHINGTON, D.C. AND FURTHER REQUESTED HIS OFFICE BE ADVISED OF [redacted]

b3
b6
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b7E

SUPV [redacted] advised [redacted]

[redacted]

PAGE TWO DE DL 0021 UNCLAS [redacted] b3 b7E

ANY DEVELOPMENTS.

OFFICER [redacted] GARLAND, TEXAS PD, ADVISED THIS DATE A b6 b7C b7D

CRIMINAL INFORMANT CONSIDERED RELIABLE FIRST TOLD HIM [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

OFFICER [redacted] CONTACTED A FRIEND OF HIS, SA [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

AT&F, DALLAS, WHO CHECKED IN OKLAHOMA WITH KERR MC GEE AND FOUND

NO URANIUM OR COBALT MISSING AND THE MATTER WAS DROPPED. THEN

THE INFORMANT WAS RECONTACTED ON [redacted]

[redacted]

b3
b7E

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

OFFICER [redacted] STATED HE WOULD FURNISH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE RECEIVED. [redacted] THINKS HIS INFORMANT IS RELIABLE BUT QUESTIONS INFORMATION HE IS GETTING FROM [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

EURIKA, NEW YORK NOT LOCATED IN CURRENT POSTAL GUIDES.

OKLAHOMA CITY. CONTACT KERR MC GEE CORPORATION SECURITY OFFICE.

KANSAS CITY. SEARCH INDICES RE [redacted]

b6
b7C

DALLAS WILL FURNISH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OBTAINED.

BT

0021

NNNN

FD-340a (Rev. 3-12-74)

[redacted] b6 b7C
AKA;
Alleged plan to steal Plutonium Material from Kerr McGee Corporation

(Title) [redacted] b3 b7E

(File No.) [redacted]

Item	Date Filed		Disposition
1cc	1/6/79	Negative & photo of [redacted]	b6 b7C

DO NOT DESTROY: HISTORICAL VALUE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

REMARKED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 6 1979
FBI—OKLAHOMA CITY

AT

FD-340 REV. (6-14-77)

b3
b7E

Field File No. [redacted]

OO and File No.

Date Received 1-5-79

From

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

b6
b7C

By [redacted]

(NT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

negative and photo of [redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

copy to DK. 1/5/79

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-78)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:	PRECEDENCE:	CLASSIFICATION:
[XX] Teletype	[ ] Immediate	[ ] ~~TOP SECRET~~
[ ] Facsimile	[ ] Priority	[ ] ~~SECRET~~
[ ] _____	[X] Routine	[ ] ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
		[ ] UNCLAS E F T O
		[X] UNCLAS

VIA ENCIPHERED TELETYPE

Date 12/19/78

FM OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] (P) b3 b7E

TO DIRECTOR, FBI ROUTINE 35[illegible]

DALLAS ROUTINE ~~[illegible]~~ 354[illegible]

BT

UNCLAS

UNSUBS, AKA [redacted] ALLEGED PLAN TO STEAL PLUTONIUM MATERIAL b6 b7C FROM KERR MC GEE CORPORATION, CRESENT, OKLAHOMA; AEA. OO: OKLAHOMA CITY.

THE KERR MC GEE NUCLEAR CORPORATION IS KNOWN TO OPERATE A PLUTONIUM FUEL PLANT AT CRESENT, OKLA., KNOWN AS THE CIMARRON FACILITY, WHICH PLANT IS OPERATED UNDER AEC LICENSE NO. SNM 114 (DOCKET NO. 70-113). ON DECEMBER 19, 1978, [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] KMC, OKLAHOMA CITY, ADVISED THE CIMARRON FACILITY HAS BEEN IN A STANDBY STATUS SINCE JANUARY, 1976. THE PLANT HAS NOT BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE THAT TIME AND ALL RECOVERABLE PLUTONIUM HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE PLANT. NO SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF PLUTONIUM WAS NOT ACCOUNTED FOR DURING THE TIME OF THE PLANT'S OPERATION OR

1 - Kansas City (AM)
1 - Oklahoma City
LJO:ako
(2) ako

[redacted] b6 b7C

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Approved: _____ Transmitted 004 See above (Number) (Time) Per [redacted] b3 b7E

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-78)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO [ ] UNCLAS

AFTERWARDS. THE MATERIAL UNACCOUNTED FOR (MUF) FIGURE IS NEGLIGIBLE. THERE WERE NO SUBSTANTIAL THEFTS OR DIVERSIONS OF PLUTONIUM EVER NOTED DURING THE PLANT'S OPERATION.

THERE ARE NO SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF URANIUM KNOWN TO BE UNACCOUNTED FOR AT THE URANIUM PLANT WHICH IS ALSO AT THE CIMARRON FACILITY SITE. THE URANIUM PLANT IS LIKEWISE SHUT DOWN.

INVESTIGATION AND LIAISON HAS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED THAT THE [ ]

b3
b7E
b4

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-78)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE THREE [redacted] UNCLAS b3 b7E

ADMINISTRATIVE. RE DALLAS TELETYPE TO BUREAU 12/19/78.

OKLAHOMA CITY INDICES NEGATIVE RE UNSUB [redacted] b6 b7C

OKLAHOMA CITY IS IN POSSESSION OF NO INFORMATION INDICATING THERE ACTUALLY IS A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF PLUTONIUM MISSING FROM THE FACILITY. IT IS NOTED THE PLUTONIUM AT CAPTIONED PLANT IS BY DEFINITION SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL (SNM). IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ALLEGED PLAN, ADDITIONAL DETAILS CONCERNING THE THEFT WOULD BE HELPFUL. ACCORDINGLY, THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS AND LEADS ARE BEING SET FORTH:

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

IT IS REQUESTED THAT FBIHQ, THROUGH LIAISON WITH THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC) DETERMINE IF NRC IS IN POSSESSION OF ANY INFORMATION REGARDING ANY SUBSTANTIAL THEFTS OR DIVERSIONS FROM CAPTIONED PLANT. DETERMINE PRESENT (ACTUAL) MUF FIGURE.

DALLAS. RECONTACT GARLAND, TEXAS PD AND OBTAIN ADDITIONAL DETAILS SUCH AS DESCRIPTIONS OF UNSUBS AND VEHICLES KNOWN TO BE USED BY THEM. OBTAIN ALL INFORMATION KNOWN TO INFORMANT RE [redacted] b7D

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time) Per _____

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-78)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ _____

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date _____

b3
b7E

PAGE FOUR [redacted] UNCLAS

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] IN EITHER FORM,

THE PLUTONIUM AND ITS CONTAINERS ARE VERY BULKY AND HEAVY,

REQUIRING FORK LIFTS TO LOAD AND HEAVY SEMI TRAILERS TO

TRANSPORT. DETERMINE [redacted]

[redacted]

DETERMINE IF UNSUBS ARE ATTEMPTING TO WORK CONFIDENCE SCHEME

ON INFORMANT BY [redacted]

OKLAHOMA CITY WILL FOLLOW WITH KMC.

BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

KC0002 3532057

PP HQ DL OK

DE KC

P 192030Z DEC 78

FM KANSAS CITY [redacted] RUC

TO DIRECTOR FBI (PRIORITY)

DALLAS (PRIORITY)

OKLAHOMA CITY (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS

UNSUBS, AKA [redacted] ALLEGED PLAN TO STEAL PLUTONIUM MATERIAL FROM KERR MC GEE CORPORATION, CRESENT, OKLA.; AEA. OO: OKLA. CITY.

RE DALLAS TELETYPE DEC 19, 1978.

KANSAS CITY INDICES NEGATIVE RE [redacted] HOWEVER, THERE ARE NUMEROUS REFERENCES TO VARIATIONS, I.E. FIRST NAMES BEGINNING WITH [redacted]

KANSAS CITY WILL NEED ADDITIONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION RE SUBJECT IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A MORE THOROUGH SEARCH.

BT

b3
b7E

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
DEC 19 1978

[redacted]

b3
b6
b7C
b7E

HOLD

VZCZCHQ0134

RR DL OC

DE HQ 0134 3560142

ZNR UUUUU

R 212156Z DEC 78

FM DIRECTOR, FBI

TO FBI OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] ROUTINE b3 b7E

FBI DALLAS ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

UNSUB, AKA [redacted]; ALLEGED PLAN TO STEAL PLUTONIUM MATERIAL b6 b7C

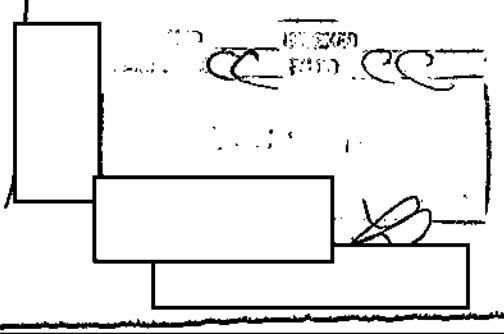
FROM KERR MCGEE CORPORATION, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA; AEA

OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

RE OKLAHOMA CITY TELETYPE TO FBIHQ DATED DECEMBER 19, 1978.

OFFICIALS AT THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION ADVISED THAT THE CIMARRON FACILITY COMMENCED OPERATION IN 1970 AND TERMINATED IN 1975. THERE HAS BEEN NO RECORD OF MATERIAL BEING STOLEN OR DIVERTED FROM THIS FACILITY, AND DURING THE PERIOD OF OPERATION THERE HAS BEEN A CUMULATIVE MATERIAL UNACCOUNTED FOR FIGURE OF 7.5 KILOGRAMS.

IT IS NOTED THIS FACILITY, EVEN THOUGH INACTIVE, IS SUBJECT TO NO LESS THAN FOUR ANNUAL INSPECTIONS, WHICH INCLUDE SECURITY



b3 b6 b7C b7E

PAGE TWO DE HQ Ø134 UNCLAS

AND ACCOUNTABILITY INSPECTIONS.

BT

Ø134

NNNN

DL0000S 3570135

RR HQ AL OC KC

DE DL

R 230135Z DEC 78

FM FBI DALLAS [redacted] P

TO DIRECTOR FBI ROUTINE

FBI ALBANY ROUTINE

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] ROUTINE

FBI KANSAS CITY [redacted] ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

CHANGED. [redacted] AKA [redacted]

[redacted] ALLEGED PLAN TO STEAL PLUTONIUM MATERIAL FROM KERR MC GEE CORPORATION, CRESENT, OKLAHOMA; AEA. OO: OKLAHOMA CITY.

RE DALLAS TELETYPE TO BUREAU DECEMBER 18, 1978, AND OKLAHOMA CITY TELETYPE TO BUREAU DECEMBER 19, 1978 (NO COPIES TO ALBANY.

TITLE MARKED CHANGED TO ADD ADDITIONAL ALIASES OF [redacted] AND [redacted] ALSO TO ADD ADDITIONAL SUBJECT'S NAME [redacted] PREVIOUS TITLE WAS CARRIED "UNSUB, AKA [redacted].

FOR INFORMATION ALBANY ON DECEMBER 18, 1978, OFFICER [redacted]

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b6
b7C

b6
b7C

[redacted]

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED
DEC 29 1978
FBI

[redacted]

b3
b6
b7C
b7E

b3
b7E

[redacted] GARLAND, TEXAS PD, ADVISED A PD INFORMANT CONSIDERED

b6
b7C
b7D

RELIABLE, TOLD HIM THAT [redacted]

[redacted]

OFFICER [redacted] WAS REQUESTED TO RECONTACT HIS INFORMANT TO

b6
b7C
b7D

GET ADDITIONAL DETAILS. [redacted] SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO FURNISH

INFORMATION TO THE FBI, AS HE FEARS HIS INFORMANT WILL BE "BLOWN"

[redacted]

[redacted] ADVISED ON DECEMBER 22, 1978, HIS INFORMANT CONTACTED

b6
b7C
b7D

HIM [redacted]

[redacted]

b3
b7E
b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]

DALLAS INDICES NEGATIVE REGARDING [redacted] OR

b6
b7C

[redacted]

IN LIGHT OF OKLAHOMA CITY'S INVESTIGATION AT KERR MC GEE CORPORATION INDICATING NO APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF PLUTONIUM MATERIALS MISSING AND THE APPARENT [redacted]

b7D

PAGE FOUR DE DL 0005 UNCLAS [redacted]

[redacted] DALLAS CONSIDERS THIS INFORMATION BEING

FURNISHED TO INFORMANT AS QUESTIONALBE, BUT WILL FOLLOW.

OFFICER [redacted] REQUESTS SUBJECTS NOT BE CONTACTED AT THIS POINT

AS INFORMANT [redacted] OFFICER [redacted] WAS ADVISED

THAT IF THE FBI CONTACTS SUBJECTS, APPROPRIATE MEASURES WOULD

BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE INFORMANT.

DALLAS WILL REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FURNISHED.

BT

0005

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AIRTEL

1/5/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] (P) b3 b7E

[redacted] aka: b6 b7C
[redacted]

Alleged Plan to Steal Plutonium
Material from Kerr McGee Corporation,
Cresent, Oklahoma
AEA
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Dallas Teletype to Bureau, 12/23/78.

Enclosed for Dallas photograph of [redacted] b6 b7C

Referenced Dallas teletype set forth name of additional subject re captioned case. [redacted] who in the teletype was described, according to Garland, Texas, Police Department informant, as [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

[redacted]

The [redacted] Oklahoma State Directory, published by Oklahoma State Election Board, Page [redacted] contained a photograph of [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] and contained the following biographic data:

[redacted] b6 b7C

It is noted that [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted]

2 - Bureau
1 - Albany (Info)
2 - [redacted] (Enc. - 1)
1 - [redacted] (Info)
2 - Oklahoma City
LJO:alk

(8)

[redacted] b6 b7C

1 CC

CC

[redacted] b3 b7E

[redacted] b3 b7E

Oklahoma Department of Motor Vehicles, Driver's License Records, lists expired [redacted] Oklahoma Driver's License for [redacted] date of birth [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] hair; [redacted] eyes; address [redacted] issued 5/74.

It is noted that the county seat of [redacted] County is [redacted] and [redacted] of that county. There is no current listing for [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] in the [redacted] Telephone Directory.

Oklahoma City Indices negative re [redacted] b6 b7C and no identifiable NCIC criminal record located regarding him when inquiry made 1/5/79.

Continued liaison with Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), Oklahoma City, has failed to develop any information of value relating to captioned matter. It is noted that FBIHQ has previously advised that Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reported only an insignificant cumulative material unaccounted for figure for KMC Cimarron Facility, Cresent, Oklahoma, which continues to remain in an inactive status with no recoverable plutonium located on site.

LEAD:

DALLAS

AT DALLAS, TEXAS. Cause enclosed photograph to be displayed to Garland PD source to determine if identical with subject of this case.

DL0ØØ13 24Ø32Ø

RR HQ AL OC KC

DE DL

R 24Ø32ØZ JAN 79

FM FBI DALLAS [redacted] P

TO DIRECTOR FBI ROUTINE

FBI ALBANY ROUTINE

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] ROUTINE

FBI KANSAS CITY [redacted] ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

[redacted] AKA; [redacted] ALLEGED PLAN TO STEAL PLUTONIUM MATERIAL FROM KERR MC GEE CORPORATION, CRESENT, OKLAHOMA; AEA. OO: OKLAHOMA CITY.

RE OKLAHOMA CITY AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR JANUARY 5, 1979.

OFFICER [redacted] GARLAND, TEXAS PD, ADVISED ON JANUARY 19, 1979, THAT HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE INFORMANT WHO HAS BEEN FURNISHING INFORMATION IN THIS CASE. HE IDENTIFIED INFORMANT AS [redacted]

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b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C

b3
b7E

PAGE TWO DE DL 0013 UNCLAS E F T O [redacted]

[redacted] DALLAS INDICES AND NCIC NEGATIVE.

ON JANUARY 23, 1979, [redacted] DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA), DALLAS, WHO HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE, ADVISED ONE [redacted] ALSO KNOWN AS [redacted] HAS RECENTLY [redacted] AND BELIEVES HE MAY BE IDENTICAL WITH CAPTIONED. AGENT [redacted] IN OKLAHOMA CITY DEA OFFICE WILL HAVE DETAILS.

OKLAHOMA CITY WILL CONTACT [redacted] DEA, RE DETAILS OF [redacted] IDENTITY AND ACTIVITIES.

DALLAS WILL REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FURNISHED.

BT

0013

NNNN

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b7D
b6
b7C
b7D
b6
b7C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
March 5, 1979

[redacted] b6 b7C

ALLEGED PLAN TO STEAL PLUTONIUM MATERIAL
FROM KERR MC GEE CORPORATION, CRESENT,
OKLAHOMA
ATOMIC ENERGY ACT

The Dallas Division of the FBI by communication dated December 19, 1978, did advise on December 18, 1978, [redacted] Nuclear Regulatory Commission, 611 Ryan Plaza, Arlington, Texas, Telephone Number [redacted] b6 b7C advised [redacted] Tactical Squad, Garland, Texas, Police Department, reported to him this date that an informant of the police department [redacted] b7D

[redacted] stated plutonium is very dangerous and indicated he reported this information to the Commission Headquarters in Washington, DC, and further requested his office be advised of any developments. b6 b7C

Officer [redacted] Garland, Texas, Police Department, advised this date a criminal informant considered reliable [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

5 - Bureau
1 - Dallas (Info)
2 - [redacted] b3 b7E

LJO:alk
(8)

[redacted] b6 b7C

Officer [redacted] contacted a friend of his, Special Agent [redacted] Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Dallas, Texas, who checked in Oklahoma with Kerr McGee and found no uranium or cobalt missing and the matter was dropped. Then the informant was recontacted on [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Officer [redacted] stated he would furnish any additional information he received. [redacted] thinks his informant is reliable but questions [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

The Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation is known to operate a plutonium fuel plant at Cresent, Oklahoma, which plant is known as the Cimarron Facility. The plant is operated under AEC License Number SNM 114 (Docket Number 70-113).

On December 19, 1978, [redacted] Kerr McGee Corporation, Oklahoma City, advised a representative of the FBI that the Cimarron Facility has been in a standby status since January, 1976. The plant has not been in operation since that time, and all recoverable plutonium has been removed from the plant. During the time of the plant's operation, no substantial amounts of plutonium were unaccounted for. There were no substantial thefts or diversions of plutonium ever noted during the plant's operation. b6 b7C

Also, there is a uranium plant located at the Cimarron Facility. There were no substantial amounts of uranium known to be unaccounted for at the uranium plant. The uranium plant also is shut down and in a standby status.

Previous investigation conducted by the FBI had

[redacted] b6 b7C

determined that the [redacted] b4

[redacted]

FBI Headquarters, Washington, DC, by communication dated December 21, 1978, advised that they had been informed by officials of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the Cimarron Facility commenced operation in 1970 and terminated operation in 1975. There has been no record of material being stolen or diverted from this facility, and during the period of facility operation, there had been a cumulative material unaccounted for figure (MUF) of [redacted] The Cimarron Facility, even though inactive, is subject to no less than four annual inspections, which include security and accountability inspections. b4

The Dallas Division of the FBI, by communication dated December 23, 1978, advised that Officer [redacted] Garland, Texas, Police Department, (supra) advised on December 22, 1978, his informant contacted him [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

The [redacted] Oklahoma State Directory, published by Oklahoma State Election Board, Page [redacted] contained a photograph of [redacted] and contained the following biographic data: b6 b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C

It is noted that [redacted] b6 b7C

Oklahoma Department of Motor Vehicles, Driver's License Records, lists expired [redacted] Oklahoma Driver's License for [redacted] date of birth, [redacted] hair; [redacted] eyes; address, [redacted]; issued May, 1974. b6 b7C

It is noted that the county seat of [redacted] County is [redacted] and [redacted] of that county. There is no current listing for [redacted] in the [redacted] Telephone Directory. b6 b7C

DIRECTOR, FBI 2/6/79

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] (C) b3 b7E

[redacted] aka: [redacted] b6 b7C

Alleged Plan to Steal
Plutonium Material from
Kerr McGee Corporation,
Cresent, Oklahoma
AEA
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau, 1/5/79; Dallas teletype to Bureau, 1/24/79.

As Bureau is aware, the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation has facility known as the Cimarron Facility, located at Cresent, Oklahoma. This facility continues to remain in a standby status and has not been in operation since 1/76. There are no substantial amounts of uranium or plutonium known to be unaccounted for from that facility. As the Bureau is also aware, much publicity and notoriety has been given to the Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility.

Dallas, by re Dallas teletype, set forth information pertaining to possible identity of Garland, Texas, informant, who was the original source of information in this case. It is noted that based on information furnished by Dallas that this matter appears to be [redacted] rather than a violation of the Atomic Energy Act. b7D

As previously indicated, there is no substantial amount of plutonium unaccounted for from the Cimarron Facility, nor is there any potential for any plutonium theft to occur at that facility inasmuch as there is no plutonium there.

In view of the above, Oklahoma City is conducting no further investigation in this matter and placing this case in a closed status.

2 - Bureau (Enc. - 5)
1 - [redacted] (Enc. - 1)(Info) b3 b7E
2 - [redacted]

LJO:ajk
(5)

FILE TO BE DESTROYED 5 yrs

Close 4 cc cc

[redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

The [redacted] Oklahoma State Directory, published by Oklahoma State Election Board, Page [redacted] contained a photograph of [redacted] and contained the following biographic data: b6 b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C

It is noted that [redacted] b6 b7C

Oklahoma Department of Motor Vehicles, Driver's License Records, lists expired [redacted] Oklahoma Driver's License for [redacted] date of birth, [redacted] hair; [redacted] eyes; address, [redacted] issued May, 1974. b6 b7C

It is noted that the county seat of [redacted] County is [redacted] and [redacted] of that county. There is no current listing for [redacted] in the [redacted] Telephone Directory. b6 b7C

On January 19, 1979, Officer Martin [redacted] supra, advised that he has lost contact with the criminal informant who was the source of the information upon which captioned case is based. Informant's present whereabouts unknown. b6 b7C

cc

cc

[redacted] b3 b7E

DIRECTOR, FBI 4/27/79

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] (C) b3 b7E

[redacted] aka: [redacted] b6 b7C

Alleged Plan to Steal
Plutonium Material from
Kerr McGee Corporation,
Cresent, Oklahoma
AEA
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City letter and LHM to Bureau, 3/6/79.

Enclosed for Bureau five copies of amended Page 4 for referenced LHM. Enclosed for Dallas one copy of amended Page 4.

Amended pages being submitted per Bureau request. Oklahoma City copies corrected.

Oklahoma City again placing case in closed status.

file Stripped 3/22/89 SAS

DEST

2 - Bureau (Enc. - 5)
1 - Dallas (Enc. - 1)(Info)
1 - Oklahoma City
LJO:alk

(4)

(1) (4)

[redacted] b3 b7E

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1341279-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 38
Page 5 ~ Duplicate;
Page 11 ~ Duplicate;
Page 12 ~ Duplicate;
Page 13 ~ Duplicate;
Page 14 ~ Duplicate;
Page 31 ~ Duplicate;
Page 35 ~ Duplicate;
Page 36 ~ Duplicate;
Page 37 ~ Duplicate;
Page 40 ~ Duplicate;
Page 41 ~ Duplicate;
Page 44 ~ Duplicate;
Page 45 ~ Duplicate;
Page 47 ~ Duplicate;
Page 49 ~ Duplicate;
Page 51 ~ Duplicate;
Page 55 ~ Duplicate;
Page 80 ~ Duplicate;
Page 81 ~ Duplicate;
Page 91 ~ Duplicate;
Page 96 ~ Duplicate;
Page 97 ~ Duplicate;
Page 98 ~ Duplicate;
Page 100 ~ Duplicate;
Page 102 ~ Duplicate;
Page 104 ~ Duplicate;
Page 105 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 115 ~ Duplicate;
Page 116 ~ Duplicate;
Page 140 ~ b7D;
Page 141 ~ b7D;
Page 142 ~ b7D;
Page 143 ~ b7D;
Page 144 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 145 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 146 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;
Page 149 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-NEW) P DATE: 11/20/74

FROM : SUPERVISOR [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)-VICTIM;
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959-
INVESTIGATIVE MATTER.

Re Bureau telephone call to Supervisor [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] 11/20/74.

FBI Headquarters Supervisor [redacted] Accounting b6 b7C
and Fraud Section, Labor Unit, telephonically advised
SA [redacted] as follows:

[redacted] Management and Labor Section, b6 b7C
Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington,
D. C., has advised [redacted] that a request is forthcoming from
the Department for investigation in this matter by the FBI
under the 159 classification looking toward possible violation
of Title 29, Section 530. [redacted] stated that a preliminary
inquiry will be requested to ascertain whether or not any
union members' rights have been violated under Title 29,
Section 530. [redacted] further advised that [redacted] is also
considering the possibility of Obstruction of Justice violation
under Title 18, Section 1505, in the event SILKWOOD's
death proves not to be accidental although it does not appear
at this time that her death is anything but accidental.

[redacted] advised this matter would be handled by b6 b7C
either [redacted] or Supervisor [redacted] of the Labor Unit
at the Bureau in Division 6 as a 1959 matter.

[redacted] advised that this office should do nothing in b6 b7C
regard to the 159 new case until such time as we receive
written instructions from the Department via the Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a 159 new be opened and assigned to SA [redacted] b3 b6
who is familiar with the background in this matter. It is b7C
further recommended that pertinent serials of [redacted] be b7E
made a part of the 159-new.

GCR:ddw
(3)

with copy of this memo for Sr. Insp. [redacted]

[redacted] b3 b6 b7C b7E

159-45-1

5010-108-01

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of P[illegible]quired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 10-6-65)

Date 1/20/75

Title and Character of Case

VICTIM:
EILEEN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMBA: 003

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
1-10-75	AEC WDC

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BULKY EXHBIT VAULT	EVIDENCE

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

PACKET CONTAINING:
AEC News Release 4-11 1/6/75
" " 24-12 1/7/74
AEC Rept. of Insection 11/21 - 12/6/74
AEC Invest. Rep't. 74-09
AEC Div of Ins. Rep't 44-2-339

MATERIAL FURNISHED BY BU - (AIRTEL DOC. 1/10/75 Serial 139-45-94)

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

9/30/81 KO case is closed (2) NOT DESTROY EVIDENTIAL VALUE
10/6/87 TM → NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Field File # 139-45-1131

10

WA

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Pro[illegible]uired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 10-6-65)

Date 12/20/74

Title and Character of Case

[illegible] R. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
[illegible]; ARSON

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
12/13/74	BY FBI AGENTS FROM

b6
b7C

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BULKY EXHIBIT VAULT	EVIDENCE

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

(1) COPY OF ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION LAB REPORT RE: KAREN SILKWOOD DATED 12/12/74

DO NOT DESTROY: HISTORICAL VALUE,
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

[illegible] 6/30/75 [illegible]
12/6/75

Field File # 139-4[illegible]-18(3)

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 10-6-65)

Date 12/20/74

Title and Character of Case
UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD;
KERR MC GEE CORPORATION
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
12/3/74	White 73 Honda Civic YF 8261 Made Available by Drew Stephens

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BULKY EXHIBIT VAULT	EVIDENCE

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. Paint samples from dented area.

2. Scrapings from bumper.

DO NOT DESTROY: HISTORICAL VALUE,
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Submitted by SA [redacted]

b6
b7C

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

9/30/[illegible] Form in Lab - Negative returned

[redacted]

Field File # 159-45-1B[illegible])

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 10-6-65)

Date 2-14-75

Title and Character of Case

INSURS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
CMAA: OOJ

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
1/23/75	[redacted] AEC GERMANTOWN

b6
b7C

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BULKY ROOM	EVIDENCE

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

(1) AEC REPORT DATED 12/19/74
RE Alleged falsification of Quality Assurance records.

(4) XEROX copies made; (3) sent to Buf
(1) USA OC by rpt. 2/5/75

SUBMITTED BY SA [redacted]
recd @ OKC 1/28/75 by serial 104 (SA lot
to OC 1/23/75

b6
b7C

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

9/30/81 JD case in history file - Abstract entered
05/6/87 TA

DO NOT DESTROY: HISTORICAL VALUE,
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Field File # 157-45-16(4)

Bulky Exhibit - Inventory of Property Acquired as Evidence
FD-192 (Rev. 10-6-65)

Date 2-14-75

Title and Character of Case

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
ITC & CKY 2-10-75	WFO BY SERIAL 109 REPT OF SA [redacted] dated 2/5/75

b6
b7C

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
BULKY ROOM	EVIDENCE

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1) TAPE of conversation furnished by [redacted]

b6
b7C

2) ONE COPY of hearing before Subcom. Re on Research, Development & Radiation (1967)

3) copy letter dated 1/20/75 to OCAW members.

SUBMITTED BY SA [redacted] acquired 2/10/75 by mailing reg.

b6
b7C

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

9/30/81 AD Can dispose - historical interest

10/6/87 TDY

HISTORICAL VALUE,

DO NOT DESTROY
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Field File # 139-45-1365

DNA

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

VIA ENCIPHERED TELETYPE

FBI

Date: NOVEMBER 19, 1974

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE 002 URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI SLP

FROM: OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] (P)

b3
b7E

ATTENTION: INTD

KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED) (KMC)

[redacted]

KERR MC GEE CORPORATION/NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION, CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA, [redacted] ATOMIC ENERGY ACT (AEA).

ON ABOUT NOVEMBER 7, 1974, A FACILITY EMPLOYEE, KAREN G. SILKWOOD, WHO IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE OIL, CHEMICAL, AND ATOMIC WORKERS UNION (OCAW), WAS DETERMINED TO HAVE BEEN IN SOME WAY CONTAMINATED BY PLUTONIUM WHICH IS PRODUCED BY THE FACILITY. THE CONTAMINATION WAS INVESTIGATED BY KMC AND BY AEC. THE INVESTIGATION IS STILL ONGOING.

IT WAS DETERMINED THAT SILKWOOD'S APARTMENT AND ROOMMATE ALSO WERE CONTAMINATED.

LIAISON WAS MAINTAINED BY OKLAHOMA CITY WITH APPROPRIATE KMC AND AEC REPRESENTATIVES FROM OUTSET OF REPORT OF CONTAMINATION TO PROTECT BUREAU'S INTEREST.

JERRY PHILLIP, REGULATORY OPERATIONS, AEC, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, DURING PERIOD NOVEMBER 14-19, 1974, ADVISED IT HAD NOT BEEN DETERMINED JUST ACTUALLY HOW SILKWOOD RECEIVED

2 - Oklahoma City
LJO:pwo
(1)

Approved: _____ Sent 12:31 P M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

157-1145-2

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

(Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO [ ]

b3
b7E

CONTAMINATION BUT THERE WAS NO KNOWN "NUCLEAR INCIDENT" INVOLVED AT FACILITY. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANY NUCLEAR MATERIALS WERE INTENTIONALLY DIVERTED AND AMOUNT OF CONTAMINANT UNKNOWN BUT APPEARS TO BE QUITE SMALL. SILKWOOD WAS SENT TO AEC, LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO, FOR DETAILED MEDICAL EXAMINATION NOVEMBER 13, 1974.

SILKWOOD RETURNED TO OKLAHOMA CITY AFTER EXAMINATION AND WAS INVOLVED IN ONE CAR ACCIDENT AT 7:30 P.M., ON NOVEMBER 13, 1974, AT WHICH TIME SHE WAS KILLED.

SINCE THAT TIME OFFICIALS OF OCAW MADE COMPLAINT TO U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE AND AEC REGARDING CIRCUMSTANCES OF SILKWOOD'S DEATH. UNION HIRED INDEPENDENT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATOR WHO SPECULATED THAT SILKWOOD'S CAR WAS STRUCK FROM BEHIND CAUSING FATAL ACCIDENT. ACCORDING TO THE OCAW SILKWOOD AT AEC MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 1974, WASHINGTON, D.C., ALONG WITH TWO COLLEAGUES FROM CAPTIONED FACILITY, ALLEGED THAT KMC WAS MANUFACTURING FAULTY FUEL RODS AND THAT INSPECTION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR THESE RODS HAD BEEN FALSIFIED.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

(Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____ *(Type in plaintext or code)*

Via _____ *(Priority)*

PAGE THREE [redacted]

b3
b7E

LIAISON WITH AEC DETERMINED THAT OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL (OHP), WHO INVESTIGATED SILKWOOD'S FATAL ACCIDENT, FOUND NO INDICATION OF HER CAR HAVING BEEN STRUCK FROM BEHIND AND THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY. AEC ADVISED INQUIRY IS STILL BEING CONDUCTED REGARDING ALLEGATION OF FALSIFICATION OF INSPECTION RECORDS NOTING THAT THE FUEL RODS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED WERE SUPPLIED TO AEC OWNED REACTOR AND THERE WERE POSSIBLE AEC VIOLATIONS AS WELL AS FRAUD AGAINST GOVERNMENT ASPECT IF ALLEGATION SUBSTANTIATED.

KMC ON NOVEMBER 19, 1974, ADVISED THAT SILKWOOD'S CONTAMINATION INITIALLY ROUTINELY DETECTED AT FACILITY ON NOVEMBER 5, 1974, HOW CONTAMINATION OCCURRED IS UNKNOWN. SHE WAS RECHECKED THE 6TH AND 7TH AND ON BOTH CHECKS SHOWED CONTAMINATION. SHE WAS "CLEANED" AFTER EACH DETECTION. HER APARTMENT WAS THEREAFTER CHECKED AND FOUND TO BE CONTAMINATED. HER ROOMMATE WHO IS NOT KMC EMPLOYEE ALSO HAD LIGHT SURFACE CONTAMINATION APPARENTLY AS RESULT OF HAVING BEEN CONTAMINATED IN THE APARTMENT. KMC IS STILL IN PROCESS OF DECONTAMINATING APARTMENT.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

(Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

PAGE FOUR [ ]

b3
b7E

ADMINISTRATIVE:

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, CAPTIONED FACILITY IS OPERATED BY THE KERR MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC) AND IS AN AEC LICENSED FACILITY AND IS CONSIDERED A CRITICAL AEC LICENSED FACILITY. PURSUANT TO BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS THIS FACILITY IS INCLUDED WITHIN THE CURRENT OKLAHOMA CITY CONTINGENCY PLAN.

OKLAHOMA CITY WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW WITH KMC AND AEC AND ADVISE THE BUREAU OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS. WHEN ADDITIONAL FACTS ARE RECEIVED REGARDING AEC INVESTIGATION AND AUTOPSY WILL SUBMIT LHM.

END

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Two at plant contaminated

Two women employed at the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant near Crescent have been contaminated by plutonium processed at the plant, an Atomic Energy Commission official said today.

The AEC also reported the women's residence, the Whitson Apartments in north Edmond also was contaminated by the plutonium.

The women, who were not identified, have not been hospitalized.

Kerr-McGee said one of the women was found to have plutonium contamination on her body and in bioassay samples on Thursday.

The State Health Department says the incident "brings no danger whatsoever to other residents of the apartment complex or anyone else in the Edmond area."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Oklahoma City Times
Oklahoma City Times

Date: November 8, 1974
Edition: Evening
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Kerr-McGee Plant, Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: [redacted] b3 b7E
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED
SERIALIZED ____ FILED
NOV 11 1974
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

[redacted] b3 b6 b7C b7E

159-45-3

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Radioactive Items Disposal Planned

By Mike Burger

Articles contaminated with radioactive plutonium at the Edmond apartment of two women who work at at the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant near Crescent were removed Friday and taken to the plant for proper disposal, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) said.

Officials of the Oklahoma State Department of Health said there was no danger to surrounding residents at the women's residence, the Whitson Apartments in north Edmond.

The plutonium contamination only represented very small amounts of the nuclear material, Jan Strasman, public information officer for the regional regulatory operations office of the AEC in Chicago, said.

Strasman said the two women, who were not identified, worked in the laboratory and handled plutonium compounds there. Three teams were attempting to determine how the nuclear material got from the plant to contaminate the women's apartment.

The area around the outside of the apartment was studied and found free of plutonium contamination, Dale McHard, chief occupational and radiological health service of the state Department of Health, said.

The apartment was closed off, he said, and since there was no plutonium outside, there was no hazard to the other people in the area.

Plutonium is a serious health hazard when it is ingested or enters the body. Inside the body its radiation coupled with the extreme chemical toxicity of the element make it very dangerous.

Plutonium is a heavy metal and is poisonous the same as arsenic or mercury, McHard said.

"The object of our investigation is to determine how the contamination took place and what steps are being taken to eliminate contamination and what are the effects, if any, on the individuals involved," Strasman said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 9, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Mike Burger
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Kerr-McGee Plant,
Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: [redacted] b3 b7E
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
NOV 11 1974
FBI ... OKLA. CITY

[redacted] b3 b6 b7C b7E

[redacted] b7E

59-45-4

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] P DATE: 11/14/74 b3 b7E

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: KERR MC GEE CORPORATION
NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION,
CIMARRON FACILITY
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA
AEA b6 b7C

Re memo of SA [redacted] at OC 11/11/74.

On 11/14/74, Mr. JERRY PHILLIP, Regulatory Operations, Atomic Energy Commission, Chicago, Illinois, FTS telephone 312-858-4040 advised he is currently staying at the Holiday Inn NW, Room 258, Oklahoma City, telephone 947-2351. He related that he is involved with the investigation of the contamination of two female employees of captioned facility. He said that to date, his investigation has disclosed no indication of a violation within the Bureau's investigative jurisdiction but he will advise if any such information develops. He continued that one of the female employees' apartment had been contaminated and he had been unable to determine whether or not any plutonium had been removed from the facility or whether the contamination had occurred accidentally. He further advised that this employee had been killed in a traffic accident on the evening of 11/13/74 and the employees' union had demanded a thorough investigation stating they feel foul play may have been involved in her death.

PHILLIP stated that he would advise this office of any pertinent information developed.

[redacted]

1974

[redacted] b6 b7C

2 [redacted]

DGG:ddw
(2)

159-45-5

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Contaminated Woman Dies In Accident

CRESCENT (UPI) — A woman contaminated by plutonium at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. plant near Crescent last week was killed in a highway crash about two miles from the plant, authorities said Thursday.

Karen G. Silkwood, 28, of Edmond, who had returned Tuesday from Los Alamos, N.M. after undergoing medical tests, was killed Wednesday night while returning from a union meeting at the plant. Her small foreign car veered off S.H. 74 about two miles south of the plutonium processing plant, plunged into a ditch and hit a concrete abutment.

Results of preliminary tests at Los Alamos showed internal contamination to Miss Silkwood and a low degree of contamination to her roommate, also a Kerr-McGee employe.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Oklahoma Journal
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 15, 1974
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: W. P. Atkinson
Title: Kerr-McGee Corp.
Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: [redacted] b3
Submitting Office: Okla. City b7E

☐ Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
NOV 15 1974
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

[redacted] b6 b7C

159-456

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Quiz Asked in Death Of Nuclear Worker

By David Burnham
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A high-ranking union official said Monday the death last week of a woman who had raised critical safety questions about one of the two commercial plutonium factories in the United States might not have been an accident.

The official sent telegrams calling on the Justice Department and the Atomic Energy Commission to begin an immediate investigation into the death of Karen G. Silkwood, who died last Wednesday when her car crashed into a culvert a few miles south of Crescent, Okla.

The crash was described as an accident by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. State officials are making a routine investigation into whether alcohol or drugs were a factor in the crash. Neither the justice department, the AEC nor Oklahoma officials had any immediate comment Monday on the union official's telegram.

In his telegram to Atty. Gen. William Saxbe, Anthony Mazzocchi, Washington representative of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, said an investigator hired by the union had found evidence "to suggest that Miss Silkwood's car was hit from behind by another vehicle, causing her to leave the road and hit the concrete culvert." He said he was not accusing any specific person of a crime.

Mazzocchi told the attorney general that the union had the car, its investigative report of the crash and other data in its possession and would make them available to both the justice department and the AEC.

He said that the union had decided to make the evidence available to the justice department and the AEC rather than state officials because "the problems were of such great seriousness that they required the federal pres-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 19, 19
Edition: Morning
Author: David Burnham
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Kerr-McGee Corp.
Karen Silkwood

Character:
or
Classification: [redacted] b3 b7E
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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NOV 19 1974
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

Orig. to Bur
11-19-74 mrs

159-45-7

ence."

Miss Silkwood, who worked in the Cimarron facility of the Kerr-McGee Corp. near Crescent, was on her way to a meeting with an official of the union and a reporter for The New York Times to discuss safety conditions at the plant. Two weeks ago, she was exposed to a large amount of radiation in an accident at the plant that the AEC is still investigating.

At a meeting with the commission in Washington on September 27, Miss Silkwood and two of her colleagues from the Cimarron plant charged that officials there had endangered the lives of the workers.

At approximately the same time, the three technicians provided the union with additional allegations that the facility was manufacturing some faulty fuel rods and that inspection documents required for these rods had been falsified.

The union tape recorded these allegations at the time they were made. Recent conversations with other technicians, who asked that their names not be made public, produced additional charges that inspection records had been falsified.

Informed of the statement of the union, Dean A. McGee, board chairman and chief executive officer of Kerr-McGee, said that because Miss Silkwood's death was still under investigation, it would not be appropriate to comment on it.

"Regarding allegations of falsification of records," he added, "we are fully responsible to the AEC and other regulatory agencies for both quality control and safety and our records are continuously audited."

(Jim Kelly, Kerr-McGee president, said in Oklahoma City Monday night the allegations of safety hazards were "utterly ridiculous" and said, "I would know of no reason why anyone would want to do her (Miss Silkwood) harm."

("Everything I've heard about it is as untrue as anything I've ever heard," Kelly said.'

(Kelly said Kerr-McGee has nothing to do with inspection of fuel rods or other devices. Agents of the government conduct inspections on all these products, he said, and if certain ones are found unsatisfactory they are not delivered.

(He said he doubted Miss Silkwood had any evidence of safety hazards or inspection document falsification, saying that if she did she would have taken it to the Atomic Energy Commission or other appropriate government officials.

(Kelly called contentions that the union officials had substantiating evidence of safety hazards "a group of untrue insinuations."

("We have done nothing (improper)," he said.)

The Cimarron facility, protected by a tall chain link fence on a low hill four miles south of Crescent, manufactures plutonium fuel rods that will be used in an experimental, liquid metal, fast breeder reactor being constructed for the AEC near Richland, Wash.

The experimental reactor, which is being built under a $420-million contract, is scheduled to be completed in 1977 and to be in operation in 1978. It is intended to test a new generation of reactors that the Atomic Energy Commission hopes will provide the United States with increasing amounts of electric power.

There are varying estimates about the potential danger should the allegations of the workers about faulty fuel rods be true. Dr. Ralph Lapp, for many years a leading atomic power expert, said that, as a hypothetical situation, he did not believe faulty rods were much of a problem.

"Should any problem cause a leak it would be spotted and would be removed," he explained.

Dr. Henry Kendall, a leading nuclear critic and physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, disagreed.

"These failures could start off an accident which would result in the release of huge amounts of radioactivity," he said.

The day after Miss Silkwood's white 1973 Honda smashed into the culvert on the left side of the straight road, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol issued a report describing the accident, but not offering any explanation for it. The accident, which occurred about 7:30 p.m., was investigated by state trooper Rick Fagan. Miss Silkwood was buried on Sunday in Kilgore, Tex.

Because of the incident in the factory where she was exposed to a large amount of radiation, the AEC is conducting a special autopsy on her organs.

In his telegram to Saxbe, Mazzocchi said Miss Silkwood, at the time of her death, "was on her way to meet Mr. Steven Wodka, legislative assistant to the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, and David Burnham, a reporter for The New York Times, who were waiting for her in the Holiday Inn NW in Oklahoma City."

"Miss Silkwood," Mazzocchi continued, "was bringing information concerning the alleged falsification of records concerning quality of nuclear fuel elements being manufactured at the Cimarron facility."

He said: "We are in possession at this time of sufficient evidence that we believe would lend credibility to Miss Silkwood's allegations."

Mazzocchi said that on being informed of Miss Silkwood's death, he obtained the permission of A. F. Grospiron, president of the union, to hire a private investigator who had expertise in examining car crashes to determine the cause of her death.

"The investigator hired is A. O. Pipkin Jr. of Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas," he said. "He conducted his investigation on Saturday, Nov. 16, 1974. I spoke with him this morning and he has told me there is evidence to suggest that Miss Silkwood's car was hit from behind by another vehicle causing her car to leave the road and hit the concrete culvert."

In a telephone conservation, Pipkin said he based his conclusion about the probable cause of the accident on a small fresh dent on the left rear bumper of Miss Silkwood's car and the configuration of the skid marks on the grassy left bank of the highway just before she dipped into the small stream bed and struck the culvert.

Pipkin did highway invistigations for the Albuquerque, N.M., police department between 1951 and 1955 before establishing his own investigative firm. He has investigated more than 2,000 accidents and testified in more than 300 court trials, frequently for insurance companies. Pipkin said that because of the dents and the skid marks "it was highly probable that the car was acted upon by an external force, that the crash was the result of Miss Silkwood's car being struck by another vehicle."

(Disputing the private investigator's findings was Oklahoma Highway Patrol Lt. Kenneth Vanhoy who said in Oklahoma City Monday night, he had discussed the crash with the trooper who investigated it and that there was no evidence of foul play. All indications were, he said, that the woman was "apparently asleep or sleepy" when her car left the road.

("As far as we've been able to develop," Vanhoy said, "it's just a kind of run-off-the-road type of accident."

(Supporting that conclusion was information that Miss Silkwood had "just returned from New Mexico the day before and had driven the whole night," he said.

(Vanhoy said two cigarettes believed to possibly contain marijuana and a prescription tranquilizer pill were found in the dead woman's purse. These are being analyzed in the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation laboratory, he said.

(Vanhoy also challenged the private investigator's conclusions about the reported dent in the rear bumper of the woman's car.

(If the car was struck in the left rear by another vehicle, he said, it (the impact) should have sent it (Miss Silkwood's car) in the opposite direction from where it actually traveled.

(Vanhoy said her car was southbound on SH 74 and veered across the northbound lane and into the ditch on the left side of the road.

(A blow on the left rear should have sent it into the ditch on the right side of the road, he said.)

159-45-8

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] (P) DATE: 11/20/74 b3 b7E

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
KERR McGEE CORPORATION (KMC)
NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION
CIMARRON FACILITY
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA
AEA

see serial 24 for newsarticle re

Captioned facility, a plutonium fuel manufacturing plant, is considered a critical Atomic Energy Commission [redacted] b6 b7C (AEC) licensed facility.

On about 11/7/74, a facility employee, KAREN G. SILKWOOD, who is also active in the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW), was determined to have been in some way contaminated by plutonium at the facility. The contamination was investigated by KMC and AEC. The investigation is still ongoing. It was determined that SILKWOOD's apartment and her roommate were also contaminated.

There was no known nuclear incident at facility and no indication that any nuclear materials were intentionally diverted and amount of contamination unknown but it appears to be quite small. SILKWOOD was sent to AEC, Los Alamos, New Mexico, for detailed examination, 11/13/74.

SILKWOOD returned to Oklahoma City area after examination and was involved in one car accident at 7:30 P.M., 11/13/74, at which time she was killed.

LJO:pwo
(3)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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Since that time OCAW officials made a complaint to U. S. Attorney General SAXBE and AEC regarding circumstances of SILKWOOD's death. Union hired independent accident investigator who speculated that SILKWOOD's car was struck from behind causing fatal accident. According to the OCAW, SILKWOOD at an AEC meeting 9/27/74, at Washington, D.C., along with two colleagues from captioned facility, alleged that KMG was manufacturing faulty fuel rods and that inspection documents required for these rods had been falsified.

Liaison with AEC determined that Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) who investigated SILKWOOD's fatal accident found no indication of her car having been struck from behind and no evidence of foul play. AEC advised inquiry is still being conducted reference allegation of falsification of inspection records noting that the fuel rods allegedly involved were supplied to an AEC owned reactor and there are possible AEC violations as well as Fraud Against Government aspect if allegation substantiated.

Oklahoma City is following with KMG and AEC having submitted urgent teletype to the Bureau 11/19/74, with LHM to follow.

[redacted]

b3
b7E

ADDENDUM:

FBI Headquarters on 11/20/74 through Accounting and Fraud Section, Labor Unit, advised that the Management and Labor Section, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice has a forthcoming request in this matter that will request FBI investigation under the 159 classification - Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959- Investigative Matter (LRMDA), looking toward a possible violation of Title 29, Section 530, U. S. Code (regarding violation of a union member's rights as defined in act). Consideration is also being given to possible Obstruction of Justice violation under Title 18, Section 1505 should SILKWOOD's death be determined to be not accidental.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) - P - DATE: 11/21/74

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED) - VICTIM;
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959 -
INVESTIGATIVE MATTER.

Re Bureau telcal to SA [redacted] 11/21/74. b6 b7C

EBIHQ Supervisor [redacted] Accounting and Fraud b6 b7C
Section, Labor Unit, telephonically advised SA [redacted]
[redacted] as follows:

The Bureau has received a request from the Department dated 11/20/74, requesting a preliminary investigation be conducted relative to information appearing in a New York Times newspaper article of 11/19/74.

[redacted] advised that a copy of the request and b6 b7C
other miscellaneous documents are being forwarded to Oklahoma City by cover airtel this date. He stated until the request is received, the Oklahoma City Division should continue in its efforts to determine if victim's accident was accidental.

Above for information of the file.

(2) - Oklahoma City

WES/vb
(2)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 21 1974
OKLA. CITY
[redacted] b6 b7C

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

159-45-9

5010-109

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 11/20/74

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT (Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE NITEL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] P

b3
b7E

ATTENTION: INTD

KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED), KERR McGEE CORPORATION (KMC), NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION, CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA, AEA.

NO ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFORMATION DEVELOPED RE CAPTIONED MATTER, NOVEMBER 20, 1974, FROM CONTACTS WITH KMC OR AEC.

FROM PREVIOUS CONTACTS WITH AEC, IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT DECEASED'S AUTOPSY WAS BEING CONDUCTED BY OKLAHOMA STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER WITH SOME OF HER ORGANS AND/OR TISSUE SPECIMENS SENT TO AEC, LOS ALAMOS, NEW MEXICO.

THE [redacted] THE OIL, CHEMICAL, AND ATOMIC WORKERS UNION (OCAW), IS [redacted] OF ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION LAB, DALLAS, TEXAS.

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ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE OKLAHOMA CITY TELETYPE TO BUREAU NOVEMBER 19, 1974.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, THROUGH LIAISON WITH AEC IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WITH AEC HEADQUARTERS, GERMANTOWN, MARYLAND, ARE HEADING PHASES

2 - [redacted]
(2) - 150-NEW

LJOimba
(4)

b3
b7E

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 402-735

159-48--20

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

[redacted] b3 b7E

PAGE TWO

AS INDICATED OF ACC INVESTIGATION REGARDING CAPTIONED MATTER:

JOHN DAVIS, DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS, IS HANDLING INVESTIGATION RE DECEASED'S CONTAMINATION.

JOEL ANDERSON, DIVISION OF INSPECTION, IS HANDLING INVESTIGATION RE ALLEGATION OF FALSIFICATION OF FUEL ROD INSPECTION RECORDS.

IT IS NOTED THAT FBIHQ TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED NOVEMBER 20, 1974, THROUGH ACCOUNTING AND FRAUD SECTION LABOR UNIT THAT MANAGEMENT AND LABOR SECTION, CRIMINAL DIVISION, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD INDICATED THAT A REQUEST FORTHCOMING FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER BY FBI UNDER THE 150 CLASSIFICATION.

REQUEST OF BUREAU

IT IS REQUESTED THAT BUREAU INDICES BE SEARCHED REGARDING

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] AND ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION BE FURNISHED OKLAHOMA CITY.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1976 O - 402-735

FD-936 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

[redacted] b3 b7E

PAGE THREE

OKLAHOMA CITY AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, WILL CONTINUE TO CLOSELY FOLLOW CAPTIONED CASE AND KEEP BUREAU ADVISED OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 402-735

JRSUP

RECEIVED

NOV 19 1974

MANAGEMENT & LABOR SEC.

[redacted] b6 b7C

093 19:58:20 11/18/74
RR AA JORDM

014 19:55:46 11/18/74
DOJTCC1945 3222349
TEX162
SPL075WAG142
001 WASHINGTON DC NOV 18, 1974
PMS THE HON. WILLIAM B. SAXBE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

I HEREBY REQUEST ON BEHALF OF MY ORGANIZATION AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF KAREN SILKWOOD, AN OFFICIAL OF LOCAL NO. 5-283 OF THE OIL, CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION, AFL-CIO.

KAREN SILKWOOD WAS KILLED ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1974 AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 P.M. WHEN HER AUTOMOBILE LEFT THE ROAD AND SUBSEQUENTLY HIT A CONCRETE CULVERT SOUTH OF CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA ON ROUTE 74.

MS. SILKWOOD WAS ON HER WAY TO MEET [redacted] AND [redacted] WHO WERE WAITING FOR HER IN THE HOLIDAY INN N.W. IN OKLAHOME CITY, OKLAHOMA. b6 b7C

MS. SILKWOOD WAS BRINGING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED FALSIFICATION OF RECORDS CONCERNING QUALITY CONTROL OF NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENTS BEING MANUFACTURED AT THE CIMARROW FACILITY OF KERR-MCGEE NUCLEAR CORP IN CRESENT, OKLAHOMA WHERE SHE WAS EMPLOYED. MY OFFICE HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MS. SILKWOOD EVER SINCE HER APPEARANCE IN MY OFFICE ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1974. SHE WAS PART OF A 3-PERSON UNION COMMITTEE WHO WERE SENT BY THEIR LOCAL UNION TO WASHINGTON TO PRESENT THEIR COMPLAINT TO THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION ABOUT THE PROBLEMS CONCERNING WORKERS HEALTH AND SAFETY AT THE CIMARRON FACILITY OF KERR-MCGEE.

CLASSIFIED INDEXED
CORRELATED FILED
NOV 25 1974
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

159-45-11

AT THAT TIME MS. SILKWOOD DESCRIBED SOME OF THE ALLEGED QUALITY CONTROL FALSIFICATIONS. I INSTRUCTED HER TO CAREFULLY DOCUMENT THE PROBLEM SO THAT WE COULD PRESENT A CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED CASE TO THE A.E.C.

WE ARE IN POSSESSION AT THIS TIME OF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT WE BELIEVE WOULD LEND CREDIBILITY TO MS. SILKWOOD'S ALLEGATIONS.

ON BEING TOLD OF MS. SILKWOOD'S DEATH, I CONSULTED WITH [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted]

TO HIRE A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR WHO HAD EXPERTISE IN EXAMINING CAR CRASHES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF HER DEATH.

THE INVESTIGATOR HIRED IS [redacted] OF ACCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION LAB OF DALLAS, TEXAS. HE CONDUCTED HIS INVESTIGATION ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1974. I SPOKE TO HIM THIS MORNING AND HE HAS TOLD ME THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT MS. SILKWOOD'S CAR WAS HIT FROM BEHIND BY ANOTHER VEHICLE CAUSING HER CAR TO LEAVE THE ROAD AND HIT THE CONCRETE CULVERT. b6 b7C

WE ARE IN POSSESSION OF HER CAR AND IT IS AVAILABLE TO YOU. WE ARE ALSO IN POSSESSION OF TAPE RECORDINGS, RECORDS AND OTHER DATA RELEVANT TO THIS CASE. I HAVE ALSO NOTIFIED [redacted] b6 b7C

123-017-60
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
39 NOV 19 1974
FILED
ENCLOSURE - BGL LABOR DIV.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR FIELD OPERATIONS, DIRECTORATE OF REGULATORY OPERATIONS OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND HAVE REQUESTED A FULL INVESTIGATION INTO MS. SILKWOOD'S ALLEGATIONS.

I RECOGNIZE THE FULL GRAVITY OF MY SUSPICIONS AND URGE YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR
OIL, CHEMICAL & ATOMIC WORKERS INT'L UNION
1126 - 16TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

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NOV 19 1974
CRIMINAL DIVISION

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0-19 (Rev. 1-30-74)

Dep. AD Adm. ___
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Ident. ___
Inspection ___
Intell. ___
Laboratory ___
Plan. & Eval. ___
Spec. Inv. ___
Training ___
Legal Coun. ___
Telephone Rm. ___
Director Sec'y ___

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1974

Death of Plutonium Worker Questioned by Union Official

By DAVID BURNHAM
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—A high-ranking union official said today that the death last week of a woman who had raised critical safety questions about one of the two commercial plutonium factories in the United States might not have been an accident.

The official sent telegrams calling on the Justice Department and the Atomic Energy Commission to begin an immediate investigation into the death of Karen G. Silkwood, who died last Wednesday when her car crashed into a culbert a few miles south of Crescent, Okla.

The crash was described as an accident by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. State officials are making a routine investigation into whether alcohol or drugs were a factor inthe crash. Neither the Justice Department, the A.E.C. nor Oklahoma officials had any immediate comment tonight on the union official's telegram.

In his telegram to Attorney General William B. Saxbe, Anthony Mazzocch Washington representative of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, said an investigator hired by the union had o found evidence "to suggest that Miss Silkwood's car was hit from behind by another vehicle causing he to leave the road and hit the concrete culvert." He said he was not accusi any specific person of a crime.

Union Has Car

Mr. Mazzocchi told the Attorney General that the union had the car, its investigative report of the crash and other data in its possession and would make them available to both the Justice Department and the A.E.C.

He said that the union had decided to make the evidence available to the Justice department and the A.E.C. rather than state officials because "the problems were of such great seriousness that the required the Federal presence."

Miss Silkwood, who worked in the Cimarron faility of the Kerr-McGee Corporation near Crescent, was on her way to a meeting with an official of the union and a reporter for The New York Times to discuss safety conditions at the plant. Two weeks ago, she was exposed to a large amount of radiation in an accident at the plant that the A.E.C. is still investigating.

At a meeting with the commission in Washington on Sept. 27, Miss Silkwood and two of her colleagues from the Cimarron plant charged that officials there had endangered the lives of the workers.

At approximately the same time, the three technicians provided the union with additional allegations that the facility was manufacturing some faulty fuel rods and that inspection documents required for these rods had been falsified.

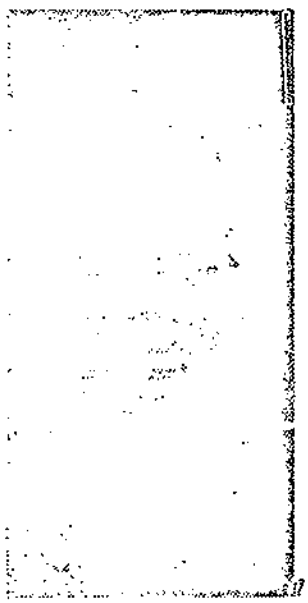
The union tape-recorded these allegations at the time they were made. Recent conversations with other technicians, who asked that inspection records had been falsified.

Responsible to A.E.C.

Informed of the statement of the union, D. A. McGee, board chairman and chief executive officer of Kerr-McGee [illegible] that because Miss Silkwood's death was still under investigation, it would not be appropriate to comment on it.

"Regarding allegations of falsification of records," he added, "we are fully responsible to the A.E.C. and other regulatory agencies for both quality control and safety and our records are continuously audited."

The Cimarron facility, protected by a tall chain-link fence on a low hill four miles south of Crescent, manufactures plutonium fuel rods that will be used in an experimental, liquid-metal, fast breeder reac-



Karen G. Silkwood, who died in a car crash last week in Oklahoma.

The Washington Post ___
Washington Star-News ___
Daily News (New York) ___
The New York Times 11/19/74
The Wall Street Journal ___
The National Observer ___
The Los Angeles Times ___

Date XXX PAGE 28 C

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SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 25 1974
OKLAHOMA CITY
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159-45-12

3

tor being constructed for the A.E.C. near Richland, Wash.

The experimental reactor, which is being built under a $420-million contract, is scheduled to be completed in 1977 and to be in operation in 1978. It is intended to test a new generation of reactors that the Atomic Energy Commission hopes will provide the United States with increasing amounts of electric power.

There are varying estimates about the potential danger should the allegations of the workers about faulty fuel rods be true. Dr. Ralph Lapp, for many years a leading atomic power expert, siad that, as a hypothetical situation, he did not believe faulty rods were much of a problem.

"Should any problem cause a leak it would be spotted and the rod would be removed," he explained.

Dr. Henry Kendall, a leading nuclear critic and physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, disagreed.

"These failures could start off an accident which would result in the release of huge amounts of radioactivity," he said.

No Explanation

The day after Miss Silkwood's white 1973 Honda smashed into the culvert on the left side of the straight road, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol issued a report describing the accident but not offering any explanation for it. The accident, which occurred about 7:30 P.M., was investigated by State Trooper Rick Fagan. Miss Silkwood was buried yesterday in Kilgore, Tex.

Because of the incident in the factory where she was exposed to a large amount of radiation, the A.E.C. is conducting a special autopsy on her organs.

In his telegram to Saxbe, Mr. Mazzocchi said that Miss Silkwood, at the time of her death, "was on her way to meet Mr. Steven Wodka, legislative assistant to the O.C.A.W., and David Burnham, a reporter for The New York Times, who were waiting for her in the Holiday Inn . W. in Oklahoma City, Okla."

"Miss Silkwood," Mr. Mazzocchi continued, "was bringing information concerning the alleged falsification of records concerning quality of nuclear fuel elements being manufac-

sion at this time of sufficient evidence that we believe would lend credibility to Miss Silkwood's allegations."

Mr. Mazzocchi said that on ebing informed of Miss Silkwood's death, he obtained the permission of A. F. Grospiron, president of the union, to hire a private investigator who had expertise in examining car crashes to determine the cause of her death.

"The investigator hired is Mr. A. O. Pipkin Jr. of Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas, Tex," he said. "He conducted his investigation on Saturday, Nov. 16, 1974. I spoke with him this morning and he has told me there is evidence to suggest that Miss Silkwood's car was hit from behind by another vehicle, causing her car to leave the road and hit the concrete culvert."

2,000 Accidents

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Pipkin said he based his conclusion about the probable cause of the accident on a small fresh dent on the left rear bumper of Miss Silkwood's car and the configuration of the skid marks on the grassy left bank of the highway just before she dipped into the small stream bed and struck the culvert.

Mr. Pipkin did highway investigations for the Albuquerque, N. M., Police Department between 1951 and 1955 before establishing his own firm. He has investigated more than 2,000 accidents and testified in more than 300 court trials, frequently for insurance companies.

He said that baceuse of the dents and the skid marks," it was highly probable that the car was acted upon by an external force, that the crash was the result of Miss Silkwood's car being struck by another vehicle."

"I recognize the full gravity of my suspicions and urge your immediate attention to this matter," he concluded.

In response to a question, he said: "I am not accusing any particular person with murder. Based on an independent investigation, however, it is apparent that someone forced Karen Silkwood from the road, thereby causing her death. I'll leave it to the Federal authorities to determrine who and why."

Miss Silkwood had been a

continue representing workers in the plant. The union won the battle by a vote of 80 to 61 on Oct. 16.

In her meeting with the A.E.C. on Sept. 27, according to the commission's summary of the session, Miss Silkwood and her companions charged that the facility had failed to educate and train workers properly in the handling of plutonium, long regarded as an extremely toxic substance. They also charged that the company had failed to keep exposures of plutonium as low as possible, to adequately monitor workers' exposure and take the required hygienic precautions.

One specific allegation they made was that the company had gradually reduced training from five days to two four-hour sessions during the last two years.

4

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation

November 20, 1974

[redacted]
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

HMP:JIL:cmc
123-017-60

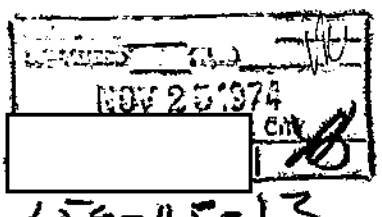
b6
b7C

Death of Ms. Karen G. Silkwood

It is hereby requested that the Bureau conduct a preliminary investigation into the matters alleged in the attached New York Times article of November 19, 1974 and the telegram of Mr. Anthony Mazzocchi, Legislative Director of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union.

These allegations, if substantiated, may constitute violations of Section 530, Title 29, United States Code (through the impairment of Ms. Silkwood's rights guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, United States Code) and Section 1505, Title 18, United States Code (in that Ms. Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission.)

Attachments



[redacted]

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159-65-13

0-9 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Transmit in _____ (Type in plaintext or code) Via Airtel _____ (Precedence)

11/21/74
(Date)

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);
LMRDA; OOJ

Enclosed are copies of self-explanatory memorandum from Criminal Division of Department dated 11/20/74, together with copies of its attachments, which requests preliminary investigation.

Prosecutive aspects should be discussed with USA. Bureau should be kept currently advised of pertinent developments by appropriate means.

Surep promptly.

Enclosures (6)

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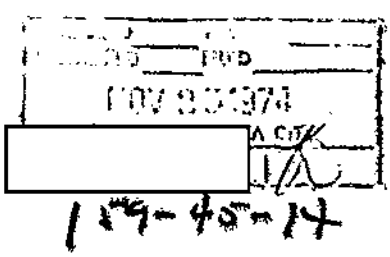

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179-45-14

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) DATE: November 25, 1974

FROM : CLERK, [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);
KERR MC GEE CORPORATION,
NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION,
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA

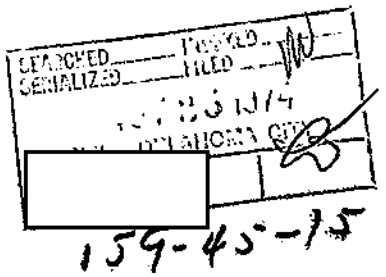
At 11:55 a.m., November 25, 1974, [redacted] called me and advised the following: b6 b7C

Around noon the Saturday after Karen G. Silkwood was killed [redacted] were on the way to Crescent, Oklahoma. On SH 74 north of Oklahoma City on the East side of the highway they passed a red compact car in a ditch. They saw two well dressed young men with what looked like a metal detector checking the area. b6 b7C

[redacted] said he would be available at his office, [redacted] phone number [redacted] if an agent wanted to talk to him. b6 b7C

Above submitted to file for information.

(2)



b6 b7C

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Contaminated Woman Dies In Accident

CRESCENT (UPI) — A woman contaminated by plutonium at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. plant near Crescent last week was killed in a highway crash about two miles from the plant, authorities said Thursday.

Karen G. Silkwood, 28, of Edmond, who had returned Tuesday from Los Alamos, N.M. after undergoing medical tests, was killed Wednesday night while returning from a union meeting at the plant. Her small foreign car veered off S.H. 74 about two miles south of the plutonium processing plant, plunged into a ditch and hit a concrete abutment.

Results of preliminary tests at Los Alamos showed internal contamination to Miss Silkwood and a low degree of contamination to her roommate, also a Kerr-McGee employe.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Oklahoma Journal
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 15, 1974
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: W. P. Atkinson
Title: Kerr-McGee Corp.
Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: [redacted] b3
Submitting Office: Okla. Ci b7E

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ...
SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
NOV 16 1974
OKLAHOMA CITY
[redacted] b6 b7C

159-45-16

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Two at plant contaminated

Two women employed at the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant near Crescent have been contaminated by plutonium processed at the plant, an Atomic Energy Commission official said today.

The AEC also reported the women's residence, the Whitson Apartments in north Edmond also was contaminated by the plutonium.

The women, who were not identified, have not been hospitalized.

Kerr-McGee said one of the women was found to have plutonium contamination on her body and in bioassay samples on Thursday.

The State Health Department says the incident "brings no danger whatsoever to other residents of the apartment complex or anyone else in the Edmond area."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Oklahoma City Times
Oklahoma City Times

Date: November 8, 1974
Edition: Evening
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Kerr-McGee Plant, Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: [redacted] b3 b7E
Submitting Office Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED
NOV 11 1974
OKLA CITY

[redacted] b3 b6 b7C b7E

[redacted]

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Radioactive Items Disposal Planned

By Mike Burger

Articles contaminated with radioactive plutonium at the Edmond apartment of two women who work at at the Kerr-McGee nuclear plant near Crescent were removed Friday and taken to the plant for proper disposal, a spokesman for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) said.

Officials of the Oklahoma State Department of Health said there was no danger to surrounding residents at the women's residence, the Whitson Apartments in north Edmond.

The plutonium contamination only represented very small amounts of the nuclear material, Jan Strasman, public information officer for the regional regulatory operations office of the AEC in Chicago, said.

Strasman said the two women, who were not identified, worked in the laboratory and handled plutonium compounds there. Three teams were attempting to determine how the nuclear material got from the plant to contaminate the women's apartment.

The area around the outside of the apartment was studied and found free of plutonium contamination, Dale McHard, chief occupational and radiological health service of the state Department of Health, said.

The apartment was closed off, he said, and since there was no plutonium outside, there was no hazard to the other people in the area.

Plutonium is a serious health hazard when it is ingested or enters the body. Inside the body its radiation coupled with the extreme chemical toxicity of the element make it very dangerous.

Plutonium is a heavy metal and is poisonous the same as arsenic or mercury, McHard said.

"The object of our investigation is to determine how the contamination took place and what steps are being taken to eliminate contamination and what are the effects, if any, on the individuals involved," Strasman said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 9, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Mike Burger
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Kerr-McGee Plant,
Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: [redacted] b3 b7E
Submitting Office: Okla. City

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SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
NOV 11 1974
FBI - OKLA. CITY

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FIRM OPENS QUIZ

McGee Assails Claims

By Tom McCarthy

The Kerr-McGee Corp. will launch Wednesday an internal investigation into charges that inspection records have been tampered with at the firm's Crescent plutonium plant, the company's top official said Tuesday night.

Earlier Tuesday, Dean A. McGee, Kerr-McGee's chairman and chief executive officer, sent a lengthy telegram to U.S. Atty. Gen. William Saxbe denouncing the charges as "wholly unfounded."

McGee said in an interview Tuesday night that a "large cadre" of the company's nuclear engineers, health scientists and quality control experts would be assembled Wednesday to begin the probe.

He said an internal investigation was now possible because "this is the first time right now they've told us what they are talking about."

McGee was referring to a New York Times story released Tuesday night in which more specific allegations about the inspections were aired.

The story said that several plant employees had charged that X-rays that would disclose faulty manufactured fuel rods were deliberately fogged, and company supervisors occasionally ordered workers to ignore an inspection system in which a group of items manufactured at the plant would be rejected if a sampling of them disclosed any imperfections.

Another allegation was that when numbers placed in a computer inspection program came up with results suggesting problems, a supervisor ordered technicians to change the numbers so the right

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: November 20, 197-
Edition: Morning
Author: Tom McCarthy
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood;
Kerr McGee Corp.,
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Character:
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Submitting Office: Okla. Ci[redacted] b7E

☐ Being Investigated

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answer would be produced.

"If there are any X-ray plates that are fogged up, we'll find them in our files," McGee said. "And we'll determine whether they were deliberately fogged or not."

As for the other charges, he said, "we'll check it all out thoroughly internally."

McGee said he hoped through cooperation of federal officials involved the firm could soon learn more specific details about the alleged irregularities, if the information is available.

The specific information wanted, he said, would include any names of company supervisors and any specific pieces of equipment allegedly involved in the tampering.

McGee stressed, however, that he doubted strongly that any evidence of wrongdoing would be unearthed in the internal probe, saying that he saw little possibility that any could have occurred.

In addition to federal inspections, he said, the contractor for the rods, Westinghouse Corp., also conducts its own checks on fuel rods and other material received from the Crescent plant.

"If there would have been any irregularities, they would have gotten it," he said. The rods are to be used in an experimental reactor.

In his telegram to Saxbe, McGee gave an account of the plutonium contamination of Karen Silkwood, a laboratory technician at the plant who made inspection falsification allegations to a union official and subsequently died in an automobile crash.

Following the discovery on Nov. 7 that she was contaminated, the telegram said, the woman was given a "battery of tests" and medical attention.

Five days later she was determined to be free of contamination and was approved to return to work, he said. She died Nov. 13 in the crash.

The message said investigators determined the crash was an accident and that her death was a result of injuries she received in it, with no indication of contamination present in her remans.

"Based on the information we have received from appropriate investigating agencies, there is no evidence to link Miss Silkwood's death in any way with the plutonium contamination incident," the telegram said.

McGee said Kerr-McGee has not been given the details of inspection record falsification charges the woman made to Anthony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

"Further, we know of no irregularities of quality control at our Cimarron facility. We are fully responsible to the Atomic Energy Commission and other regulatory agencies for all activities at the Cimarron facility and our records are audited regularly," the telegram said.

"Allegations and insinuations concerning Kerr-McGee made by Mr. Mazzocchi in his telegram to you (about the charges) are wholly unfounded," it continued. "Be assured that we at Kerr-McGee will cooperate with your office to the fullest extent."

In the interview, McGee said company officials are still baffled about how Miss Silkwood could have been contaminated and particularly how she could have originally left the plant without the contamination being immediately detected.

He said there are monitors at all plant doors that activate when any radioactivity is sensed.

"We check these people when they come to work (through the monitors) and when they go home," McGee said. "We can't figure out how the contamination got outside."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

AEC to Investigate Records of Nuclear Plant Near Crescent

Union Seeks Federal Quiz In Car Death

Exposure Incident By Lab Worker Still Under Check

By David Burnham
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The Atomic Energy Commission said Tuesday that it would investigate allegations that an Oklahoma plutonium factory had been falsifying the inspection records of fuel rods to be used in an experimental reactor.

In a related development, the Justice Department said it was considering a request that it start a separate investigation into the death of Karen G. Silkwood of Edmond, Okla. — the woman who made the allegations about the Oklahoma factory of the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp.

Investigation Begins

A spokesman for the AEC said two men would begin on Thursday its investigation into the charges of Miss Silkwood and several of her colleagues about the operations of the factory near Crescent, Okla. The Justice Department said the request for an investigation of her death by federal authorities had been referred to the labor section of the criminal division to determine whether the department had jurisdiction.

The AEC also said a second team of investigators would continue its probe into Miss Silkwood's exposure to a high level of plutonium radiation a week before her death.

Car Crash Fatal

Miss Silkwood, a 28-year-old laboratory technician, died in an automobile crash last Wednesday night south of Crescent. The Washington representative of her union, Anthony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, said Monday in telegrams to the Justice Department and the AEC

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: November 20, 197
Edition: Morning
Author: David Burnham
Editor: Charles ... Bennet
Title: Karen G. Silkwoo
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OKLAHOMA CITY

159-45-21

that he had evidence that Miss Silkwood's death might not have been an accident.

A spokesman for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said Tuesday in a telephone interview that his agency had no information to contradict the initial theory that Miss Silkwood had died after falling asleep at the wheel of her white 1973 Honda.

The spokesman, Lt. Kenneth Van Hoy, said he understood Miss Silkwood had been exhausted by a recent drive to and from Los Alamos, N.M. But Miss Silkwood, according to a former Kerr-McGee employee who accompanied her, actually was flown to and from Los Alamos by the Atomic Energy Commission. The commission had taken her to its facilities in New Mexico for medical tests in connection with her exposure to plutonium radiation.

An investigator hired by the union, A. O. Pipkin Jr., of The Accident Reconstruction Lab in Dallas, said it was "highly probable" that Miss Silkwood had crashed after her car had been hit from the rear by another vehicle.

Pipkin said he had based his conclusions on the combination of small, fresh skid marks at the scene of the crash and a dent in the rear bumper of her car.

Miss Silkwood and several other employees who have asked not to be identified by name have charged that the Oklahoma nuclear factory falsified inspection reports in the following ways:

—X-rays that disclosed faulty manufactured fuel rods were deliberately fogged. One employee provided the union a specific list of those X-rays he said had been tampered with.

—When numbers placed in a computer inspection program came up with answers suggesting manufacturing problems, a supervisor allegedly ordered the technicians to change the numbers so the right answer would be produced rather than try to resolve the apparent problem.

—Company supervisors were alleged on some occasions to have ordered workers to ignore an inspection system in which a group of items manufactured at the plant would be rejected if a sampling of them found any were imperfect.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Justice Officials to Probe Nuclear Worker's Case

By Tom McCarthy

The U.S. Justice Department announced Wednesday night it will join the Atomic Energy Commission and Oklahoma state officials in investigating the developing mystery surrounding the contamination and death of Karen G. Silkwood.

The probes have now formed a three-pronged effort to answer the burgeoning number of questions arising from the plutonium contamination of the Kerr-McGee nuclear laboratory technician and related developments.

Officials say so far they are baffled about many aspects of the case and have not been able to reach any firm conclusions.

Major targets of inquiry, as of Wednesday, were:

— How was Miss Silkwood contaminated and how did contamination get outside the Kerr-McGee Cimarron facility?

— Are union and technicians' allegations concerning inspection procedures and safety precautions true or false?

— Was Miss Silkwood's death in a car crash an accident?

The Justice Department reported late Wednesday that it will dispatch special Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to the plant to determine if any federal laws have been violated.

Department spokesman Robert L. Stevenson did not specify what scope this probe would have or which federal laws might be involved.

He said earlier Wednesday, "We're taking a hard look at it. We'll examine every aspect of the allegations."

Meanwhile, the Atomic Energy Commission reported that two more teams of AEC inspectors were being brought to the plant in conjunction with an expansion of the commission's role in the overall probe.

Three AEC inspectors from the Dallas headquarters were to have arrived in Oklahoma City late Wednesday.

Commission spokesman Jan Strasma said this team was to concentrate on checking out allegations from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union that workers at the plant were not given sufficient training and that

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: November 21, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Tom McCarthy
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr McGee Cor.,
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plutonium exposure to them was not kept as low as possible.

A second team from the AEC division of inspection in Washington, D.C., was to arrive Thursday to investigate the quality control of fuel elements at the plant, which has also come under attack from the union.

Another inspector is to join a group of three which has been at the plant since shortly after the contamination was discovered about two weeks ago. These men are attempting to determine how Miss Silkwood was contaminated by plutonium and how the contamination got to her Edmond apartment.

The Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee has asked the Atomic Energy Commission for a thorough report on all aspects of the case.

The apartment contamination element of the mystery has also drawn the attention of the State Health Department.

This aspect, officials said, is proving to be perhaps the most perplexing of all.

Strasma outlined the chronology of the contamination to emphasize the almost paradoxical nature of the situation.

He said Miss Silkwood first reported she was contaminated on Nov. 5 while she was polishing plutonium samples in a "glove box" device.

In using the device, an employee puts his hands in gloves which extend into an air-tight box for work with the substance.

Strasma said Kerr-McGee officials reported she was decontaminated and the gloves were replaced.

In work at the plant the following day, he said, she received a slight amount of contamination and again was cleansed of it.

On Nov. 7, he said, she reported to the plant's health physics area with fecal and urine samples that had been requested in connection with the initial contamination.

While there, he said, it was determined she again had external contamination although she had not been to work since her last decontamination.

This revelation led to a check of her Edmond apartment and the subsequent finding that it contained relatively high amounts of plutonium contamination.

The results of the fecal and urine samples also indicated she had some internal contamination as well, Strasma said.

R.C. Craig, director of the state health department's radiation protection division, said that Kerr-McGee records reflect that a routine "personal survey" of the woman with a plant screening device showed no contamination just before she left the plant.

These points constitute major flaws in theories that she might have accidentally carried the contamination from the plant to her residence, officials said.

However, investigators stressed, there are also serious flaws in the other possible theory of explanation — that the plutonium was deliberately carried from the plant.

Strasma said there are sensor monitors at the plant's doors which would detect the material. These sensors, he noted, might not pick up an amount less than ½ gram if it was shielded.

"This is designed to prevent the theft of larger amounts of plutonium," Craig said. "Bells would have rung and lights would have flashed and guards would have gone crazy."

Although the contamination level found in the apartment was relatively high, Craig said, it was still extremely small in relation to physical size.

If all the plutonium found in the apartment was put together, he said, it would still be so minute that it would not be visible to the naked eye.

Craig questioned whether anyone would or could efficiently smuggle out a substance that he or she could not see.

The plutonium involved in the Silkwood case would be in the form of a black powder, Craig said.

He said the largest concentrations of it were found in the bathroom, while varying amounts were found on the refrigerator and in other places.

Craig said the bathroom concentration can possibly be explained by the observation that plutonium, whether ingested or inhaled, would manifest itself in waste products.

Meanwhile, no new information has come to light in the controversy over Miss Silkwood's death in a car wreck Nov. 13.

Union officials have said a private investigator retained for the case determined that the woman's car may have been struck from the rear, causing her to run off the road. Highway patrol investigators found no evidence of foul play. They said Miss Silkwood apparently fell asleep at the wheel. She died from injuries received when her car hit a concrete culvert.

Karen Silkwood was involved in another accident Oct. 30, several days before the contamination was discovered.

Oklahoma Highway Patrol Lt. Kenneth VanHoy said Miss Silkwood ran off a highway five miles west of Guthrie. The accident was not reported to police or the highway patrol at the time, he said.

He said Miss Silkwood told a wrecker driver that she ran off the road when she swerved to miss a cow in the road. She was not injured, he said.

Kerr-McGee employees working under the supervision of the health department Wednesday stripped the Silkwood apartment.

Craig said furniture was removed, walls were washed and contaminated floor tiles were ripped up to obliterate any traces of plutonium.

The apartment contents are to be taken to a federal disposal area for burial.

Tissue samples from Miss Silkwood are being tested in an AEC laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M., where highly sensitive equipment is available.

The state medical examiner has ruled that contamination was not a factor in her death.

As for the many remaining questions, Strasma said, "There are a number of puzzles in this case."

He added later, "It's possible we'll have an undetermined finding. Obviously one of the roadblocks in the case is that Miss Silkwood is dead."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

More AEC Probers Sent To Crescent

By United Press International

A second Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) team headed for Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant at Crescent late Wednesday to begin an investigation of alleged tampering with radiation inspection records.

Jan Strasma, AEC public information spokesman, said it would probably be weeks before a final report was written by the team.

"It is a fairly complex situation," he said.

Strasma said the three-member team would investigate a union's allegation that X-Rays were deliberately fogged to prevent disclosure of faulty fuel rods. The union has also alleged that supervisors ordered workers to ignore an inspection system and changed numbers in a computer inspection system.

He said a three-member AEC team has been at the plant almost continuously since Nov. 8, investigating a Nov. 5 incident in which Karen G. Silkwood, a 28-year-old laboratory technician, was contaminated by plutonium.

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union has asked the Justice Department to probe the Nov. 13 traffic wreck in which Miss Silkwood died enroute to a meeting with a reporter to discuss the union's allegations.

Strasma said the AEC had checked Miss Silkwood's car, the scene of the accident, the ambulance and attendants who took her to a hospital and found no contamination.

He said the AEC is not investigating the traffic accident.

"It is unusual to have offsite contamination like we had in this," Strasma said, referring to the finding of minute particles of plutonium in Miss Silkwood's apartment.

Strasma said the AEC has no firm determination of how the contamination occurred. He said Kerr-McGee reported its personnel had decontaminated Miss Silkwood before she left the plant.

However, when Miss Silkwood reported back to work Nov. 7 she had been recontaminated, Strasma said. A later check of her apartment turned up traces of plutonium in several rooms, he said.

"The quantities are so small that you can't see them with the naked eye," he said. "They're like dust or fingerprints, but they are detected with survey equipment,"

He said a total of 73 persons have been involved in 17 incidents of exposure to airborne quantities of plutonium at the plant during the past four years. None of the incidents, he said involved "significant uptake" of plutonium.

Meanwhile, a highway patrol spokesman said Miss Silkwood's car apparently received a rear dent from the wrecker that pulled it out of a ditch.

Anthony Mazzocci, legislative director of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, said that a private investigator indicated that the woman's car had been forced off the road.

Roy Tant, highway patrol information officer, said the wrecker was hooked to the rear bumper of the car, slid back into the ditch and had to be pulled out again.

The private investigator, A.O. Pipkin Jr., of Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas, said a small fresh dent on the left rear bumper and the configuration of skid marks in the grass suggested to him that the Silkwood car was hit from behind by another vehicle.

Tant said there were no skid marks, just tread marks in the grass down the embankment.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation said Wednesday that an analysis of two cigarettes found in the car showed they contained marijuana. Lt. Kenneth Vanhoy of the highway patrol said the information would not change the original investigating trooper's report of the accident.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

18 The Oklahoma Journal
Oklahoma City, Okla.

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Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: W. P. Atkinson
Title: Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
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Submitting Office: Okla. City

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tests show marijuana in dead woman's purse

Marijuana was found in two cigarettes in the purse of a Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. technician who was killed in a car wreck, the highway patrol reported today.

A chemists' report was filed shortly before noon, as a double-barreled federal inquiry was launched to answer questions raised about operations of the corporation's Crescent plutonium plant and the traffic death of Karen G. Silkwood, 28.

From Washington came word that the joint congressional atomic energy committee has asked the atomic Energy Commission for a report on both aspects.

Meanwhile, Robert L. Stevenson, a U.S. Justice Department official said it is "taking a very hard look" at a possible investigation of its own into the Silkwood matter.

Kerr-McGee officials in Oklahoma City said they would welcome any investigation into plant operations.

Miss Silkwood, a divorced mother of three who used her maiden name, and her roommate, Sherri Ellis, 22, and their Edmond apartment were involved in an apparent contamination incident early in November.

Both were flown to Los Alamos, N. M., by the corporation for contamination tests.

Miss Silkwood was fatally hurt when her car crashed last Wednesday night south of Crescent, the day after her return from New Mexico.

The New York Times has reported that Miss Silkwood was en route to an Oklahoma City motel to talk with a Times reporter and a union representative at the time of the accident.

Anthony Mazzochhi, Washington representative of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, has alleged that Miss Silkwood had information about records falsifications concerning the plant's manufacture of fuel rods for an experimental reactor in Richland, Wash.

Mazzochhi also charged that a union investigator's probe of the car crash indicated Miss Silkwood's Honda may have been deliberately struck from the rear.

An Atomic Energy Commission team will arrive Thursday from the

Orig. to Bureau
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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Oklahoma City Times
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 20, 197-
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Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Cor.,
Crescent, Oklahoma

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[redacted]

159-45-24

agency's Dallas-Fort Worth office to look into the record-tampering allegations. Members were identified as Jack Ward, Herman Paas and J. B. Baird.

Meanwhile, another team from the Glen Ellyn, Ill., regional office continued probing the Silkwood incident. They are Gerry Phillip, Jack Finn and Randy Sullivan.

James G. Kepler, regional director at Glen Ellyn, said today Miss Silkwood had been found to be contaminated at work on three successive days, and the roommate showed some, but "much less" contamination.

"There was some contamination found in her apartment," Kepler said, reporting that the agency will be double-checking decontamination of the unit this week.

He said two technicians trained as health physicists are members of the investigative team returning today.

Technicians of the Kerr-McGee health and safety division were testing the apartment today for any further traces of radioactive material.

One of them, William A. Rogers, said the apartment has been stripped of everything that could pose a danger to future occupants, and items removed will be buried in a federal disposal area, either in Illinois or Nevada.

Kepler said no evidence has been found to indicate that Miss Silkwood removed any plutonium from the plant. He said the plant operates on a security plan approved by the Atomic Energy Commission.

However, he said, "Whether or not it was possible for her to take out a very small quantity, we don't know yet."

A Congressional source in Washington said he understood Miss Silkwood's job was polishing the end of fuel rods and inspecting the hermetic seal.

He said such work is done in a "glove box" — a device that allows the worker to handle the materials inside a sealed, transparent container with rubber gloves.

The end product is small pellets, described as about the size of a 22 caliber rifle cartridge, made of plutonium 239 with a small amount of unremovable contaminant, plutonium 240.

The pellets are placed in fuel rods to be shipped to the Washington state test center.

The same committee staff source said he had heard unofficially the biological test results at Los Alamos showed no inkling that Miss Silkwood had ingested any toxic or radioactive materials.

Cause of the fatal car crash remained at issue today. Union officials dispute an Oklahoma Highway Patrol statement that Miss Silkwood had driven all night to return from New Mexico and might have been sleepy.

Mazzochhi said that was "poppycock" because Miss Silkwood had flown home from Los Alamos.

The marijuana verification was reported to the Department of Public Safety shortly before noon today by the crime bureau chemists.

Lt. Kenneth Vanhoy, highway patrol spokesman, said marijuana was found in both cigarettes tested.

Vanhoy said the verification "does not alter the original investigating trooper's report of the accident." The patrol has maintained that the wreck was a routine "running off the road" accident.

Stevenson, the Justice Department spokesman, was asked whether that department was making any security checks on Miss Silkwood.

"I wouldn't say even if I knew, which I don't. That's not the kind of stuff we bandy about," he said.

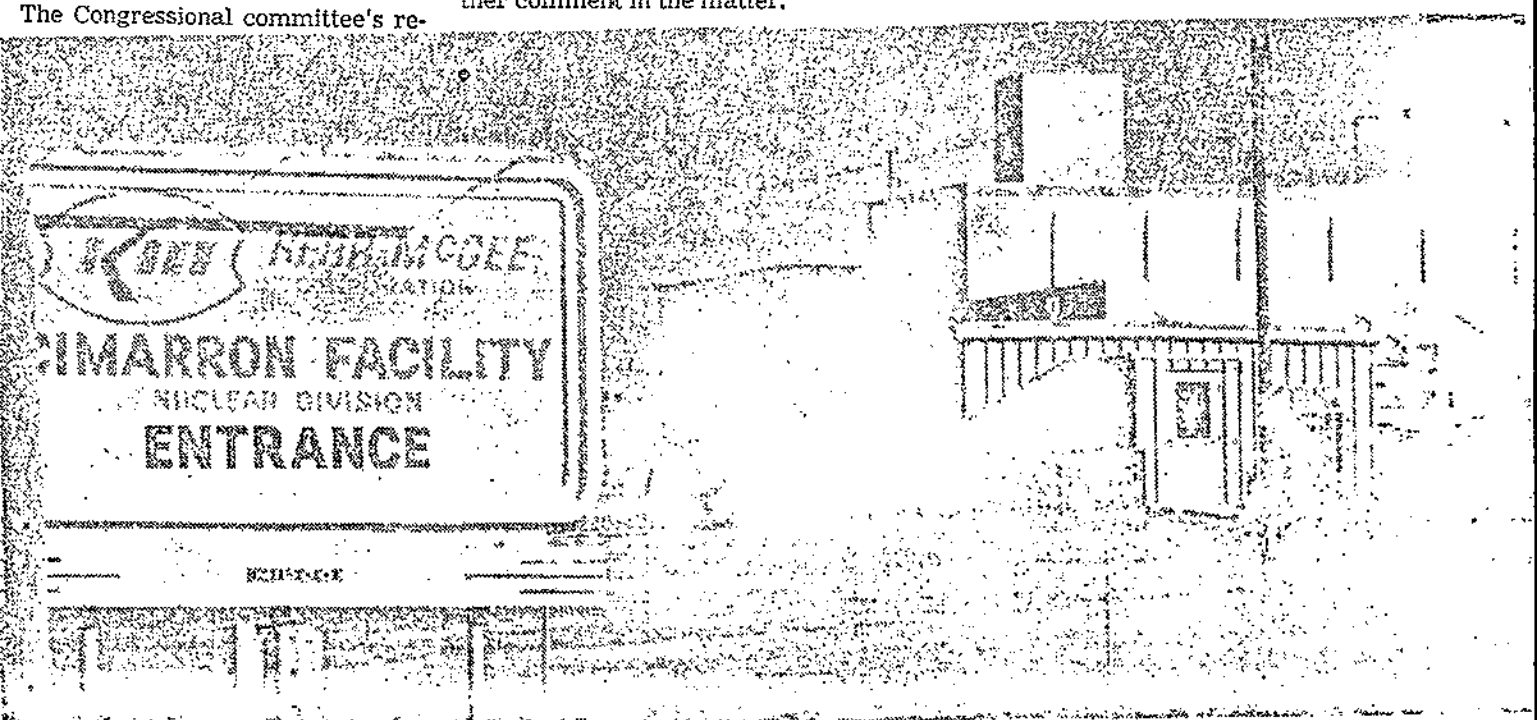
The Congressional committee's request was initiated after a report from the AEC on the incident. A staff source said the committee receives notification on all "significant" incidents and can then ask for a full investigation.

Mazzocchi's union assistant, Steve Wodka, has asserted that 17 safety hazard incidents, involving 73 individuals, have occurred since the plant began operating in 1970.

Wodka said the plant employs 150 production and maintenance workers and 150 supervisors, but has an open shop without full union membership.

A Kerr-McGee source in Washington, who asked not to be identified, alleged today that the union is "trying to make management decisions on security precautions," whereas such decisions actually are made by AEC officials monitoring the operation.

In a formal statement released through a spokesman in Oklahoma City this morning, the corporation said, "Kerr McGee welcomes this investigation and will support it fully. While this investigation is under way, we do not intend to make further comment in the matter."



This is Kerr-McGee Corporation's plant near Crescent where fatally injured woman was employed.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kerr-McGee's Inquiry Aided By Roommate

Union Official Expresses Fear For Sherri Ellis

By Alan Bromley

A shaken Sherri Ellis, a focal point in the investigation by several groups into the plutonium contamination incident at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. plant near Crescent Nov. 5, was being questioned in an Edmond motel Wednesday night by Kerr-McGee investigators.

Miss Ellis, whose roommate died on the way to an interview with a New York Times reporter and a union official about safety precautions at Kerr-McGee's Crescent plant, told The Oklahoman she was cooperating with company probers.

Scapegoat?

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union said he feared the young woman, along with her roommate two weeks before Karen Silkwood's fatal crash, would be made a scapegoat in the inquiry.

Both the Atomic Energy Commission and the U. S. Department of Justice will conduct an inquiry into Miss Silkwood's death, the pair's contamination and the allegations of security breeches at the Kerr-McGee plant.

Union 'Concerned'

Steve Wodka, legislative assistant for OCAW, said he is concerned about Miss Ellis speaking to Kerr-McGee investigators, without legal or parental guidance.

"One thing Sherri may know about is how the apartment first became contaminated, and if she is distraught and talks to Kerr-McGee alone, they (Kerr-McGee) may make her the scapegoat," Wodka said.

Wodka also said the union is giving all its information about safety hazards at Kerr-McGee to the Atomic Energy Commission on Thursday morning.

Wodka said the corporation is to blame for personnel contamination, which he added may be widespread.

He said he has called the Oklahoma State Department of Health to check the homes of several Kerr-McGee employees.

"We have reason to believe that many people are contaminated," he said.

"The corporation fostered an impression among its employees that plutonium was not very dangerous, so the employees took an 'I don't care' attitude and didn't check themselves properly (for radiation contamination)," he charged.

Miss Ellis refused to be interviewed at length, and when asked about the death of Miss Silkwood, she began to sob, quickened her pace and left her motel quarters with two Kerr-McGee investigators.

Later Wednesday night, Miss Ellis said she did not plan to seek legal counsel, or to talk with OCAW officials, with whom Miss Silkwood was cooperating.

Bill Silkwood, Karen's father, told The Oklahoman he welcomes a full investigation into the death of his daughter.

"I want to know the truth," he said.

The Silkwoods, who ar[illegible] from Nederland, Tex[illegible] were in Guthrie and Okla[illegible]homa City Wednesday.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
OklahomaCity, Okla.

Date: November 21, 19[illegible]
Edition: Morning
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Decontamination details sought

State awaits radiation report

By Ervin Watson

A complete report on the alleged plutonium contamination of an Edmond apartment occupied by two women employees of the Kerr-McGee plant at Crescent is expected by the end of this week, a State Health Department official said today.

"We've asked for a detailed report on decontamination methods and what levels of contamination were found at the apartment," Dale McHard, chief of occupational and radiological health service of the department, said.

He said officials at the plant were asked for the report as soon as possible and said he expects the report "probably by the end of this week."

McHard said the State Health Department has asked for a complete report on disposal of any contaminated material and the firm's handling of all circumstances surrounding the case.

"We have asked for initial levels of contamination they found and what levels of contamination we can expect when their work is completed," McHard said.

He said after the plant's report is received, officials of the health department will make its own inspection before certifying it is free from contamination.

McHard said that for the apartment to have been contaminated at the reported levels, the source would have had to be in loose form, that is, not inside in a sealed container.

He said it is highly unlikely that a fuel rod could have been taken from the plant or into the apartment because such rods measure around 14 feet in length and about a quarter inch in diameter.

McHard said the fuel rod is the finished product which eventually is sent to an experimental reactor fuel production site.

He said the source of contamination could have come along the line of production but emphasized that "the source is not clear to us, or to my knowledge, the Atomic Energy Commission."

McHard said he is not familiar with the production process within the plant at Crescent.

He said fuel rods would not be considered dangerous to handle unless

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Oklahoma City Times
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 20, 19
Edition: Evening
Author: Ervin Watson
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

b3
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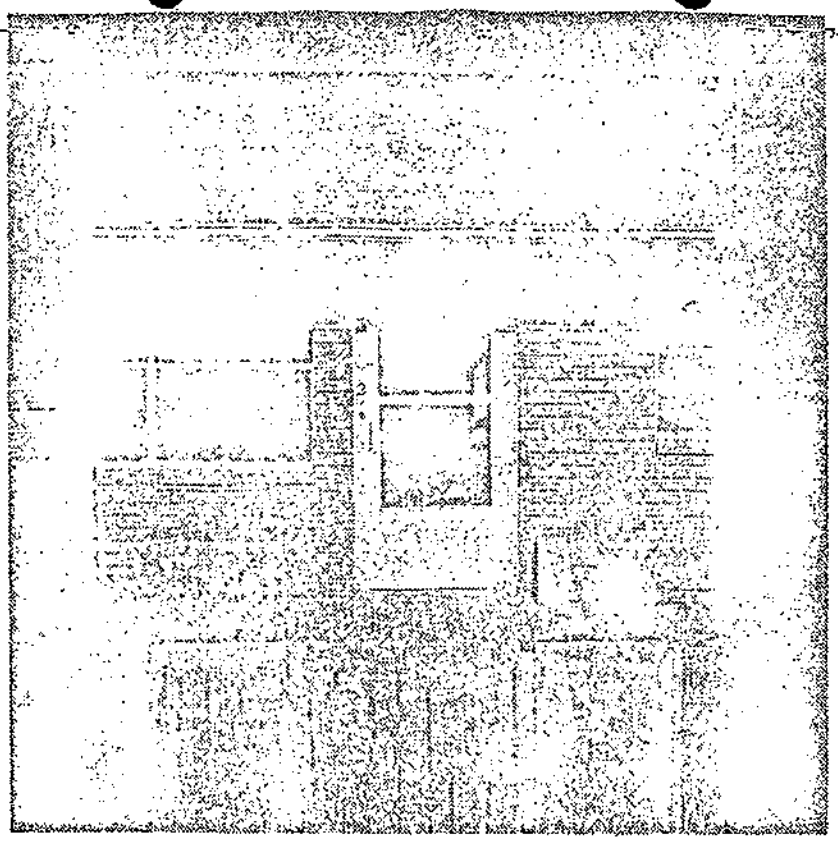
b7C
b7E

Orig. to Bureau
11-21-74 12

cc

159-45-26



Apartment in Edmond was being decontaminated today by Kerr-McGee employees.

State

Continued From Page One

there was a leak in the plutonium container.

He said the rods contain a fissionable material which is the fuel to produce a heat source that generates energy, and, in turn, power such as electricity.

He sadi tremendous heat is generated by the rods in a reactor and that coolants, sometimes just plain pure water, are used to cool the rods and prevent them developing leaks and releasing the plutonium.

McHard said the energy produced by the rods in a reactor is equal to tremendous amounts of fossil fuels such as coal.

He said the advantages are that the rods can be used to produce energy over a long period of time before it is exhausted.

Dr. John West of the Chemical Engineering Department at Oklahoma State University, agreed with McHard that a fuel rod would not be dangerous as long as its contents are not leaking.

"If I had a sample on my desk, it would probably be less dangerous than cobalt because the alpha particles would be screened out by its container of glass or even paper," Dr. West said.

Dr. West said plutonium is dangerous only if it gets into the body by mouth or through an opening in the skin.

He said the Crescent plutonium plant is primarily concerned with making fuel for a breeder reactor experimental plant.

Dr. West said such plants could greatly increase uranium resources because it could create more fissionable material than it used, thus creating more fuel from the original fuel.

He said he had never seen plutonium but it is his understanding that it is a brownish-black solid substance when placed in a container.

He said the plutonium pellets probably would closely resemble a carbon arc such as that used in movie projectors.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

AEC Penalties, Rules Outlined

By Scott Weeden

The most severe penalties the Atomic Energy Commission can impose involve radioactive contamination of personnel handling such material — similar to a case currently being investigated at Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp.'s Cimarron Facility.

A full investigation of procedures involved in containing the radioactive material and in giving medical examinations to those exposed is held by AEC inspectors when a contamination occurs.

If the company is found at fault, a citation is issued and the company has a certain period of time to comply with the recommendations of the inspectors.

Failure to comply means the company is then subject to civil penalties, and if this fails to bring compliance, the AEC would probably seek a change or revocation of the company's license, according to an AEC spokesman.

All incidents involving personnel contamination must be immediately reported to the AEC. The AEC takes "a dim view" of failure to report, said a spokesman for the AEC Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region III, Glen Ellyn, Ill.

The commission sets maximum permissible concentrations of all fissionable material. For Plutonium-239, the air concentrations for soluble plutonium are .000000000002 microcuries per milliliter and .00000000004 microcuries per milliliter for insoluble plutonium. A microcurie is a unit for measuring radiation.

The Kerr-McGee Cimarron Facility has had several incidents over the past two years involving personnel contamination. The investigations and corrective actions taken are on file in the public documents area at the Guthrie Public Library. The only information not on file at the library deals with plant security — since such information is classified.

On June 21, 1972, four employees of the plant were exposed to 2.5 to 2.9 times the maximum permissible concentration for soluble plutonium during a glovebox window change operation involving 20 windows, the AEC reports show.

A glovebox is a plastic or glass-sided box with long, rubber gloves protruding from one side of the box. The employee can insert his arms into the gloves to handle the radioactive material.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

59 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 21, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Scott Weeden
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Atomic Energy Commission

Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
NOV 21 1974
OKLA. CITY

159-45-27

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— During the incident, the employees were wearing the appropriate protective clothing and full-face respirators equipped with particulate filters, the report states.

Kerr-McGee officials stated in the report that there was no spread of contamination outside of the plastic "greenhouses" and no body contamination was found on the employees.

"Corrective action includes use of an air sampler with an audible alarm during similar operations and placing more emphasis on decontamination of glovebox interiors prior to making window changes," the report states.

A spokesman for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union has asserted that 17 safety hazard incidents, involving 73 individuals, have occurred since the plant began operating in 1970.

In the same facility, Kerr-McGee has a uranium fuel production plant and all environmental reports include data from both plants.

According to the reports on file, other incidents involving the nuclear plant include:

— A fire on March 5, 1973, which occurred during bag-out operations in removing a bag of plutonium waste from a glovebox. Five employees were exposed. The employees were not wearing respirators, but were found to have no amounts of plutonium in them.

— On Aug. 18, 1973, liquid was discovered leaking from a stationary trailer van used for waste storage at the plutonium loading dock. The leak was found to be in a 55-gallon drum which supposedly had been solidified for shipment. Kerr-McGee no longer uses the same methods for solidifying wastes and has not had this problem recently.

— During the week of July 8-14, 1973, an employee was exposed to airborne concentrations of plutonium which were above specified limits.

— The final filter bank serving the acid glove boxes had an apparent breakthrough on Dec. 4, 1973, causing some materials to be released into the Cimarron River.

— On Jan. 4, 19[illegible], an employee jabbed a piece of wire screen through his glove and into his left forefinger. An incision ⅛-inch wide and ⅜-inch long was made to remove any plutonium that might have been in the finger.

The breakthrough of the filter bank and the leaking drum did not involve direct contamination of the personnel and were not required to be reported, although the company did.

The AEC issues press releases on any incidents that might involve potential exposure of the public to radiation. The AEC makes a press release whether the company does or not. After the March 5, 1973, incident, the AEC suggested that Kerr-McGee issue a release.

The violations of AEC regulations are divided into three categories. The most severe is category one, which generally involves safety and contamination of personnel.

The lowest category, category three, involves violations in record keeping or something of that nature, the AEC spokesman said.

If a person is suspected of having received a significant amount of contamination, then the person is sent to a facility, such as Los Alamos Laboratories in New Mexico, for thorough examination.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

VIA ENCIPHERED TELETYPE
FBI

Date: NOV. 22, 1974

Transmit the following PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE 008 NITEL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] (159-45) b3 b7E

ATTN: INTD

KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED); KERR MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC), NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION, CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA, ATOMIC ENERGY ACT (AEA).

RE OKLAHOMA CITY TEL TO BUREAU, NOV. 20, 1974.

FOR INFO BUREAU, ON NOV. 22, 1974, JERRY PHILLIP, REGULATORY OPERATIONS, AEC, CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED THAT PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE URINE AND FECAL SAMPLES SUBMITTED BY SILKWOOD PRIOR TO HER DEATH WERE IN SOME WAY ADULTERATED WITH PLUTONIUM AFTER SILKWOOD HAD "PASSED" THE SAMPLES. THE CIRCUMSTANCES AROUND HOW THE SAMPLES WERE ADULTERATED ARE NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THIS OCCURRED AT CAPTIONED FACILITY BEFORE EXAMINATION OR AT SILKWOOD'S APARTMENT OR SOME OTHER PLACE.

PHILLIP INDICATED THAT IF SILKWOOD OR SOME OTHER PERSON HAD ACCESS TO PLUTONIUM AND HAD ADULTERATED THE SAMPLES AT

2- [redacted]
(1-159-45)
LJO/jr
(2)

[redacted] b3 b7E

Searched ____ b3
Serialized ____ b7E
Indexed ____ b7C
Filed ____

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 402-735

159-45-88

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Priority)

[redacted] b3 b7E

OC 159-45 PAGE TWO

SILKWOOD'S APARTMENT, THIS WOULD TEND TO ACCOUNT FOR A CONTAMINATION OF SILKWOOD'S APARTMENT, HER ROOMMATE AND SILKWOOD HERSELF. FURTHER, LABORATORY STUDY OF TISSUE SAMPLES OBTAINED FROM SILKWOOD'S BODY WOULD BE ABLE TO PIN DOWN WHETHER OR NOT SHE HAD ACTUALLY INGESTED ANY PLUTONIUM.

PHILLIP ADVISED [redacted] THAT THE PRESENT AEC INVESTIGATION IS A THREE-PRONGED ONE. HIS OFFICE (CHICAGO) IS HANDLING THE CONTAMINATION ASPECT; JACK WARD, REGION THREE, AEC, DALLAS, IS LEADING THE INVESTIGATION REGARDING UNION ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING UNSAFE PRACTICES AT THE PLANT AND A (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) JACKSON FROM AEC, RICHLAND, WASH. IS HANDLING THE INESTIGATION REGARDING FALSIFICATION OF FUEL ROD DOCUMENTS.

STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER HAS COMPLETED AUTOPSY REGARDING SILKWOOD AND INDICATED THAT BLOOD SAMPLES REVEALED SHE WAS UNDER INFLUENCE OF HYPNOTIC DRUG AT TIME OF DEATH. UNSPECIFIED AMOUNTS OF ALCOHOL ALSO FOUND IN BLOOD. A DAMAGE TO REAR OF SILKWOOD'S CAR, ACCORDING TO OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL, CAUSED BY WRECKER SERVICE WHICH HANDLED CAR AFTER ACCIDENT.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 402-735

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

[redacted]

b3
b7E

OC 159-45

PAGE THREE

THE ABOVE IS BEING SUB MITTED FOR BUREAU INFORMATION ONLY IN VIEW OF FACT AEC INQUIRY IS YET NOT COMPLETED. IT IS NOTED THAT THE 159 DESK HAS CURRENT INTEREST IN CAPTIONED MATTER. OKLAHOMA CITY WILL FOLLOW AND KEEP BUREAU ADVISED.

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 402-733

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Autopsy Shows Atomic Worker Under Drug's Influence

By Tom McCarthy

Karen Silkwood was under the influence of a sedative "hypnotic" drug when her car veered off SH 74 near Crescent Nov. 13 and slammed into a concrete culvert, the state medical examiner reported Thursday.

Medical Examiner Dr. A.J. Chapman said in his final report on the woman's death that a "significant" level of methaqualone was found in Miss Silkwood's blood and other specimens from her body.

He said the amount of the sedative present was enough to "unquestionably" impair her driving, and he certified the traffic fatality as an accident.

Disputing Chapman's conclusion were Washington officials of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union.

Union legislative assistant Steve Wodka said a union investigator had seen Chapman's report and that the investigator did not believe the methaqualone level the doctor found would have greatly affected the woman.

The ruling apparently constitutes a major blow to the theory that foul play may have been involved in the traffic death of the 28-year-old Kerr-McGee nuclear laboratory technician.

At the time of the crash, Miss Silkwood was reportedly on her way to a meeting in Oklahoma City with a New York Times reporter and a union official to discuss alleged falsification of inspection records at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron facility.

Chapman said Thursday he had determined "there was more than a therapeutic dose" of the drug present in her body.

Also present in trace amounts was alcohol, he said. He said the alcohol level was "insignificant and probably didn't play any role" in the mishap.

Chapman's findings supported a conclusion by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol that the woman apparently fell asleep at the wheel.

Miss Silkwood died from multiple injuries, including broken ribs and long bones and numerous cuts, scrapes and bruises, the medical examiner said.

Further damaging the foul-play theory was a statement by a Crescent wrecker service driver who says he believes he probably put the questioned dent in the rear

Orig. to Bur 11-22-74

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 22, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Tom McCarthy
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr McGee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-8 New
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

1J/4 Okla. City

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b7C

159-45-29

bumper of Miss Silkwood's car.

The union, in which Miss Silkwood was active, said its private investigator has determined that the dent could have been caused by a blow from another vehicle.

Harold Smith, wrecker service worker for Ted Sebring Ford, Crescent, said he and Sebring had a great deal of difficulty pulling the woman's white Honda Civic free and did some damage to it in the process.

"It was jammed up tight against the concrete wing wall at the bottom of the creek," Smith said. "It was muddy down there and it was more than one man could handle."

He said Sebring first tried several times to pull the car out with a chain attached to the rear end, but that it remained stuck.

Finally, he said, they fixed a winch onto the rear end and jerked the car free.

"It was beat up like a tin can when we got it," Smith said. "I know we were bound to have skinned and banged it up some getting it out of there."

He said, however, that he didn't remember putting that particular dent in the bumper or notice it later.

"When you're pulling one out, you don't pay a whole lot of attention to what you have to do to it," Smith said.

The wrecker driver also shed some light on the disposition of documents the union assumes Miss Silkwood was bringing to the meeting in Oklahoma City.

A union official has said he assumes the woman was bringing documents with her to substantiate her charges about safety procedures at the Cimarron plant.

Smith said he and highway patrol troopers cleaned out the woman's wrecked car and put all her personal effects into a box.

These contents, he said, included two "pasteboard binder folders" with some words about nuclear energy on the cover.

Smith said he didn't examine the books but noticed that they contained printed pages rather than handwritten ones.

He said Miss Silkwood's boyfriend picked up both the box and the car from the wrecker service after the woman's parents gave their approval by telephone from Texas.

The boyfriend has been cooperating with union officials, and an Atomic Energy Commission spokesman said AEC investigators also have talked with the man. Union officials reported they have possession of the smashed car at a secret location.

Meanwhile, a state health department official said the department is willing to give plutonium contamination tests to any Kerr-McGee employees the union designates and their homes.

Dale McHard, the department's chief of occupational and radiological health services, said this matter was discussed with union officials about two weeks ago, but that the union has not subsequently made an official request for the tests or supplied the necessary names and addresses.

In respect to its investigation, the Justice Department announced in Washington Thursday that it will be concerned with three areas in connection with the plutonium contamination of Miss Silkwood and related tangents.

A spokesman said the department's probe will concentrate on whether there was any interfering with a witness in a government investigation, whether there was an abridgement of the right to participate in union activities and whether civil rights were violated.

Officials refused to elaborate further on these points.

Meanwhile, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Clarence Kelley, said in Oklahoma City Thursday that, despite a report from the Justice Department Wednesday, the bureau has not yet decided whether it will enter the probe.

Justice Department spokesman Bob Stevenson said Wednesday that FBI agents would go to the plant to check into any possible violations of federal law.

Foul Play, Radiation Ruled Out In Death

By United Press International

The traffic death of a plutonium plant employe was in no way related to her exposure to radiation a week earlier, Oklahoma's chief medical examiner said Thursday.

Dr. A. Jay Chapman said his department's investigation into the death of Karen Silkwood "is now considered complete." A preliminary report on the investigation also had indicated no connection between the two accidents.

He said an autopsy showed no trace of radioactivity.

"Toxicological examination of blood and other specimens reveals the deceased was under the influence of a sedative-hypnotic drug, methaqualone, associated with a trace of ethyl alcohol," the medical report said.

An assistant in Chapman's office said methaqualone is available legally only by prescription. Ethyl alcohol is the common intoxicant in alcoholic beverages.

Chapman's report said there was no evidence to imply that any other vehicle was involved and that damage to the rear bumper of her car is believed to have occurred while the vehicle was being towed by a wrecker.

A union official had quoted a special investigator as saying there were indications Ms. Silkwood's car was forced off the road.

Ms. Silkwood was killed in a traffic accident Nov. 13 while enroute to a meeting with a union official and a New York Times reporter to discuss her allegations of safety hazards at the plant. Her car left the road and hit a concrete culvert.

Ms. Silkwood was exposed to plutonium contamination Nov. 5 at the Kerr-McGee Corp. Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent.

Contamination also was found in the Edmond apartment she shared with Sherri Ellis, also an employe of the plutonium plant. Officials said the contamination was removed from the apartment.

The Atomic Energy Commission is investigating the contamination accident.

The FBI entered the investigation Wednesday. A Justice Department spokesman said the FBI was checking whether federal laws had been violated.

The highway patrol has said the small, fresh dent in Ms. Silkwood's car was made by a wrecker and not by another vehicle as a union spokesman had suggested.

The wrecker company that pulled the car from the ditch south of Crescent confirmed it damaged the car, but said it was already totaled.

The wrecker was hooked to the car's rear bumber, Roy Tant, Oklahoma Highway Patrol public information officer, said. He said the car was pulled out and then fell back into the ditch and had to be pulled out again.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation also said an analysis of two cigarettes found in the car showed they contained marijuana. Lt. Kenneth Vanhoy said the information would not change the original investigating trooper's report of the incident.

Kerr McGee officials, including Board Chairman Dean A. McGee and President Jim Kelly, have said they are cooperating fully with all investigating agencies and are confident all records at the Crescent plant are in order.

Orig. to Bur. 11-22-74 me

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Oklahoma Journal
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 22, 197
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: W. P. Atkinson
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr McGee Corp.
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Character:
or
Classification: 157-49
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
NOV 22 1974
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY

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b7C

159-45-30

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P) DATE: 11/23/74

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED) - VICTIM
LABOR - MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959 -
INVESTIGATIVE MATTER

On 11/23/74, [redacted] KOCO-TV, Channel 5, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, home telephone number [redacted] b6 b7C telephoned the Oklahoma City Office and informed that KTOK radio had done a documentary concerning KAREN G. SILKWOOD and the Kerr McGee Corporation Nuclear Products Division, Crescent, Oklahoma. He said [redacted] of KTOK quoted an FBI spokesman as saying the FBI was conducting an inquiry concerning the theft of plutonium by KAREN G. SILKWOOD.

[redacted] requested the identity of the FBI spokesman so he could determine what investigation the FBI was conducting. b6 b7C

[redacted] was informed that this office had not received any instructions from the Department of Justice to conduct an investigation. He was also informed that the Department of Justice had been informed of the progress of inquiry being made by AEC as appears in the news media and the FBI had not as yet received any instructions to conduct an active investigation into this matter. b6 b7C

[redacted] asked if any information had been received by the FBI and forwarded to the Attorney General concerning the possibility that SILKWOOD had secreted plutonium within her vagina and anus. [redacted] was informed this Agent had no information concerning this possibility. b6 b7C

[redacted] was informed that no one from the FBI answered any press inquiry or made any press release that the FBI is conducting an investigation regarding theft of plutonium from captioned facility. He was informed possible violations of Federal law might be Theft of Government Property, Fraud Against the Government, b6 b7C

2 - 159-45
1 - [redacted]
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NOV 2 3 1974
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY

b3 b6 b7C b7E

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings P[redacted]

159-45-31

5010-108-02

or violation of union members rights. He was informed however, that this office had not received any instructions from the Department of Justice to conduct any active investigation.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Roommate Airs Plutonium Smuggling Idea

By Alan Bromley

Karen Silkwood may have been pilfering plutonium from the Kerr-McGee Corp's. Cimarron nuclear facility to substantiate her claims of company security breaches, her former roommate said Monday.

"It's something to be considered," said Sherri Ellis, the primary witness who shared a contaminated apartment with Miss Silkwood.

The FBI is investigating the death of Miss Silkwood, who died in a car carsh Nov. 13 on SH 74.

At the time of her death, Miss Silkwood was reportedly on her way to meet with a New York Times reporter and an official of the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers (OCAW) union to discuss her charges that Kerr-McGee was falsifying its safety records.

Miss Ellis said it is possible plutonium samples could be taken out of the plant, but she refused to place any blame on the corporation.

"You can take out a (sample) vial containing plutonium, but for the company to prevent that, it would have to strip every employee," she said.

"Security out there is as tight as I feel people can live with. Some trust in the people hired is a necessity," she told The Oklahoman in an exclusive interview.

Miss Ellis said she did not know how either she, her roommate or their apartment in Edmond came to be contaminated.

"There are a lot of possibilities. I'm just as anxious as anyone to see how these things will come out. I don't have any answers.

"I have nothing to hide and nothing to tell," said the 21-year-old blue-eyed blonde.

"I don't know if Karen (Silkwood) was documenting information against the company. We had an unwritten agreement that we never discussed union matters," she said.

Miss Ellis was a nonunion worker. Miss Silkwood was described by her former boyfriend Drew Stephens as a union activist.

Stephens, who retrieved Miss Silkwood's mangled Honda after the crash, told The Oklahoman he took two "workbooks" from the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 26, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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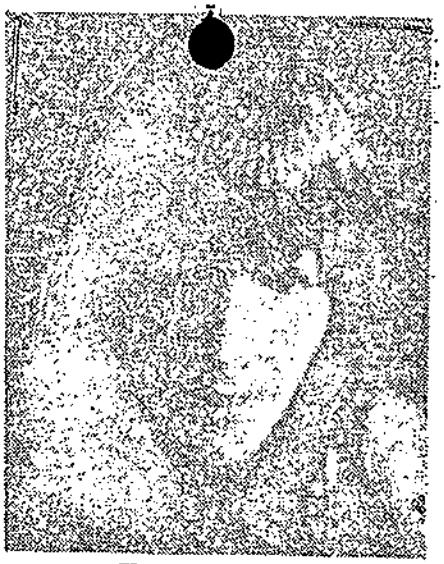
b7C

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 26 1974
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

159-45-23



Karen Silkwood

car, but he said they were not documents relating to charges against the company.

He has refused to reveal to The Oklahoman the location of the car, which he turned over to OCAW Union investigators, but he said he would cooperate with the FBI.

Despite a medical examiner report to the contrary, Steve Wodka, OCAW legislative aide, said Miss Silkwood's car crash "was not caused by drowsiness or drugs, according to our experts."

Dr. A. Jay Chapman, state medical examiner, said in his final report that Miss Silkwood was under the influence of a "significant" amount of methaqualone—a sedative—at the time of the fatal accident.

Wodka claims there is evidence that Miss Silkwood's car may have been hit in the left rear by a moving vehicle.

Harold Swanson, special agent in charge of the Oklahoma FBI, said his agents began their investigation Monday into Miss Silkwood's death.

He would not elaborate on the areas to be probed, but last week a Justice Department spokesman said they would request the FBI to check three points: whether Miss Silkwood's civil rights were violated; whether there was any interference with a witness in a government investigation, and whether there was an abridgement with Miss Silkwood's rights to participate in union activities.

An AEC spokesman said his agency's investigation into charges that company personnel safety records are inaccurate has all but concluded.

"Since the plant received its license from the AEC in 1970, there have been 17 contamination incidents involving 73 people.

"All of these people were checked shortly after each incident, as is our policy, and were cleared. All of this transpired before this investigation," said Jan Strasma, AEC spokesman.

Another AEC official said the AEC has almost finished its on-site investigation at the Cimarron facility.

"For the most part, our on-site investigation is complete. This is pending the turn-up of anything additional from sample results and a review of the information gathered," James G. Kepler, AEC regional director, said Monday.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

AEC Starts Inquiry On Nuclear Safety

By Alan Bromley

The Atomic Energy Commission began its investigation Friday into union charges that safety records at the Kerr-McGee Corp.'s plutonium plant were altered, said an AEC spokesman.

The AEC has not determined if there is any substance to the allegations made by the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers union, Jan Strasma, the AEC official said.

Results Unavailable

"It's too soon to tell — the investigation will definitely go into next week — by then we may know," he said.

The union contends "the quality control system used in making the (plutonium) rods were tampered with and falsified," said Steve Wodka, OCAW representative.

Previously, the union charged specifically that X-rays which would disclose faults in the plutonium rods were deliberately fogged.

Concerns Cited

"We (OCAW) are also concerned about the company's shoddy personnel safety (contamination) record," Wodka said.

"We presented evidence of the falsifications to the AEC — now we are going to sit tight and wait for the AEC and FBI to do their thing," Wodka said.

Orig. To Bur
11-29-74 Krs

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

9 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 23, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Alan Bronley
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr McGee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

159-45-32(B)

Strasma said the AEC checked the company's personnel contamination records and found them in order.

"Since the plant received its license from the AEC in April 1970, there have been 17 contamination incidents involving 73 people.

Personnel Checked

"All of these people were checked shortly after each incident, as is our policy, and were cleared — all of this transpired before this investigation," Strasma said.

The Justice Department is probing the death of Karen Silkwood, a former Kerr-McGee employee and union activist, who died Nov. 13 in a car crash on SH 74.

State Medical Examiner Dr. A.J. Chapman said in his final report that she was under the influence of a "significant" amount of methaqualone — a sedative — while she was driving.

Miss Silkwood, who was contaminated at the Cimarron plant, reportedly was on her way to meet a New York Times reporter and union official in Oklahoma City to substantiate her charges of the alleged falsifications by Kerr-McGee.

Union investigators claim the fatal car crash "was not caused by drowsiness or drugs," said Wodka.

OCAW has possession of the car — and claims there is evidence that it was recently hit in the left rear by a moving vehicle, said Wodka.

Film of the car was shown on CBS television news Thursday night, but Wodka refuses to disclose its whereabouts.

"We swung a deal with CBS — and in return we don't want to reveal where it is — CBS promised to keep it secret," revealed Wodka.

Meanwhile, Kerr-McGee investigators are checking a charge made by employee Robert G. Bathe, of 805 Meadow Green Drive, Midwest City, that he was "harassed" by an automobile while driving his car.

Neither Bathe nor Kerr-McGee investigators would say how Bathe was "harassed" but corporate security man Fred Welch said, "It happened on Nov. 17, shortly after midnight."

Jim Reading, Kerr-McGee investigator said, "We have the tag number (of the 'harassing' vehicle) — and we'll find out who the rascal was."

A spokesman for the Justice Department said the investigation into Miss Silkwood's death would include checking whether her civil rights were violated, whether there was an abridgement of her right to participate in union activities and whether there was any interference with a government witness.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-10-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Probes Entangle Witnesses

As the investigation of plutonium hazards at the Kerr-McGee Corp.'s Crescent plant continues, vital witnesses find themselves caught between conflicting probes — the company's and the union's.

One witness, Sherri Ellis shared a contaminated apartment with Karen Silkwood, who even in death remains the central figure in the morass of charges, counter-charges and vile rumors.

Miss Ellis, a Kerr-McGee employee, spent Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in the Edmond Broadway Motor Inn — compliments of the corporation.

She was questioned extensively by Jim Reading and Derrill Cody, Kerr-McGee investigators on Wednesday night.

Miss Ellis was distraught that night — her eyes swollen, her blond head bowed — she sobbed at the mention of her dead roommate.

She is expected to shed light on how their apartment first became contaminated.

Miss Ellis said she was cooperating fully with the Kerr-McGee investigation and would speak to neither the press nor the Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers union (OCAW) — which fueled Miss Silkwood's charges into a full-scale probe.

On the other hand, there is Drew Stephens, of 836 NW 48th St., — the former boyfriend of Miss Silkwood — who claims to have been "closer to her than anyone else."

He is working actively with the union, he said.

"Speak to Steve Wodka (OCAW representative) — he's my spokesman," he told The Oklahoman more than once.

He said he picked up Miss Silkwood's car after the wreckers pulled it from the ditch — and turned it over to OCAW investigators.

He also claims to have retrieved "two workbooks" Miss Silkwood was carrying to a union official and a New York Times reporter the night she died in a mangled Honda on SH 74.

"They don't amount to much — it wasn't documentation which would provide proof of the company's falsifying safety records," he contended.

He described Miss Silkwood as an ardent unionist — "She was the number one trouble-maker for management."

According to Stephens, she also took medication — "She had a prescription for methaqualone and she took sleeping pills the last few weeks."

He also worked at Kerr-McGee until several months ago, and was a member of OCAW, he said.

He will rarely speak to the local press — he funnels his information to the union, which he said, "negotiates" with the major eastern press for national coverage.

He claims to know other employees at the plant who can verify the union's allegations.

He said he wants to continue Miss Silkwood's efforts to expose safety hazards at Kerr-McGee.

"If there is one redeeming factor in Karen's death — it's that all she fought for will come out due to the circumstances surrounding her death," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

29 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: November 23, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr McGee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

Orig Inv Ltr
11-25-74

159-45-32(A)

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Details undisclosed

FBI joins probe of Silkwood death

By Gary Hearn

Keeping mum on any details, the Federal Bureau of Investigation today confirmed that it has entered the probe of Karen Silkwood's traffic death midway in her criticism of Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. safety practices.

In another development, the Atomic Energy Commission announced it has completed an on-site check at the corporation's Cimarron plutonium factory where Miss Silkwood had alleged irregularities.

The 28-year-old technician at the plant was fatally hurt in a one-car wreck Nov. 13. She and her roommate and their Edmond apartment had been found to have radiation contamination earlier in the month.

An FBI spokesman in Washington today said, "We are currently conducting a preliminary investigation to determine if any federal laws were violated." He declined to say how many agents are working on the project or in what way.

Officials of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union had asked the U.S. Justice Department for the investigation, which the FBI representative said will focus on the fatal crash.

Union officials have said they believe Miss Silkwood was carrying documentation of allegations about poor safety standards and altered inspection reports at the plant.

Her Honda car was found off the side of a road near the plant. Steve Wodka, OCAW legislative assistant,

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Oklahoma City Times
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 25, 1974
Edition: Evening
Author: Gary Hearn
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ... b6
SERIALIZED ... FILED ... b7C
NOV 26 1974
FBI — OKLA CITY

159-45-33

said she was en route from the plant to a meeting with union officials and a New York Times reporter and was to discuss her allegations.

Meanwhile, James G. Kepler, AEC regional director, said today that his investigators left Oklahoma City Saturday night.

"For the most part, our on-site investigation is complete. This is pending the turnup of anything additional from sample results and a review of the information gathered," he said.

At the same time, Kerr-McGee officials said, "There is nothing new to report. The general thing here has been to say nothing," said Patrick K. Petree, director of public relations.

The corporation has stuck to a "no further comment" policy since release early last week of a brief statement.

A Justice Department spokesman said last week they would request the FBI to check three points. Those points included whether there was any interference with a witness in a government investigation, whether there was an abridgement of the right to participate in union activities and whether civil rights were violated.

Harold Swanson, special agent in charge of the Oklahoma City FBI office, said he received orders for the investigation this morning and agents were beginning work today.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Karen Silkwood Contaminated in July, Official Says

By Alan Bromley

Karen Silkwood was contaminated by plutonium in July — more than three months before the Atomic Energy Commission announced a second contamination — at the Kerr-McGee Corp.'s nuclear facility, an AEC official disclosed Tuesday to The Oklahoman.

Also on Tuesday, Kerr-McGee and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) union, which spurred investigations into the company's safety procedures reached agreement on a new one-year contract.

The contract includes several "verbal agreements concerning the corporation taking precautions against plutonium hazards to employees," said a local OCAW representative.

"Back in July, Karen Silkwood was involved in a minor incident causing internal contamination — she was the only person who showed any degree of contamination early," said James G. Keppler, AEC regional director of regulations operations.

The AEC originally announced on Nov. 8 that Miss Silkwood, her former roommate Sherri Ellis and their Edmond apartment were contaminated.

Miss Ellis said Tuesday she did not know of Miss Silkwood's earlier contamination.

Miss Ellis found out she was contaminated on Nov. 7, she said.

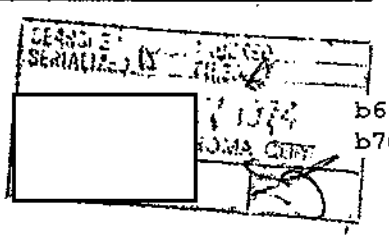
Kerr-McGee found the contamination and reported it to the AEC, said Keppler.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: November 27, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennet
Title: Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr McGee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated



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b7C

159-45-34

Under AEC regulations, neither Kerr-McGee nor the AEC was obligated to inform Miss Ellis, or other people who would come into contact with Miss Silkwood, of Miss Silkwood's condition, he added.

Keppler also acknowledged that small quantities of plutonium could be taken from the Cimarron facility, and the possibility of Miss Silkwood's doing so is being investigated.

He said Kerr-McGee's security system, which went into effect in March with AEC approval, is designed to stop diversion of significant amounts of plutonium.

"It is possible, however, to come away with small amounts (of plutonium) which could cause contamination," he revealed.

The AEC has been concerned with substantial amounts being taken for possible use in illegal nuclear weapon manufacturing.

Better security measures designed to prevent amounts capable of contaminating the public "will be looked at," Keppler said.

Several nuclear experts estimate that a lethal dose of plutonium is only fifty-millionths of a gram, and a few dozen grams could contaminate an area of several square miles.

The AEC investigation into union charges that Kerr-McGee was falsifying its safety records is almost complete. The AEC will issue a report in "several weeks," said an AEC spokesman.

The OCAW charged earlier that Kerr-McGee improperly trained and educated its employees of the dangers of plutonium and failed to keep employee exposure as low as practicable.

An AEC spokesman said there have been 73 people contaminated in the plant since 1970, and that all were cleared after each incident.

OCAW representatives further charged that Kerr-McGee didn't take proper hygenic precautions or adequately monitor worker exposure, said Jan Strasma, an AEC spokesman.

The new contract agreement with OCAW International and its Local 5-238 becomes effective Dec. 1, 1974, and covers 150 employees represented by the union.

Contract negotiations began Nov. 6 and were concluded after four negotiating sessions, R.T. Zitting, president of the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp., said.

The contract was ratified by a vote of the employees five days before the existing contract expired, Zitting said.

As the union and Kerr-McGee await the AEC findings, the FBI is continuing its probe into the death of Miss Silkwood.

Miss Silkwood died in a car crash Nov. 13 on SH 74.

At the time of her death she was reportedly on her way to meet with a New York Times reporter and an OCAW official to discuss her charges that Kerr-McGee was falsifying its safety records.

Dr. A.J. Chapman, state medical examiner, said in his final report that Miss Silkwood was under the influence of a "significant" amount of the sedative methaqualone while driving.

The union, however, claims it has evidence that Miss Silkwood's car was hit in the left rear by another moving vehicle and the crash was not caused by drugs or drowsiness.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (159-45)

DATE: 11/27/74

FROM : SA, [redacted]

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ
OO - OC

At 5 PM 11/27/74, JERRY PHILLIP, Regulatory Operations, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Chicago, Ills. contacted Oklahoma City office. Mr. PHILLIP stated that at the time of the decontamination of SILKWOOD's apartment, a large quantity of the contents was removed from the apartment and after being placed in 55 gal. drums were stored at the Kerr McGee facility at Crescent.

Mr. PHILLIP said they plan to go through the material that was removed from SILKWOOD's apartment and stored in the drums late Monday afternoon, 12/2/74. He said and AEC representative from Chicago, JACK FINN, would be there for the action but he would not arrive in Oklahoma City until after 3 PM on 12/2; traveling by plane and will stay at the Holiday Inn Northwest. Also, a representative from the U. S. Treasury Dept. will be present when this material is examined as there were indications that marijuana and other material of a drug nature, considered to possibly be narcotics was in the material removed from the apartment at the time of the decontamination.

Mr. PHILLIP stated he wanted to advise this office of the planned action in the event we desired to have an observor(s) at the scene. He stated no time has been set for the action but as Mr. FINN is not arriving in OKC until after 3 PM he presumes it may be delayed until 5 PM.

HBM
(2)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 27 1974
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

159-45-25

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-109-02

11/27/74

A I R T E L

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

RE: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LUREDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Bureau airtels to Oklahoma City, 11/21/74 and 11/25/74.

For information of recipient offices, the Bureau by re airtel, 11/21/74, forwarded Departmental memorandum dated 11/20/74 which requested the Bureau conduct investigation into matters alleged in a New York Times article, 11/19/74, and in a telegram of ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI to Legislative Director of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW).

The Department noted the allegations if substantiated may constitute violation Title 29, Section 530, U. S. Code (through impairment of SILKWOOD's (union) rights and Section 1505, Title 18, U. S. Code) in that SILKWOOD was a witness in a pending investigation before the AEC.

For the further information of recipients, SILKWOOD was an employee of the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMG) Nuclear Products Division facility at Crescent, Oklahoma, which facility is in part a plutonium (Pu) fuel plant. SILKWOOD was employed as an analyst in the Pu fuel plant and worked with radioactive material, primarily Pu.

On 11/5/74, it was learned that SILKWOOD was contaminated with Pu. Checks made several days thereafter determined that SILKWOOD was again contaminated and it was

2-Bureau
2-Dallas
2-HFO
2-Oklahoma City
LJO/sal
(8)

[redacted] b6 b7C

159-45-36

learned the apartment in which she resided was also contaminated. SILKWOOD's roommate, a KMC employee, was contaminated too.

SILKWOOD and her roommate were sent to AEC, Los Alamos, New Mexico, for medical checks 11/11/74 and 11/12/74. SILKWOOD on 11/13/74 was involved in a one car fatal accident which occurred south of Crescent, Oklahoma. Accident investigated by Oklahoma Highway Patrol who indicated no foul play involved; however, an independent accident investigator, [redacted] of Accident Reconstruction Lab, Dallas, Texas, who was hired by the OCAW speculated there was evidence to suggest that SILKWOOD's car was hit from behind by another vehicle causing her car to leave the road and hit a culvert. The union has alleged that accident possibly was an attempt to keep SILKWOOD from talking to a New York Times reporter and union officials about information that she had concerning allegations of unsafe practices at the Crescent facility. b6 b7C

SILKWOOD had previously met with AEC representatives and union officials 9/27/74 in Washington, D. C. at which time she and other union representatives presented other allegations concerning safety and allegations concerning classification of fuel rod documents which rods were fabricated at the Crescent facility.

The Bureau by referenced 11/25/74 airtel advised that Cpt. [redacted] Executive Director, Staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, had contacted FBI Headquarters re FBI investigation of captioned case. Cpt. [redacted] stated in 9/74 testimony taken from one Mr. MAZZOCCHI by the Joint Committee might well be pertinent to any investigation conducted by the FBI re SILKWOOD's death and MAZZOCCHI's allegations. He would make this testimony available if needed to be contacted at Washington, D. C., telephone number [redacted]. b6 b7C

OC 159-45

For the information of the Bureau, it was learned 11/27/74 through contact with KMC, Oklahoma City, that both KMC and AEC had received statements from a former KMC employee, [redacted] who presently [redacted] that he in an eleven-month period falsified fuel rod documents by altering photograph negatives to omit flaws or suspected flaws. [redacted] claimed he did this on own volition and no other persons involved. He claimed this was done to increase his production. b6 b7C

LEADS

DALLAS

AT DALLAS, TEXAS - Will locate [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Lab, and obtain full results of his investigation re SILKWOOD's accident. b6 b7C

LFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. - Will contact [redacted] Executive Director, Staff, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and obtain any pertinent info in his possession re captioned case. b6 b7C

0-9 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel _____
(Type in plaintext or code) (Precedence)

11/25/74
(Date)

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);
LMRDA; OOJ

ReBuairtel to Oklahoma City 11/21/74.

Captain [redacted] Executive Director of the staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, contacted FBIHQ and advised that it was his understanding that the FBI had been requested to investigate the death of Karen G. Silkwood who was killed in an automobile mishap in Oklahoma. He said that news accounts of this matter indicated that a labor union official, one Mr. Mazzocchi, has alleged that Silkwood's automobile was forced off the road into a bridge abutment and further stated that she was en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and implied her death was to prevent her talking with the reporter. Captain [redacted] stated that in September, 1974, testimony was taken from Mazzocchi by the Joint Committee which he believes might well be pertinent to any investigation being conducted by the FBI concerning Silkwood's death and Mazzocchi's allegations. He relates he would be pleased to make this testimony available to the FBI and stated he could be contacted at telephone number [redacted] (Washington, D. C.) to make necessary arrangements.

If review of this testimony appears desirable, Oklahoma City should furnish sufficient background information to WFO to enable them to conduct this review.

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[redacted]

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
NOV 27 1974
OKLA CITY

[redacted]

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159-45-37

0-9 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel _____
(Type in plaintext or code) (Precedence)

To: SAC, Oklahoma City [redacted] 11/27/74 (Date) b3 b7E

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND
DISCLOSURE ACT; OBSTRUCTION
OF JUSTICE

Reurtel 11/20/74. b6 b7C

Bufiles do not reflect any information identifiable with [redacted] and Accident Reconstruction Laboratory based upon available information.

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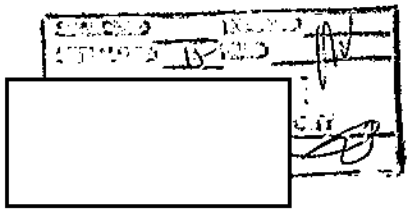
(Do not type below this line.)



b6 b7C

159-45-38

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

AEC Winding Up Crescent Probe

By Alan Bromley

The federal investigations into alleged safety hazards at the Kerr-McGee Corp.'s plutonium facility in Crescent and the death of former employee Karen Silkwood are nearing completion.

The Atomic Energy Commission has finished its field investigations and plans to publish two-thirds of its findings before Christmas, AEC spokesman Jan Strasma said.

The probe into the death of Karen Silkwood, the former employee and unionist who died Nov. 13, will be completed this week, "if no other circumstances arise," Harold Swanson, special agent in charge of the FBI in Oklahoma, told The Oklahoman.

Miss Silkwood was killed in a car crash on SH 74 as she was reportedly on her way to meet an Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) official and a New York Times reporter to discuss her allegations that Kerr-McGee was falsifying its safety records.

OCAW officials contend they have evidence indicating that Miss Silkwood's car was hit in the left rear by another moving vehicle.

Dr. A. Jay Chapman, the state medical examiner, said in his final report, however, that Miss Silkwood was driving under the influence of a "significant" amount of methaqualone, a sedative, at the time of her death.

The FBI will coordinate its findings with those of the AEC, and they will be turned over to the Justice Department which will decide whether to prosecute, Swanson said.

"Unless it goes to prosecution, the FBI report will remain confidential," Swanson noted.

The AEC has completed its field investigations into OCAW charges that Kerr-McGee falsified records of faulty fuel rods, whether safety hazards existed at the plant and how Miss Silkwood, her former roommate Sherri Ellis and their apartment became contaminated by plutonium, Strasma said.

"The AEC will issue a report on the contamination incident and the safety hazard charges before Christmas, but no date has been set for the report on the record-falsification charges," an AEC official said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

19 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: December 5, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
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12-5-74 ms

159-45-39

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 12/11/74

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD
(Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City airtel to the Bureau, 11/27/74, and Bureau airtel to Oklahoma City, 11/21/74.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau is one film cassette container and one purple pill box. Enclosed for WFO is "New York Times" article of 11/19/74, and telegram of ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI.

For the information of the Bureau and WFO, Oklahoma City has conducted extensive investigation relative to captioned case in the immediate Oklahoma City area. Contact with local leaders and members of the Oil, Gas, and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) in the Oklahoma City vicinity has failed to develop any person who has specific information or personal knowledge of allegations of possible violations under captioned characters.

Contact with the deceased's boy friend has failed to develop any knowledge of specifics on his part as well.

DREW STEPHENS when contacted on 12/3/74, would not submit to interview except under his conditions including tape recording of interview and/or having an attorney present based on instructions received from OCAW Legislative Assistant [redacted]

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
2 - WFO (Enc. 2)
2 - Oklahoma City

LJO:pwo (7)

Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

159-45-40

GPO : 1970 O - 402-735

On 12/4/74, after further checks with [redacted] b6 b7C STEPHENS submitted to interview without any restrictions whatsoever.

It is noted that [redacted] was one of the two b6 b7C persons with whom the deceased was to meet on the evening of her death (the other being [redacted]

It is noted that the telegram over the name of ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI claims that the union is in possession of tape recordings, records, and other data relative to this case.

Accordingly, it is felt that contact with union officials, including MAZZOCCHI and [redacted] would be helpful b6 b7C and leads in this regard are being set forth below.

Oklahoma City has a pending report in this matter in dictation setting forth results of investigation to date.

On the evening of 12/3/74, SA [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] at Oklahoma City examined the deceased's vehicle, a 1973 Honda Cipic, 2-door sedan, white in color, VIN SBC1014541, bearing 1974 Oklahoma License YF 8261. DREW STEPHENS stated that damage to left rear corner of car was damage believed by [redacted] Independent Accident Investigator hired by union, to be pertinent to [redacted] theory of possible foul play in connection with fatal accident. Visual inspection of damage failed to note any particles of paint either on dent or bumper other than white Honda paint. From interviews with wrecker personnel it was learned that car possibly received this damage when wrecker was removing car from culvert. The left rear quarter panel was at one time against wing well of concrete bridge. It is noted that damage to the car was at a point some 13 to 15" off of ground level at a point below horizontal midline on Honda bumper.

Film cassette container contains white paint samples from dent area and pill box contains minute quantity of scrapings obtained from bumper. Samples were collected with hard steel tool.

OC 159-45

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

It is requested that the enclosed material be examined for paint particles and other evidence so that a determination can possibly be made whether or not deceased's car was struck from behind by another vehicle.

LEADS:

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will locate [redacted] OCAW, and ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI, Legislative Director, OCAW, 1126 16th Street, Northwest, Washington, D.C., and contact them for any pertinent information they may have in this case to support their allegations concerning violations in areas of captioned characters. [redacted] should be asked to specify nature and extent of documentary information believed to be in possession of deceased for her use in intended meeting with [redacted] and [redacted].

b6
b7C

DECEMBER 13, 1974

PLAIN

TELETYPE URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] b3 b7E

SCATTERING OF URANIUM FUEL PELLETS, KERR-MC GEE CORPORATION, CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA, DECEMBER 16, 1974, AEA.

THE DECEMBER 13, 1974 EDITION OF THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN, A NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED DAILY AT OKLAHOMA CITY, ON PAGE ONE, MAIN HEADLINE ARTICLE, INDICATED THAT THE CIMARRON NUCLEAR FACILITY WAS BEING CLOSED. THE ARTICLE SAID 'KERR-MC GEE CORP. (KMC) OFFICIALS SAID TUESDAY THEY ARE SHUTTING DOWN THE CIMARRON NUCLEAR FACILITY UNTIL FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AGENTS PROBE WHAT THE OFFICIALS SAY ARE 'CONTRIVED' INCIDENTS OF CONTAMINATION AT THE PLANT."

ON DECEMBER 13, 1974, [redacted] b6 b7C KMC ADVISED THAT THE COMPANY HAS NOT SHUT DOWN THE CIMARRON FACILITY PENDING FBI INVESTIGATION. HE ADVISED THAT THE RELEASE THAT WAS MADE BY THE COMPANY WAS IN PART AS FOLLOWS: "KMC HAS EVIDENCE THAT SOME OF THE INCIDENTS THAT HAVE (RECENTLY) OCCURRED (AT THE CIMARRON FACILITY) HAVE BEEN CONTRIVED. THESE INCIDENTS

1 [redacted] b3 b7E
1

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

1-OC 159-45
LJO:ddw
(3)

159-45-41

[redacted] PAGE 2 b3 b7E

HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO THE FBI. THE COMPANY WILL SUSPEND OPERATIONS (AT THE FACILITY) UNTIL CORRECTIVE MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN."

[redacted] ADVISED THAT THE DECISION TO CLOSE THE PLANT WAS TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL CLEANUP PROCEDURES TO BE MADE AND TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION BY HIS COMPANY AND AEC RELATIVE TO RECENT HAPPENINGS AT THE PLANT. b6 b7C

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE OKLAHOMA CITY TELETYPE DECEMBER 17, 1974.

THE ABOVE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO CAPTIONED INCIDENT.

ON DECEMBER 18, 1974, JERRY PHILLIPS, AEC, CHICAGO, ILL., TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THE OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE TO INQUIRE IF ANY NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY WAS RECEIVED REGARDING THE SCATTERING OF PELLETS. HE ASKED IF THE FBI WAS CONDUCTING ACTIVE INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO CAPTIONED INCIDENT. HE WAS ADVISED THAT THE INCIDENT HAD BEEN REPORTED TO FBIHQ HOWEVER NO ACTIVE INVESTIGATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED AT THIS TIME. PHILLIPS ADVISED THAT HE WOULD BE IN THE OKLA. CITY AREA DECEMBER 18-20, 1974 INVESTIGATING RECENT PLUTONIUM SPILLS AND CONTAMINATION AT CAPTIONED PLANT AND THAT THERE POSSIBLY WOULD BE OTHER AEC REPRESENTATIVES INVESTIGATING SCATTERING OF

b3
b7E

CAPTIONED PELLETS.

LIEM IN DICTATION.

END

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 12/19/74

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) P

RE: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased);
LRMDA; OOJ
OO:OC

Re: Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau 11/27/74;
Report of SA [redacted] at OC 12/13/74; b6 b7C
Oklahoma City tel to Bureau 12/17/74 entitled "SCATTERING OF URANIUM FUEL PELLETS, KERR-MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC), CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA, 12/16/74; AEA".

As the Bureau is aware, several allegations stemming from the captioned SILKWOOD case and related matters have arisen, both from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) and from representatives of the KMC. It has been alleged that SILKWOOD's death was the result of foul play, that KMC was in violation of AEC health-safety standards at the Cimarron Facility, that quality control documents regarding plutonium fuel rods fabricated at the Cimarron facility had been falsified and it has been alleged that some of the contamination incidents at the Cimarron facility may have been contrived. It is also alleged that SILKWOOD's body samples were salted with radioactive material and that SILKWOOD herself may have diverted some of the nuclear material responsible for her contamination and also diverted material used to salt her body specimens.

The most recent known incident regarding the KMC Cimarron facility concerns the scattering of uranium fuel pellets as set out in referenced teletype.

3-Bureau
2-Dallas
2-Washington Field
(4) [redacted] b3 b7E

Searched
Serialized
Indexed

(2-159-45)

LJO:ddw (11)

159-4542

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

The resultant widespread local and national publicity given to the SILKWOOD case and attendant matters at the KNC Cimarron facility has generated considerable interest from various parties. The matters which appear to relate to AEC have been thoroughly investigated by that agency.

As set out in rerep, the USA at Oklahoma City, [redacted] WDO, indicated he was desirous that the AEC also furnish the results of their completed investigation(s) to the Department and his office so that consideration can be given to other aspects of the case... b6 b7C

As recently as 12/18/74, USA [redacted] again expressed his interest in the status of the AEC investigation. Details of the AEC investigations are unknown to the Oklahoma City Office. b6 b7C

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU

It is requested that the Bureau through liaison with AEC insure that results of AEC investigations are obtained and insure that AEC remains conversant with the investigative interest and jurisdiction of the FBI in regard to the Atomic Energy Act and related matters.

DALLAS DIVISION

Will expedite reporting of results of the obtaining of the accident investigation report of [redacted] b6 b7C

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

Will expedite reporting of interviews of OCAW representatives [redacted] and ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI. b6 b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/6/74

Lieutenant [redacted] Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, furnished the following information: b6 b7C

A fatal one car accident which occurred on November 13, 1974, in Logan County, Oklahoma, in which KAREN GAY SILKWOOD died, was investigated by OHP Trooper [redacted] b6 b7C

He noted that this accident has received widespread publicity and was separately investigated by an independent accident investigator, [redacted] b6 b7C of Accident Reconstruction Laboratory of Dallas, Texas. As reported in the media, [redacted] conclusions concerning the possible cause of the accident were considerably different than the conclusions reached by the OHP.

The OHP investigation indicated no evidence of foul play; while [redacted] speculated that SILKWOOD's car had been struck from the rear by another vehicle thus precipitating the fatal accident. b6 b7C

Inspection of the accident scene by the OHP failed to develop any evidence on the roadway of the SILKWOOD car having been struck, that is there were no skid marks indicated that would result from impact of another vehicle. Indications were that any damage sustained to the rear of the SILKWOOD vehicle may have resulted from a previous wreck which was not investigated by his department but is being investigated now and/or from damage resulting when the wrecker was attempting to extract SILKWOOD's car from the culvert in which it came to rest.

It is further noted that investigation was able to establish that the SILKWOOD car drifted off the road and traveled some 255 feet down a bar ditch before hitting the culvert wall. During its course of travel

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Interviewed on 11/26/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :pwo Date dictated 12/3/74 b6 b7C

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159-45-43

there were no marks that would have indicated SILKWOOD had ever attempted to brake or steer the car back onto the roadway.

It is also noted that the autopsy of SILKWOOD determined that she had a relatively large concentration of a hypnotic drug, methaqualone, in her bloodstream. Also less than .02 per cent of ethyl alcohol was found in her blood. The methaqualone appeared to be in sufficient quantity to alone have been a factor in causing the accident and the alcohol, while a relatively minor amount, also would have been a contributing factor.

[redacted] had indicated that he was going to furnish a copy of the results of his investigation into this accident to the OHP, but such report has not been received to date. b6 b7C

In regard to SILKWOOD's accident that preceded the fatal accident, this matter was not investigated by the OHP when the accident occurred, however, it has been determined that at 1:15 A.M., on October 31, 1974, (Thursday), at a point 3.8 miles west of Guthrie, Oklahoma, on State Highway 33, SILKWOOD's car, a 1973 Honda, went off the highway going over backwards off a 13 foot embankment and coming to rest against a fence post.

SILKWOOD left the car in the ditch until morning and thereafter contacted Martin's Wrecker Service in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Wrecker service extracted vehicle from ditch and as he previously indicated, this accident was not reported to the OHP. It is his understanding that as result of this accident SILKWOOD filed a claim with the Allstate Insurance Company for damage to the left rear quarter panel of the vehicle. It is also his understanding the wrecker driver who picked up the SILKWOOD car after the fatal accident observed in her car a recent estimate from the Eskridge Pontiac-Honda Company relative to damage to the left rear quarter panel. It is his understanding this estimate was in excess of $300.

Inquiry by his department determined that SILKWOOD, on November 1, 1974, contacted [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] in Oklahoma City, at which time she complained of whiplash. She subsequently contacted the doctor on November 4, 1974, at which time she complained she could not sleep. It is [redacted] understanding that [redacted] prescribed the methaqualone as result of SILKWOOD's visits.

b6
b7C

OC 159-45

Sheet 1 of 2 Sheets FATALITY = yes

OKLAHOMA OFFICIAL POLICE TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORT

Reporting Agency: OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL

Do not write in this space. No.

Date: November 13, 1974 Day of Week: Wednesday Hour: AM 7:30 PM County: LOGAN

— Type or Print —

CRESCENT — Name of Nearest City (If outside city limits)

Distance From Nearest City Limits: 7.3 Miles N ☐ S ☒ E ☐ W ☐ Miles

LOCATION: IN city or town ____ ON STATE HIGHWAY 74 name or number of street or highway AT name of intersecting road or landmark

Total Number Motor Veh. Involved: 1 — No. Injured: — No. Killed: 1

Hwy Class ☐ — STATE HIGHWAY CODES: Control No. ____ Int. I.D. ____ Location ____

County No. 42 — City No. ____

County Section Line Grids Or City Street Codes: East 00907 North 01619

Spec. Feat. ____ Collision Codes ____ Inter. Pop. Ct. ____

NOT AT INTERSECTION: 500 ft. North ☐ South ☒ East ☐ West ☐ OF COUNTY ROAD — show nearest intersecting street or highway

____ ft. OF: Control Location ☐

Time Notified: Date: 11-13-74 Hour: AM 8:05 PM

Arrived At Scene: Date: 11-13-74 Hour: AM 8:15 PM

Unit 1

AFP ☐

Driver: SILKWOOD, KAREN GAY 848-6181 (last, first, middle, phone no.)

Address: 836 N.W. 48th Okla. City, Okla. 73118 (street or RFD, city and state, zip code)

License: 76 (exp. yr.) OKLA. (state) 456780131 (number) ☒ Operator ☐ Chauffeur ☐ other

Age: 28 Race: W Sex: F Date of Birth: 2-19-46 (Mo. Day Year) Highschool ☐ Yes Driver Training N/A ☐ No

Veh. ID No.: SBC1014541

Vehicle: 73 (year) Honda (make) Civic (model) 2 Dr (style) C (size) = { towed vehicle

License Plate: 74 (year) OKLA. (state) YF 8261 (number)

	Equipped	In Use
Lap belt	☒ No	Yes ☒
Shoulder belt	☒ No	Yes ☒
Crash helmet	—	Yes ☒
Ejected?	—	Yes ☒

Owner's Name: Driver (last, first, middle, phone no.)

Address: Same as Driver

Is Veh. Operable? Yes ☐ No ☒

55 legal speed MPH 50-55 estimated speed before contact MPH 40-45 at contact MPH Burned? ☒ Yes $2000.00 estimated damage

Veh. removed to: CRESCENT by: SEBRING WRECKER

Unit 2

AFP ☐

Driver ☐ Pedestrian ☐ Animal ☐ Train, etc. ☐ (last, first, middle, phone no.)

Address: (street or RFD, city and state, zip code)

License: (exp. yr., state, number) ☐ Operator ☐ Chauffeur ☐ other

Age: Sex: Race: Date of Birth: (Mo. Day Year) Highschool ☐ Yes Driver Training ☐ No

Veh. ID No.:

Vehicle: (year, make, model, style, size) = { towed vehicle

License Plate: (year, state, number)

	Equipped	In Use
Lap belt	Yes ☐ No	Yes ☐ No
Shoulder belt	Yes ☐ No	Yes ☐ No
Crash helmet	— Yes ☐ No	
Ejected?	— Yes ☐ No	

Owner's Name: (last, first, middle, phone no.)

Address:

Is Veh. Operable? Yes ☐ No ☐

____ legal speed MPH ____ estimated speed before contact MPH ____ at contact MPH Burned? ☐ No ☐ Yes $ ____ estimated damage

Veh. removed to: by:

INJURED or WITNESS or INJ. PEDESTRIAN

	Injured– / Witness–	last, first, middle	address, Phone No.	age	sex	race	veh.#	Position in vehicle	Injury Type: A K B C	Head	Trunk-External	Trunk-Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet	Ejected?	Shoulder Belt: Equipped / In Use	Lap Belt: Equipped / In Use	ped.
1	Injured ☒	SILKWOOD, KAREN GAY	836 N.W. 48th OKC 848-6181	28	F	W	1	2 ☒	A ☒ K ☐ B ☐ C ☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	Yes ☒	Yes ☒	No ☒ / Yes ☒	No ☒ / Yes ☒	
2	Witness ☐								A ☐ K ☐ B ☐ C ☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	No ☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐ / Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐ / Yes ☐ No ☐	
3	Injured ☐ Witness ☐								A ☐ K ☐ B ☐ C ☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	No ☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐ / Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐ / Yes ☐ No ☐	
4	Injured ☐ Witness ☐								A ☐ K ☐ B ☐ C ☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	No ☐ Yes ☐	No ☐ Yes ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐ / Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐ / Yes ☐ No ☐	

PEDESTRIAN Injured Taken To: 1. LOGAN CO. HOSP., GUTHRIE, OK By: GUTHRIE FIRE DEPT. AMBULANCE — Time left scene: 8:45 pm — Time arrived hospital: 9:00 pm

2. ____ By: ____ — Time left scene: ____ — Time arrived hospital: ____

3. ____ By: ____ — Time left scene: ____ — Time arrived hospital: ____

Damage to property other than vehicles: $ ____ Owner– ____ Address– ____

Investigation made at scene? Yes ☒ No ☐ — Investigation completed? Yes ☒ No ☐ — Operator's report given to driver – Veh. 1 Yes ☒ No ☐ Veh. 2 Yes ☐ No ☐ — Photos taken? Yes ☐ No ☒

CHEMICAL TEST: Driver #1 Yes ☒ No ☐ % Blood — Driver #2 Yes ☐ No ☐ % ____ — Pedestrian Yes ☐ No ☐ % ____

HIT & RUN Yes ☐ No ☒

Name: last, first, middle — Citation: — Citation No.

1. ____ — Citation: — Citation No.

2. ____

SIGN HERE- [signature] — Badge No. ____ — District or Division: ONE — Reviewed by: (Initials & Badge No.) AR — Date of report: 11-15-74

b6 b7C

UPS 67-1 Revised Dec. 1973

4

NOV 19 1974

OC 159-45

Unit 1	Unit 2	WHAT VEHICLES WERE GOING TO DO
X		1. Go ahead
		2. Turn left
		3. Turn right
		4. Make 'U' turn
		5. Stop
		6. Slow for cause
		7. Start from park
		8. Change lanes
		9. Overtake or pass
		10. Back
		11. Start in traffic lane
		12. Remain stopped parked
		other

Unit 1	Unit 2	WHAT VEHICLES D
X		1. Went ahead
		2. Turned left
		3. Turned right
		4. Entered 'U' turn
		5. Stopped
		6. Slowed
		7. Started from park
		8. Entered other lane
		9. Overtaking
		10. Backed
		11. Started forward
		12. Remained stopped parked
		other

Unit 1	Unit 2	TYPE OF ROAD
		1. Oneway road
		2. Alley
X		3. Two lanes
		4. Three lanes
		5. Four or more divided
		6. Four or more not divided
		7. Driveway
		8. Turn bay
		9. On ramp
		10. Off ramp
		other

Unit 1	Unit 2	TRAFFIC CONTROL
		1. Stop sign
		2. Traffic signal
		3. Flashing signal
		4. Yield sign
		5. Warning sign
		6. RR gates, signals
		7. No-passing zone
		8. Officer
X		9. No control
		other
		10. Abnormal control

Unit 1	Unit 2	ROAD CHARACTER
		1. Straight-level
		2. Straight-upgrade
X		3. Straight-downgrade
		4. Straight-hillcrest
		5. Curve-level
		6. Curve-upgrade
		7. Curve-downgrade
		8. Curve-hillcrest
		9. Sharp curve (add to above if applicable)
		other

Unit 1	Unit 2	Ped.	CONDITION OF DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS
			1. Apparently normal
X			2. Drinking-ability impaired
			3. Odor of alcoholic beverage
			4. Very tired
			5. Sleepy DRUGS
			6. Sick
			7. Condition not known
			Body defects _____ (arm, leg, eyes, etc.)
			other

OBJECT STRUCK BY VEHICLE OR LOAD ON FIRST CONTACT

Unit 1	Unit 2		Unit 1	Unit 2	
		1. Street light pole			10. Traffic control sign
		2. Other utility pole			11. Ditch
		3. Guard rail			12. Embankment
		4. Guard post			13. Tree
		5. Culvert			14. Dividing Strip
		6. Traffic signal	X		15. Retaining wall
		7. Barrier			Bridge _____ (pier, abutment, etc.)
		8. Curb			Other highway struct.
		9. Island			other

POINT OF FIRST CONTACT ON VEHICLES

Unit 1	Unit 2		Unit 1	Unit 2	
		1. Front-center			7. Rightside-center
		2. Front-right			8. Rightside-forward
X		3. Front-left			9. Rightside-aft
		4. Rear-center			10. Leftside-center
		5. Rear-right			11. Leftside-forward
		6. Rear-left			12. Leftside-aft

LIGHT		WEATHER	
X	1. Daylight	X	1. Clear
	2. Darkness		2. Partly cloudy
	3. Lighted		3. Overcast
	4. Dawn		4. Raining
	5. Dusk		5. Snowing
	other		other

WHAT PEDESTRIAN WAS DOING

	1. Crossing-at intersection
	2. Crossing-not at intersection
	3. Crossing-at other crosswalk
	4. Getting on/off vehicle
	5. Walking with traffic
	6. Walking against traffic
	7. Push/work on vehicle
	8. Playing
	9. Other working
	other

Unit 1	Unit 2	ROAD CONDITION
X		1. Dry
		2. Wet
		3. Ice/Snow
		4. Muddy
		other

Unit 1	Unit 2	ROAD SURFACE
X		1. Concrete
		2. Asphalt
		3. Gravel
		4. Dirt
		other

LOCALITY	
	1. Residential
	2. Business
	3. Industrial
	4. School
X	5. Not built-up
	other

Unit 1	Unit 2	VEHICLE CONDITION	TIRE CHECK U-1	TIRE CHECK U-2
X		1. Apparently normal		
		2. Brakes (Abnormal Condition)		
		3. Steering (Abnormal Condition)		
		4. Headlights (Abnormal Condition)		
		5. Rearlights (Abnormal Condition)		
		6. Tires (Abnormal Condition)		
		other	RF	
			LF	
			RR	
			LR	

Indicate North by Arrow

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

Veh. 1 N ☐ S ☐ E ☐ W ☐

Veh. 2 N ☐ S ☐ E ☐ W ☐

COLLISION DIAGRAM

visibility obscured by

SEE PAGE TWO.

Did Location of FIRST Damage or Injury Producing Event Occur on Travel Portion of Trafficway?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Defect in Road

REMARKS: (COMMENTS THAT WILL CLARIFY REPORT)
(Refer to vehicles by number)

Veh. #1 south bound on SH 74. Ran off east side of roadway. Veh. travelled approx. 255 ft. in east bar ditch. Veh. struck north retaining wall approx. 3 ft. from face of bridge. Veh. airborn approx. 24 ft. and struck the south retaining wall approx. 3 ft. from face of bridge and approx. 3 ft. above ground level. Veh. landed on left side. No skid marks. Witnesses interviewed stated that they had advised the driver was in no physical condition to operate a vehicle.

UNSAFE, UNLAWFUL, OR OTHER ACTION (this section – primarily for general statistics and administrative purposes)

Unit 1	Unit 2	Describe	Unit 1	Unit 2	Describe
		1. Failed to Yield			10. Improper Overtaking
		2. Followed too Closely			11. Improper Parking
		3. Unsafe Speed			12. Inattention
		4. Made Improper Turn			13. Wrong way on –
		5. Changed Lanes Unsafely			14. Improper Start from –
		6. Stopped in Traffic Lane	X		15. Other Improper Act or Movement
		7. Failed to Stop			16. Not Known – or – No Improper Action
		8. Unsafe Vehicle			17. Other Action – not directly related to collision
		9. Left of Center			18. Pedestrian Action

UNDER INFLUENCE OF DRUGS

1955 67 3 Revised Dec. 1953

OC 159-45

Sheet 2 of 2 Sheets FATALITY = yes ☒

SUPPLEMENT to the OKLAHOMA

OFFICIAL POLICE TRAFFIC COLLISION REPORT

Reporting Agency: OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL

Do not write in this space

No.

Date: Nov. 13, 1974 Day of Week: Wednesday Hour: 7:30 AM PM County: LOGAN

Total Number Motor Veh. Involved: 1 No. Injured: — No. Killed: 1

LOCATION

Distance From Nearest City Limits: 7.3 Miles N ☐ S ☒ E ☐ W ☐

CRESCENT — Name of Nearest City (If outside city limits)

IN ____ city or town

ON STATE HIGHWAY 74 — name or number of street or highway

AT/NOT AT INTERSECTION 500 ft. south of County Road — name of intersecting road or landmark

ADDITIONAL INJURED or WITNESS or INJ. PEDESTRIAN — TYPE // PRINT

		last	first	middle	address	Phone No.	age	sex	race	Veh.#	Position in vehicle
5	Injured–Witness–										1 2 3 / 4 5 6
	Injury Type: A K / B C	Head	Trunk–External	Trunk–Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet: No Yes	Ejected? No Yes	Shoulder Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	Lap Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	ped.	
6	Injured–Witness–										1 2 3 / 4 5 6
	Injury Type: A K / B C	Head	Trunk–External	Trunk–Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet: No Yes	Ejected? No Yes	Shoulder Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	Lap Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	ped.	
7	Injured–Witness–										1 2 3 / 4 5 6
	Injury Type: A K / B C	Head	Trunk–External	Trunk–Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet: No Yes	Ejected? No Yes	Shoulder Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	Lap Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	ped.	
8	Injured–Witness–										1 2 3 / 4 5 6
	Injury Type: A K / B C	Head	Trunk–External	Trunk–Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet: No Yes	Ejected? No Yes	Shoulder Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	Lap Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	ped.	
9	Injured–Witness–										1 2 3 / 4 5 6
	Injury Type: A K / B C	Head	Trunk–External	Trunk–Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet: No Yes	Ejected? No Yes	Shoulder Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	Lap Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	ped.	
10	Injured–Witness–										1 2 3 / 4 5 6
	Injury Type: A K / B C	Head	Trunk–External	Trunk–Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet: No Yes	Ejected? No Yes	Shoulder Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	Lap Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	ped.	
11	Injured–Witness–										1 2 3 / 4 5 6
	Injury Type: A K / B C	Head	Trunk–External	Trunk–Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet: No Yes	Ejected? No Yes	Shoulder Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	Lap Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	ped.	
12	Injured–Witness–										1 2 3 / 4 5 6
	Injury Type: A K / B C	Head	Trunk–External	Trunk–Internal	Arm Leg	Crash Helmet: No Yes	Ejected? No Yes	Shoulder Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	Lap Belt: Equipped Yes No / In Use Yes No	ped.	

ADDITIONAL CHARGES

	Name: last	first	middle	Citation:	Citation No.
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

Non-Contact Unit (Vehicle "A") Driver: last first middle Address: street city and state zip code

License: exp. year state number Age: Sex: Race: DOB: mo. day. yr.

Vehicle: year make model style License plate: yr. state number

Owner's Name last first middle Address: street city and state zip code

REMARKS:

SIGN HERE Tro

Badge No. 381 | ONE | AR

Date of report: 11-15-74

b6 b7C

DPS 67-1A Dec. 1973

6

NOV 18 1974

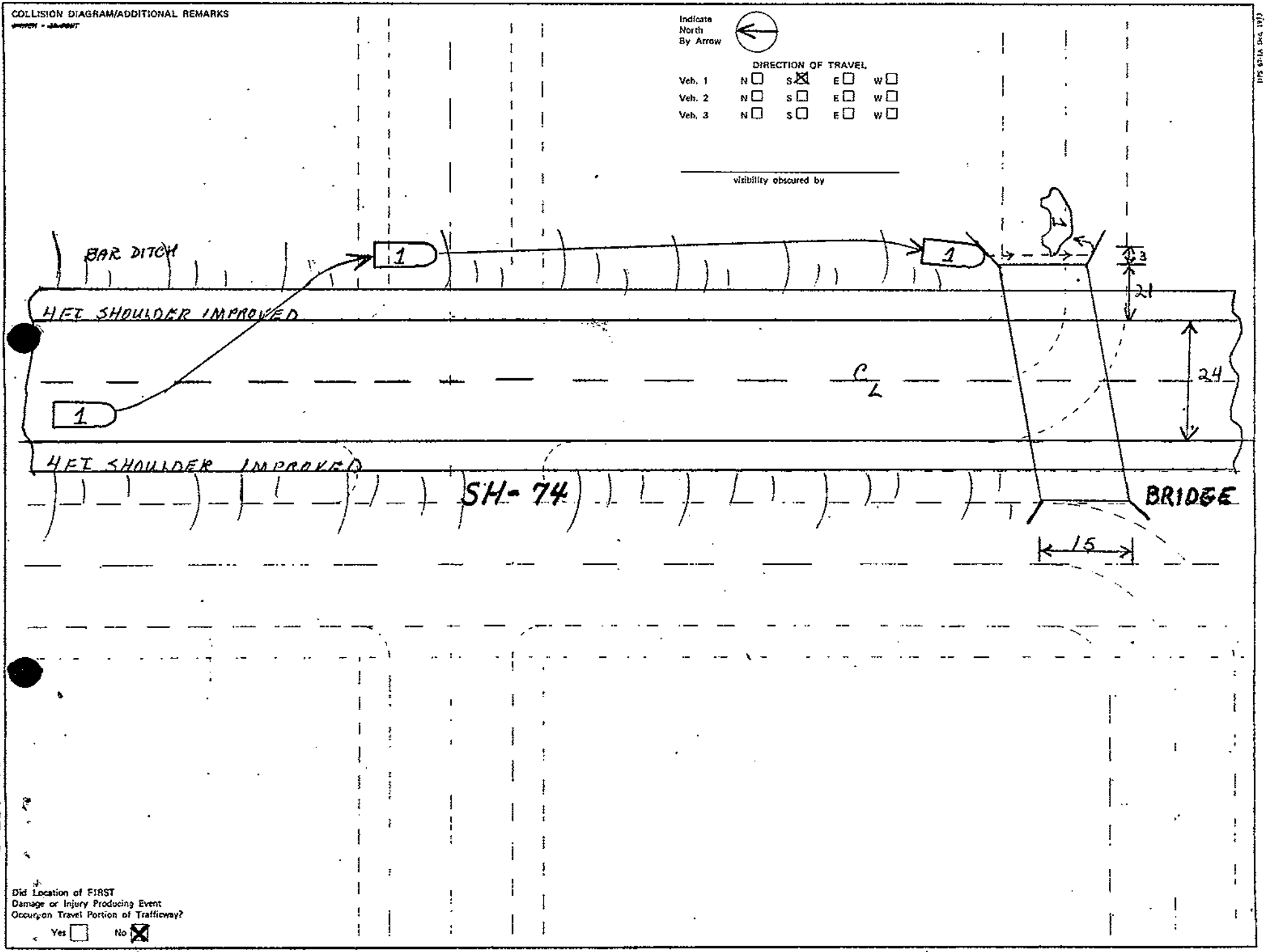
COLLISION DIAGRAM/ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Indicate North By Arrow

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

	N	S	E	W
Veh. 1	☐	☒	☐	☐
Veh. 2	☐	☐	☐	☐
Veh. 3	☐	☐	☐	☐

visibility obscured by



Did Location of FIRST Damage or Injury Producing Event Occur on Travel Portion of Trafficway?

Yes ☐ No ☒

OC 159-45

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/6/74

[redacted] Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, made available a copy of the autopsy report relative to KAREN G. SILKWOOD. The report is dated November 21, 1974, and appeared over the signature of A. J. CHAPMAN, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner.

b6
b7C

[redacted] advised that the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) at Los Alamos, New Mexico, still has an ongoing examination of the deceased's internal organs and tissues and the results of this AEC examination has not yet been received by her office. When the AEC examination is completed and furnished to her office, it will be incorporated into the present autopsy report relative to SILKWOOD. She believes that it may be several weeks until her office hears results of AEC examination.

b6
b7C

Interviewed on 11/26/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :pwo Date dictated 12/3/74

b6
b7C

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159-45-44

OC 159-45

BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

824 NORTHEAST 15th STREET
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104
(405)-239-7141

AMENDMENT TO REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Full Name of Dedecent Karen G. Silkwood

Date of Death: 11/13/74

City/County of Death: Guthrie/Logan

File Number:

Medical Examiner: Robert Ringrose, M.D.

ITEMS AMENDED:

( ) Cause of Death

(X) Manner of Death Accident

( ) Other

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND
CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
A. JAY CHAPMAN, M. D.
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
By Gloria Guthrie

NOV 26 1974
DATED

November 21, 1974
Date

A. Jay Chapman M.D.
Signature A. Jay Chapman, M.D.

743874

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.
A. JAY CHAPMAN, M. D. DATED
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER NOV 26 1974
BY Gloria Gutierrez

RECEIVED NOV 19 1974 Office Of Chief Medical Examiner

OFFICE USE ONLY:
Re. AC
Cd. ____
Att. ____
____
Co. ____

BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
824 NORTHEAST 15th STREET
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104
(405)-239—7141

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION BY MEDICAL EXAMINER

DECEDENT Karen G Silkwood AGE: 28 RACE: Cau SEX: F M W S D
(First name / Middle name / Last name)

ADDRESS 836 NW 48th Oklahoma BIRTHDATE 2/19/74 OCCUPATION Lab tech / Kerr-McGee
(Number and Street / City or County)

TYPE OF DEATH: Suspicious ☐ _____ (Suspected)
While in penal incarceration ☐
After unexplained coma ☐
During therapeutic procedure ☐
Death possible threat to public health ☐

Unattended by a licensed physician:
Unattended during fatal illness ☐
Instantaneous without obvious cause ☐
Found dead without obvious cause ☐
Stillbirth attended by midwife ☐

Unusual ☒
Violent or Unnatural
Means:

	Last Known Alive	Injury or Illness	Death	Medical Examiner Notified	View of Body	Police Notified
DATE	11/13/74		11/13/74	11/13/74	11/13/74	11/13/74
TIME	1800		Prob 1900	2135	2145	2000

If motor vehicle accident check one of the following
DRIVER ☒
PASSENGER ☐
PEDESTRIAN ☐

NOTIFICATION BY: Hosp personell ADDRESS Log Co Mem Hosp

	LOCATION (ADDRESS)	CITY OR COUNTY	TYPE OF PREMISES (E. G., HOSPITAL, HOTEL, HIGHWAY, ETC.)
INJURY OR ONSET OF ILLNESS	↑		
DEATH	SW 74	LOGAN	Highway 1 1/4 mi S of SH 33
VIEWING OF BODY BY MEDICAL EXAMINER	Log Co Mem Hosp	Guthrie	ER, Hosp

DESCRIPTION OF BODY

Clothed ☒ Unclothed ☐
Partly Clothed ☐ Hair Brn
Beard ____ Mustache ____
Circumcised ☐ Pupils: R Dil L Dil
Eyes: Color Brn Opacities, Etc.

	NOSE	MOUTH	EARS
BLOOD	✓	✓	
FROTH			
OTHER (Sand, dirt, water, etc.)			

WEIGHT 110 LENGTH 5'5"
BODY HEAT: none

NON FATAL WOUNDS
Abrasion ☒ Burn ☐
Contusion ☐ Stab ☐
Gunshot ☐ Incised ☐
Laceration ☐
Fracture ☒
Distribution: Scalp ☐ Face ☒ Neck ☐ Chest ☒ Back ☐ Abdomen ☐ Arms ☒ Legs ☒

RIGOR
Jaw ☐ Arms ☐
Neck ☐ Chest ☐
Back ☐ Abdomen ☐
Legs ☐

LIVOR
Color ____
Anterior ☐ Posterior ☐
Lateral ☐
Regional ____

FATAL WOUNDS:

TYPE (Gunshot, Incised, Stab, etc.)	SIZE	SHAPE	ANATOMIC LOCATION	PLANE, LINE OR DIRECTION
Head, chest & bilateral leg fractures; Compound depressed fracture of forehead				

Probable cause of death: multiple injuries

Manner of death: (Check one only)
Accident ☐ Suicide ☐ Homicide ☒
Natural ☐ Unknown ☐ Pending ☐

AMENDED

DISPOSITION OF CASE:
1. Not a medical examiner case ☐
2. Autopsy authorized ☒ No ☐
By _____ Pathologist

I hereby state that, after receiving notice of the death described herein, I conducted an investigation as to the cause and manner of death, as required by law, and that the facts contained herein regarding such death are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

11/13/74 Logan
Date County of Appointment

Signature of Medical Examiner

3

CME 1 (REV. 1-73)

BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
824 NORTHEAST 15th STREET
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104
(405) 239-7141

RECEIVED
NOV 13 1974
Office Of
The Chief Medical Examiner

REPORT OF AUTOPSY

A. Jay Chapman, M.D., CME

DECEDENT Karen (First name) Gay (Middle name) Silkwood (Last name)

Authority for autopsy: Robert Ringrose, M.D., ME (Name) (Official Title)

TYPE OF DEATH
Violent or Unnatural ☒
Unusual ☐
Means:
Automobile

- Unattended by a physician ☐
- While in penal incarceration ☐
- During therapeutic procedure ☐
- Body to be cremated, buried at sea, transported out of state ☐
- Death possible threat to public health ☐
- After unexplained coma ☐
- Suspicious ☐

Rigor
Jaw ☐ Arms ☐
Neck ☐ Chest ☐
Back ☐ Abdomen ☐
Legs ☐
Complete

Livor
Color Purple
Anterior ☐
Posterior ☒
Lateral ☐
Regional

Body Identified by:
Personal effects and tag
Present at Autopsy
Jim Lawrence, S. Lower
Dr. C. Sternhagen,
Dr. G. Voelz
Dr. M. Stewart, pros
S. Sullaway
J. Shackelford

Age 28 Race W Sex F Length App 64" Est Weight 105 Eyes Bwn Pupils: R. 0.6 Opacities, Etc.
Hair Bwn Beard n/a Mustache n/a Circumcised n/a Body Heat Cold L. 0.5

NON-FATAL WOUNDS, SCARS, TATTOOING, ABRASION, CONTUSION, BURNS, SEXUAL ASSAULT, LACERATION, DECOMPOSITION, POSTMORTEM INJURIES

(see attached sheet)

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.
A. JAY CHAPMAN, M.D. DATED NOV 26 1974
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
By Gloria Wallace

Cause of death:

Multiple injuries

Provisional Report ☐
Final Report ☐

ML 501-74

The facts stated herein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

A. Jay Chapman MD
Signature of Pathologist

11-14-74 3:00 p.m. BSB Morgue
Date and time of autopsy Place of autopsy

ML 501-74

Karen Gay Silkwood

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION:

1. The body is clothed as follows:

   a. One brown leather coat in the pockets of which there are the following items: 4 quarters, 4 pennies, 1 nickel, 6 dimes. A small notebook contains 2 one-dollar bills and 1 $5.00 bill as well as a blank check, a professional card from Dr. Sternhagen in New Mexico.
   A Bradley brand Mickey Mouse pocket watch, 2 Kleenexes, used.
   One vial containing yellow and aqua pills as well as powdered pills.
   One radiation badge with photographic ID and name.
   One electronic security key.

   b. One silver-chain necklace with multi-colored and silver pendants.
   c. One pair of red, white and black striped plaid slacks.
   d. One pair of white socks.
   e. One pair of leather half-boots.
   f. One pullover black blouse.
   g. A Kotex pad is in place as well as a tampon.
   h. One pair of brown and white patterned extremely brief panties.

A vertical 3/4 inch laceration is present in the left mid forehead in the hairline extending inferiorly.

The orbital contents on the left are displaced posteriorly, and there is along the inferior border of the left eyebrow extending from the base of the nose laterally, a 1-3/4 inch irregular laceration. Marked orbital contusion is present on the left.

There are multiple fractures of the nasal bones.

Blood is present from the nares and mouth.

Irregular abrasions cover the anterior chest on the left in an area up to approximately 8 inches in greatest dimension. These range from 1/2 up to 4 inches in greatest dimension.

Covering the left aspect of the abdomen inferiorly and medially to the midline is an irregular area of superficial abrasion which is 5-1/2 inches in greatest dimension.

Postmortem needle puncture wounds are present in the anterior chest wall on the left.

Irregular superficial abrasions and slight lacerations involve the entire right forearm from the midpoint distally, and these areas of injury range from 1/4 up to 3 inches in greatest dimension.

Similar injuries involve the left distal forearm from the midpoint. In addition there is a fracture of the distal aspect of the 5th metacarpal.

There is marked distortion of the left lower extremity in the mid thigh where there is complete fracturing of the femur overlain anterolaterally by areas of contusion and abrasion as well as laceration covering an area up to 6 inches.

The left patellar area has marked laceration through the entire thickness of the skin with apparent avulsion of skin and this area is 3-1/2 inches in greatest dimension. Irregular abrasions are present on the medial aspect of the left knee and on the proximal and mid thirds of the anteromedial tibial area, and these average 1-1/2 inches.

.....continued

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION (cont'd):

The proximal third of the right medial thigh has irregular laceration in an area 2-1/2 inches in greatest dimension. Over the middle third of the posterior right thigh there is a puncture type laceration and irregular abrasion surrounding an area approximately 1 inch in greatest dimension.

An irregular fracture near the point of juncture of the proximal and middle thirds of the right femur is present. The right tibia and fibula are fractured near the juncture of the middle and distal thirds, and the bone is comminuted.

Irregular contusions are present on the medial aspect of the right ankle and cover an area 2-1/2 inches in greatest dimension.

Irregular areas of bluish red discoloration cover an area 5-1/2 inches in greatest dimension over the medial aspect of the right knee and proximal third of the right leg medially.

Over the lateral most aspect of the iliac crest on the right is an irregular superficial abrasion associated with bluish discoloration 1-1/4 inches in greatest dimension.

The posterior aspect of the proximal third of the right thigh has a laceration 1-1/2 inches in greatest dimension diagonally placed and associated with irregular abrasion and contusion in an area up to 5 inches in greatest dimension.

A marked hematoma is 2 inches in greatest dimension over the lateral aspect of the right foot near the ankle at the base of the metatarsals.

In the midline of the forehead extending superiorly from the base of the nose is a vertical 1 inch irregular laceration with hemorrhage.

Dr. Mike Stewart is prosector of internal examination.

Multiple fractures, contusions, lacerations, and abrasions.

A. Jay Chapman, M. D.

jm

Autopsy #501-74
Silwood, Karen G.
November 14, 1974

INTERNAL GROSS AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

ABDOMINAL CAVITY: Incision of the ventral abdominal wall reveals virtually no subcutaneous adipose tissue stores, although the skin turgor and skeletal muscle consistency do not suggest cachexia or inanition.

Incision of the peritoneum reveals an estimated 3 units of recent hemorrhage throughout the peritoneal cavity without evidence of exudation or fibrinous proliferation. The abdominal viscera generally occupy their usual positions but it is noted there are blunt lacerations of the liver and spleen and contusions of the small bowel without evidence of small bowel perforation. The mesentery is somewhat displaced ventrally and retroperitoneal hemorrhage is noted surrounding both kidneys and dissecting somewhat into the root of the mesentery. The source of this hemorrhage appears to be from theposterior surface of the liver near the inferior vena cava.

THORACIC CAVITY: Reflection of the ventral skin of the thoracic cavity reveals contusion of the pectoral musculature and fracture dislocations of both sternoclavicular joints. There are displaced fractures of the left 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th ribs anteriorly just lateral to the sternoclavicular cartilages. Contusion of the right chest anteriorly is prominent but displaced fractures are not seen.

Removal of the sternum reveals no tension pneumothorax but both lungs are somewhat collapsed, paricularly the left lung. There are lung contusions and a few cc. of blood-tinged proteanaceous fluid in each pleural cavity without evidence of exudation or fibrosis. The mediastinum and pericardial sac are intact.

ORGAN SYSTEMS:

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM-The pericardial sac contains a few cc. of proteanaceous fluid without evidence of hemorrhage. The heart has a normal gross external configuration, weighs 180 grams, and shows no evidence of contusion. Examination of the coronary arteries reveals virtually no atheromatous disase. Examination of the chambers of the heart show minor acute dilatation of the right ventricle. There is no evidence of hypertrophy, inflammation, interstitial fibrosis, or necrosis. The heart valves and great vessels are normally developed and well formed.

RESPIRATORY System: The trachea is blood stained but there is noevidence of active inflammation. The combined weight of the left and right lungs is 1200 grams. Both lungs have multipple contusions (considerably more severe left anteriorly) but there is no evidence of actual perforation. Gross sectioning reveals hemorrhages related to the contused areas but there is no gross evidence of significant pre-existing pulmonary parenchymal disease. The pulmonary arteries are clear.

GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT-The esophagus is grossly normal. The stomach contains 500 cc. of partially digested material without gross evidence of medications. No mucosal abnormalities are seen. The small bowel and colon are practically empty and contain no developmental or acquired abnormalities. The appendix is normal.

LIVER-The liverweighs 1300 grams and contains multiple irregular blunt lacerations involvingthe ventral surface and dome of the right lobe extending posteriorly. Gross examination of the liver reveals no distortion of the lobular architecture and there is no evidence of fatty parenchymal change or portal fibrosis. The gallbladder is small and shows it to contain less than 10 cc. of green viscid bile and no evidence ofstone formation or mucosal cholesterolosis. The common bile duct is patent and delicate.

PANCREAS-There is some hemorhage surrounding the pancreas but no evidence of active pancreatitis or pancreatic necrosis.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM-Both kidneys are surrounded by retroperitoneal hemorrhage but there is no gross evidence of actual contusion to the renal parenchyma. The kidneys have a normal weight and development. Gross sectioning reveals no evidence of inflammatory or vascular renal changes. Both ureters are patent and intact. The urinary bladder contains approximately 100 cc. of clear yellow urine. The uterus, ovaries, and oviducts are grossly normal.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM- Both adrenal glands have a normal size, shape, color and configuration. The thyroid gland is bilaterally symmetrical without evidence of fibrosis, inflammation, or nodularity. The pituitary gland is grossly normal.

HEMATOLYMPHATIC SYSTEM- The spleen contains irregular lacerations of the capsule as mentioned. The organ weighs 110 grams and gross sectioning reveals no parenchyma abnormalities, other than the traumatic lesions as described. There are only a few scattered small mesenteric and periportal lymph nodes which show no evidence of inflammation or hyperplasia. The thoracic lymph nodes have the expected anthracosis without evidence of granulomas, fibrosis, or hypertrophy. Grossly, the bone marrow of the sternum, ribs, vertebral column, and left femur is normally cellular.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM =The skeletal muscles show no evidence of atrophy, dystrophy or wasting. The skeletal sysem is normally developed and generally intact with the exception of the traumatic injuries as mentioned in the gross external examination.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM-Reflection of the scalp reveals no subgaleal hematoma. The calvarium is intact.
Removal of the calvarium reveals no subdural or subarachnoid hemorrhage. The brain weighs 1275 grams and is bilaterally symmetrical but shows apparent early and minor cerebral edema with flattening of the gyri, narrowing of the sulci, and slight uncal nicking. Gross sectioning of the brain reveals no contusions, no internal hemorrhages, and no evidence of pre-existing cerebral disease. The proximal spinal cord is grossly unremarkable. Examination of the base of the skull reveals no evidence of fracture.

Autopsy #501-74
Silwood, Karen G.

MICROSCOPIC

Heart-The myocardium has a uniform consistency without evidence of trauma, inflammation, hypertrophy, fibrosis, infarction, or degeneration.

Respiratory System-The lungs contain large areas of contusion with acute hemorrhage obliterating large areas of alveoli. There is no evidence of pre-existing pulmonary disease.

Liver-The hepatic lobular architecture is intact. The parenchyma cells are regular and uniform without evidence of fatty cytoplasmic change. The portal areas and central lobular architecture are unremarkable. The liver near areas of traumatic laceration show interstitial hemorrhage and early infiltration of acute inflammatory cells.

Pancreas-Microscopically there are no abnormal pancreatic parenchymal changes. Some autolysis is seen and there is peripancreatic hemorrhage without evidence of pancreatic contusion.

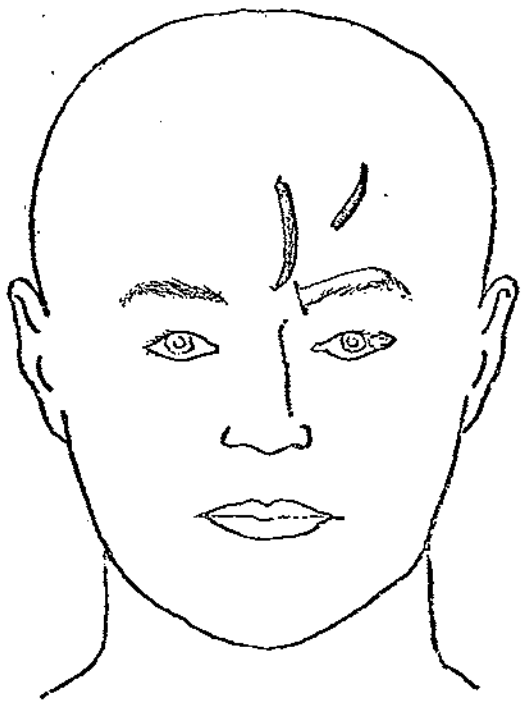
Kidneys-Both kidneys show no evidence of significant vascular or inflammatory disease. There are early ischemic tubular epithelial changes.

Adrenals-Both adrenal glands show acute hemorrhagic changes without evidence of cortical necrosis or degeneration.

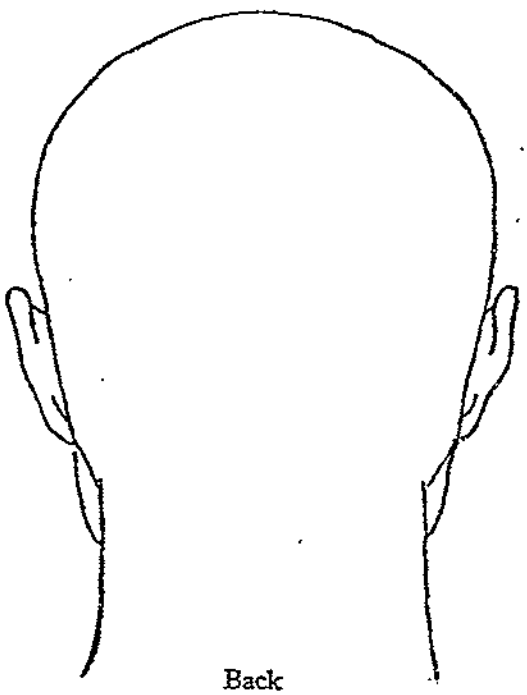
Hematolymphatic System-Microscopically the lymph nodes are within normal limits. The spleen shows almost total depletion of the sinusoidal erythrocytic reserves. The lymphoidal architecture is unremarkable. The bone marrow is adequately cellular and shows normal, orderly maturation of both the erythrocytic and granulocytic series. Megacariocytes are active and apparently functional.

Central Nervous System-Early minor acute perivascular edematous changes areseen. There is no contusion, hemorrhage, infarction or evidence of pre-existing central nervous system disease.

BODY DIAGRAM—HEAD



Front



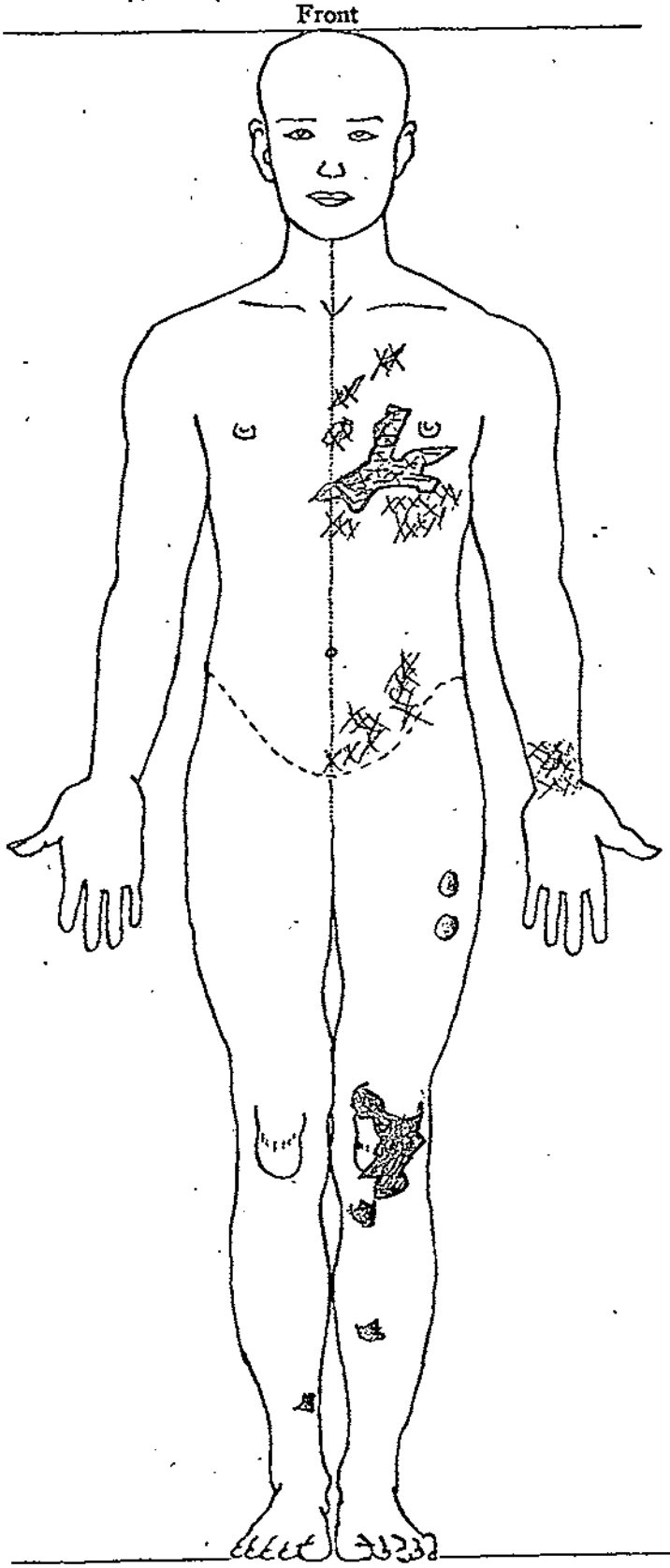
Back

Decedent's Name KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

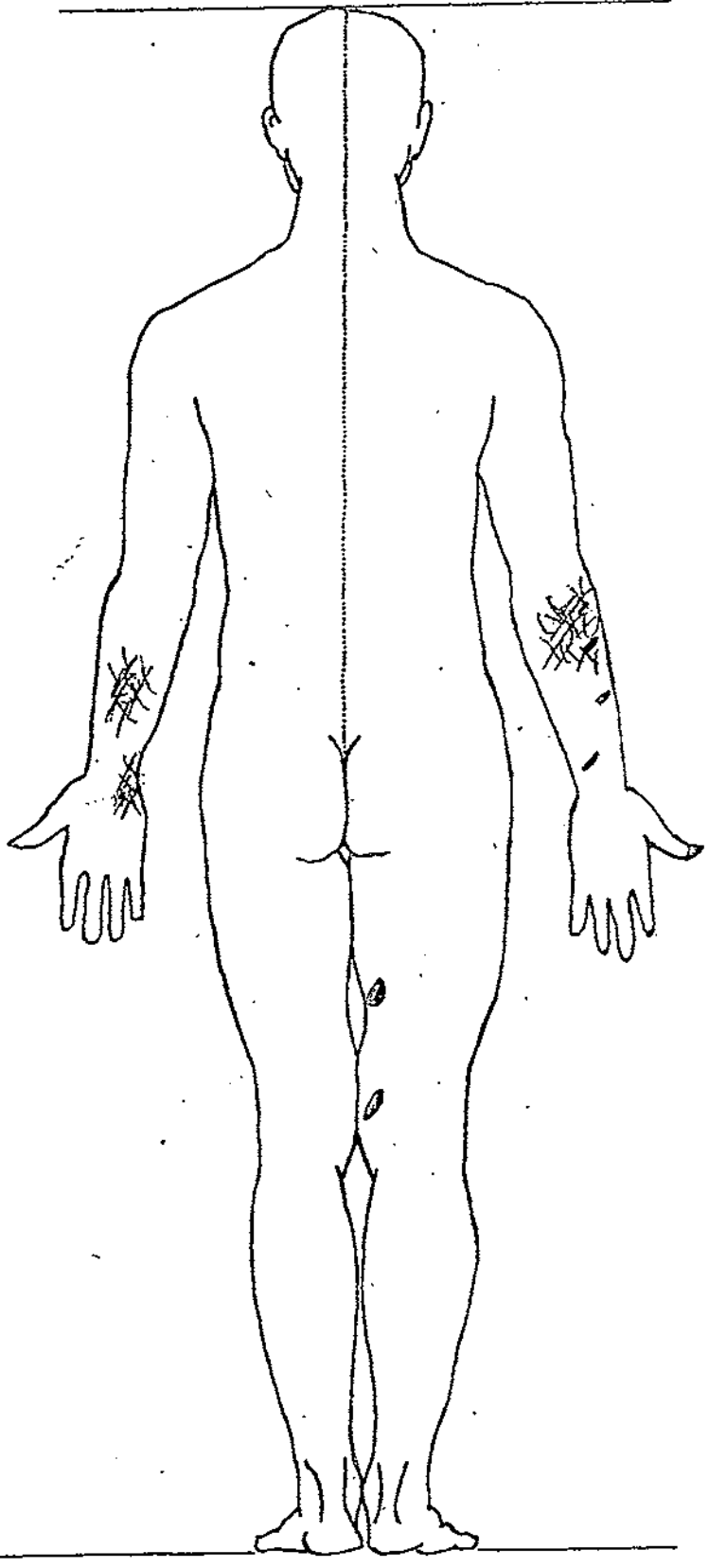
Examined By A. JAY CHAPMAN Date 11/14/74

BODY DIAGRAM

Front



Back



Decedent's Height 64 inches

Name KAREN GAY SILKWOOD

Examined By A. JAY CHAPMAN Date 11/14/24

XXX — PATTERNED ABRASIONS

EEE — CONTUSION

— LACERATIONS.

CME Form—1B1

BOARD OF MEDICOLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
Box 26901
800 Northeast 13th Street, 4-B
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73190

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.
A. JAY CHAPMAN, M. D. DATED NOV 20 1974
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
by

REPORT OF LABORATORY ANALYSIS

NAME: Silkwood, Karen Gay — LABORATORY NO. 741565

MATERIAL SUBMITTED: Blood, Gastric Contents, Bile, Urine, Brain, Kidney, Liver and Small Vial Containing Yellow and Blue Tablets — DATE RECEIVED: November 15, 1974

SUBMITTED BY: A. Jay Chapman, M.D. — MEDICAL EXAMINER: Robert Ringrose, M.D.

RESULTS:

Blood:

Ethyl Alcohol - Trace (less than 0.02% w/v)

Methaqualone - 0.35 milligrams/100 ml

Barbiturates - Negative

Chlordiazepoxide - Negative

Diazepam - Negative

Liver:

Methaqualone - 1.08 milligrams/100 grams

Gastric Contents (118 grams submitted for analyses):

Methaqualone - 49.53 milligrams present in total specimen received

Urine:

Ethyl Alcohol - Trace (less than 0.02% w/v)

November 18, 1974
Date of Report

RICHARD W. PROUTY
CHIEF FORENSIC TOXICOLOGIST

Please Note: Unless notified in writing to the contrary, the specimen(s) submitted in this case will be discarded at the end of 30 days.

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/10/74

[redacted] Regulation and Control, Nuclear Division, Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), furnished the following information: b6 b7C

His company has conducted an extensive inquiry relative to a contamination incident involving KAREN SILKWOOD, who was employed by KMC at the Plutonium Plant located at Crescent, Oklahoma. Miss SILKWOOD was employed as a laboratory analyst in the plant's metallographic department. On November 5, 1974, she was working the 4:00 p.m. to midnight shift and as she prepared to leave work was found to have a low level of radioactive contamination. She went through the normal procedure of decontamination at the plant which consisted of scrubbing with a heavy detergent and a clorox solution. Following the decontamination procedure, Miss SILKWOOD returned to her apartment in Edmond, Oklahoma. She was checked prior to having left the plant and found to be completely free of any contamination.

Miss SILKWOOD returned the morning of Wednesday, November 6, 1974, to work at the KMC Crescent facility on the 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. shift. At approximately 9:30 a.m., she checked herself and again found a slight degree of external contamination. Again she was decontaminated and asked to report at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, November 7, 1974, to the Health Physics Department at the Crescent facility for further checking.

On November 7, 1974, she reported directly to the Health Physics Building and did not go to the Plutonium Plant. The check determined she was contaminated again, and since she had not been in the Plutonium Plant, it was thought that the contamination may have been acquired outside the plant. The Thursday examination indicated SILKWOOD had internal contamination, while the previous tests had only shown external contamination.

On November 7, 1974, a team of specialists from the KMC Health Physics Department went to Miss SILKWOOD's

Interviewed on 11/27/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # OKLAHOMA CITY 159-45

by SA [redacted]:mbs Date dictated 12/4/74 b6 b7C

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159-45-45

apartment in nearby Edmond, Oklahoma, and discovered a high degree of surface contamination at various spots in the apartment.

Miss SILKWOOD's roommate, SHERRI ELLIS, who was also a KMC Plutonium Plant employee, was in the apartment at the time the team of investigators arrived. Miss ELLIS had worked an earlier shift at the plant and was completely free of contamination when she left the facility. However, at this time, Miss ELLIS was found to be contaminated, and she was taken from the apartment to the plant for decontamination.

The company thereafter notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the State Department of Health relative to the contamination.

On November 7, 1974, the company had not determined the degree of contamination of SILKWOOD, ELLIS, or their apartment, nor had the cause of contamination been determined. Both women submitted samples of fecal material and urine for bioassay analysis to determine what extent of internal contamination there was, if any, within the two women. The apartment in Edmond, Oklahoma, was sealed off pending a determination of the extent of contamination.

On November 8, 1974, a team of investigators from the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) arrived to conduct their investigation relative to the contamination incident. The company fully cooperated with this group of investigators in order to facilitate the AEC investigation. There was some difficulty in locating SILKWOOD for the AEC. The AEC indicated that they saw no need to restrict SILKWOOD's movements as long as she took 100% bioassay samples. On November 8, 1974, KMC received from the AEC, six urine samples relative to SILKWOOD. Two of these samples predated November 5, 1974, and four were samples obtained after November 5, 1974.

SILKWOOD had previously been involved in the contamination incident at the plant in July, 1974, and at the point previous to November 5, 1974, she was submitting samples relative to the July contamination on a weekly basis. These samples as well as many of the samples submitted after the November 5, 1974, incident were not supervised; that is, SILKWOOD submitted these samples on her own and not in a controlled situation. Previous to October 25, 1974, her

urine sample was reading less than 0.1 dpm. The count in the samples (unsupervised) increased thereafter reaching a high on November 6, 1974, of 1.67 x 10^6 dpm. Her fecal samples were also checking high.

Her fecal sample of November 6, 1974, checked 2.0 x 10^7 dpm. It is estimated that in order for SILKWOOD to have checked this high on this particular fecal count, that it would have been necesary for her to have ingested 10 micrograms of the KMC Plutonium product or 400 micrograms of the Plutonium Uranium mixture.

X-ray diffraction studies of material obtained from SILKWOOD's extremely high urine sample of November 6, 1974, revealed that included in the material left on the filter was Uranium 205 an isotope which is not expected to be found associated with the Plutonium that SILKWOOD worked with at the plant.

This and other things have led KMC and AEC to speculate that in addition to SILKWOOD having ingested some insoluable Plutonium that some of her fecal and urine samples whose collection was not supervised but submitted by SILKWOOD, were in some way "laced" or adulterated with radioactive material.

SILKWOOD's boyfriend, DREW STEPHENS, was also checked for contamination and submitted body samples for analysis.

On November 10, 1974, both SILKWOOD and ELLIS were sent to the AEC Los Alamos, New Mexico, facility for a full body count. SILKWOOD and ELLIS were tested on November 11 and November 12, 1974, at Los Alamos. They returned to the Oklahoma City area on Tuesday night, November 12, 1974. ELLIS indicated that they caught a late plane and returned to Oklahoma City around 10 or 11:00 p.m. that night.

On November 13, 1974, SILKWOOD went to work at the Crescent facility but never actually went on the job. She participated in a company-union negotiation session which lasted most of the day. She stayed in this meeting until about 3:30 p.m. and thereafter met with AEC representatives at the plant staying with them until 5 or 5:30 p.m.

SILKWOOD thereafter went to nearby Crescent, Oklahoma, to attend a union meeting at a local cafe. It was after leaving the union meeting that she experienced the fatal automobile accident.

Many things concerning the contamination incident and related matters are as yet unknown to both KMC and AEC. Based on all the information known to date it would appear that the only conclusion that one could reach relative to the SILKWOOD contamination of November 5, 1974, was that she internally ingested Plutonium at the plant and/or in some fashion carried Plutonium out of the plant and took it at home.

[redacted] made available copies of the bioassay analysis relative to SILKWOOD, ELLIS, and STEPHENS and are as follows: b6 b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/2/74

Lt. [redacted], Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), furnished the following information: b6 b7C

OHP Trooper [redacted] who investigated the fatal accident involving KAREN G SILKWOOD, submitted to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Technical Services Division (Lab) evidence obtained from SILKWOOD at the time of her death on November 13, 1974. The evidence included two cigarettes, one tablet and one-half of a capsule. b6 b7C

Laboratory examination of this evidence determined that the evidence was found to contain marijuana and the tablet was found to contain methaqualone.

Lt. [redacted] made available a copy of the Technical Examination Report attached hereto. b6 b7C

Lt. [redacted] noted that in regard to the autopsy performed on SILKWOOD, that her blood contained methaqualone. There was also a considerable amount of undisolved methaqualone in her stomach. b6 b7C

In regard to the report which he has previously furnished relative to the SILKWOOD accident, which accident was investigated by Trooper [redacted] this accident report is the official report of the OHP relative to the accident. The report has been submitted to the normal review processes which all accident reports are submitted to and the report stands on its own as is. There is no reason based on the evidence to suspect foul play connected with the accident. OHP is looking forward with interest in receiving the report of [redacted] of Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas, who he understands investigated the same accident some three days after it occurred and concluded that SILKWOOD had been forced off the road by another vehicle after having been struck from behind. [redacted] opinion in this regard is entirely different that the opinion held by the OHP and it does not seem possible that [redacted] conclusions are truly valid b6 b7C

11/27/74 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Oklahoma City 159-45

Interviewed on _____ at _____ File # _____

SA [redacted] jr 11/29/74 b6 b7C

by _____ Date dictated _____

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159-45-46

conclusions in regard to the accident inasmuch as the physical evidence in the case does not support foul play. His department has not as yet, received a copy of [redacted] report as promised by [redacted]. The OHP's knowledge of [redacted] investigation to date has been limited to information obtained from the media.

b6
b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/5/74

[redacted] age 30, residing [redacted] Oklahoma, telephone number [redacted] advised he is the owner and operator of Ted Sebring Ford, 303 North Grand, Crescent, Oklahoma, telephone number 969-2524, was interviewed at his place of business and advised as follows: b6 b7C

In connection with his automobile company he also operates a wrecker service under Oklahoma Corporation Commission Number 31433W. He said he operates this wrecker service primarily as a convenience to his customers.

[redacted] advised that on November 13, 1974, he had sold a new automobile to a local resident, [redacted] who resides on [redacted] Oklahoma, telephone number [redacted]. Following this sale and in the evening of November 13, 1974, he was at home with his family and in the company of [redacted] and [redacted] telephone number [redacted] and each was having a drink. b6 b7C

He said the local police dispatcher at Crescent called his home via public service, advising that the District Number One Dispatcher of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) had relayed information that they wanted [redacted] to respond regarding a serious accident at a location one and one-half miles south of State Highway 33 on State Highway 74. He said this was approximately 8:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. when this call was received. He immediately proceeded to his garage, put on a pair of coveralls over his suit and immediately proceeded, full speed, to the reported scene of the automobile accident. When [redacted] arrived at the scene he said he was informed by one of two OHP Troopers, who were already at the scene, that the single vehicle involved in the accident had been rolled over upright onto its wheels. He observed that a single occupant had been removed apparently from the vehicle b6 b7C

Interviewed on 11/27/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] jgs Date dictated 11/31/74 b6 b7C

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and had been placed on a stretcher and was being placed in an ambulance parked on the shoulder of the roadway. He said there were two anbulance attendants, one Negro male and one white male. He said at that time there were about six or seven bystanders standing around and there were three automobiles on or along the roadway near the accident site and he noted what appeared to be a red-cabbed, flatbed welding truck. [redacted] said that to his recollection, the bystanders disappeared when the ambulance left. He said at that point the only individuals at the scene were himself, two OHP Troopers, [redacted] and [redacted] who had traveled out to the scene after [redacted] He said the troopers were [redacted] and Trooper [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] said he did not know the names of the ambulance drivers but they were operating ambulance maintained by the Fire Department at Guthrie, Oklahoma. b6 b7C

[redacted] said that upon his arrival, he had parked his wrecker on the west side of Highway 74, which he said runs north and south, and that he walked across the roadway to the east side and stood on the shoulder looking down upon the accident scene until the troopers gave him oral authority to begin removing the wrecked vehicle from its location at the base of a concrete bridge. b6 b7C

[redacted] said that upon viewing the accident scene he requested one of the troopers to contact by radio [redacted] employee [redacted] and request [redacted] to come to the scene to assist [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] advised, however, that after he was given authority to proceed to remove the wrecked car from the scene that he had been assisted in hooking a chain on the rear of the vehicle by [redacted] said that [redacted] informed that he had hooked the log and chain on to the rear of the car in an area underneath the rear bumper. [redacted] said that he then made b6 b7C

tow taut which caused the rear end of the car to swing around and the driver's side and door came up against the concrete wing of the bridge at the south side of the bridge and the rear end of the car came against the soft ground embankment as well. [redacted] said by this time [redacted] b6 b7C together with his son, [redacted] had arrived at the accident scene and [redacted] changed the location of his wrecker, moving it farther south, closer to a barbed wire fence. [redacted] then rehooked the tow onto the rear of the wrecked vehicle and [redacted] then towed it up out of the ditch towing the car backward, at which time the wheels and part of the undercarriage made definite marks in the ground showing the direction the vehicle was towed out from the ditch. [redacted] said that he was then unable to move his wrecker around the wrecked vehicle and hooked onto the damaged end of the vehicle, raising it up and towing it from the location with the rear wheels being on the ground on the way into Crescent, towing the car at approximately 20 miles per hour. The rear tires were still inflated following the accident and he noted that the principal damage to the vehicle appeared to be to the front and left side with the principal impact appearing to be taken by the left front of the car.

[redacted] maintained that in turning the vehicle b6 b7C around in the ditch and rehooking his tow on the vehicle and bringing it up to the bank that no damage had been done to the vehicle by doing it in this manner.

[redacted] said the wrecked vehicle was a 1972 Honda, white in color with black interior, two-door. [redacted] b6 b7C reiterated that the vehicle had suffered extensive damage to the left front, damage to the whole front of the car and the right or passenger door was jammed shut and not openable and the left door, driver's side, was standing open when he first observed it in the accident scene. He said at that time it was standing upright on its wheels, facing southwest in the ditch at the bridge culvert on the

east side of the roadway and the front wheels were jammed up under the vehicle to the point where they would not roll.

[redacted] said that before he was engaged in removing the car from the ditch that he observed that the troopers were examining a purse which they had picked up from the ground and were examining its contents and he observed that they looked at what appeared to be a checkbook, using a flashlight to examine the purse and checkbook. He said that he noted that the troopers had taken the purse to their cruiser. b6 b7C

[redacted] advised that [redacted] had asked one of the troopers the name of the occupant of the wrecked vehicle, but the trooper would not give a name to him. b6 b7C

[redacted] said that he believes that it was Trooper [redacted] who had informed that they had turned the car upright, this being before [redacted] arrived at the accident scene. b6 b7C

[redacted] also had informed [redacted] approximately 15 minutes after [redacted] had arrived at the scene that he [redacted] had to go to the hospital to conduct further investigation in the matter of the accident. b6 b7C

[redacted] said that he had arrived back at his garage towing the wrecked vehicle about 9:30 p.m. and drove the wrecker and towed the vehicle inside the front door and closed the door, leaving the vehicle attached to the wrecker and [redacted] then went home to bed. b6 b7C

About 12:15 a.m., November 14, 1974, he received a telephone call from the Crescent PD Dispatcher, [redacted] who informed him that some Kerr McGee people wanted to look at the wrecked car. [redacted] asked if [redacted] would let them in. [redacted] reported that he would not without authority from the OHP, and [redacted] informed that b6 b7C

a trooper was on his way in to look at the vehicle, this being in a call from [redacted] at 12:30 p.m. [redacted] then went to the garage where four Kerr McKee prople were waiting, who introduced themselves to [redacted] said he could recall the name of only one, [redacted] said he believes [redacted] is some kind of a laboratory technician. [redacted] obtained a sample of a red looking substance from a plastic container which looked similar to a pint whiskey bottle which was in the wrecked vehicle. [redacted] and another man checked the intire car and contents with a Geiger counter and nothing other than the red liquid sample was taken from the car. [redacted] said this operation was witnessed by Trooper [redacted] a uniformed Crescent Police Officer. After the four men had finished their examination, Trooper [redacted] mentioned that he had the purse of the occupant of the wrecked vehicle in his cruiser and that he brought the purse into the garage and set the purse on the wrecker bed and opened the coin side of the purse and [redacted] said he noted two rolled cigarettes and two white pills which the trooper said was a sleeping pill perscription type from a Guthrie doctor, Doctor [redacted] or a similar name. One of the Kerr McGee men questioned whether this doctor was the County Coroner. The trooper answered no but that doctor was an assistant. The Kerr McGee people then checked makeup and other items in the purse with a Geiger counter. [redacted] advised further that the two rolled cigarettes, a white pill and two other brownish-reddish pills had dropped on the floor when the purse was being examined. He said that a checkbook and other "women's stuff" was still in the purse. [redacted] said that a Kerr McGee Official said that the car was clean of "hot material".

b6
b7C

[redacted] said that the next morning, about 9:30 a.m. he had gone to pick up his mail and have a cup of coffee at a local coffee shop and then returned to his

b6
b7C

office at the Ted Sebring Garage and opened his mail. At that time [redacted] employee, informed him that the Crescent Police Chief, BUDDY POOLE and Trooper [redacted] had been there and had gone through the car again. [redacted] informed that they had not taken anything from the car and [redacted] informed that he had observed the officers in their examination come across a cigarette roller, which was contained in a letter in an envelope. [redacted] had said that the signature on the letter was TK and was from "Onterio". [redacted] said that [redacted] told him that the trooper had read the letter and had read the letter or parts of the letter to [redacted]. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that he [redacted] had not seen any documents in the wrecked vehicle or among the woman occupant's effects. b6 b7C

Following this, [redacted] said that he obtained an oil case box and that he and [redacted] went about the matter of gathering up all personal effects from the interior of the wrecked car and placing them in the box to be sealed. [redacted] said he recalls that the following items were placed in the box: b6 b7C

1. windbreaker coat;

2. a hat shaped like a troopers hat but being of soft material, army type or style issue;

3. material from the glovebox consisting of a comb, pencil, first aid kit in a round bottle and one or two pieces of paper. Also [redacted] said that he recovered the owner's manual and as he handled it the Oklahoma Title, the registration, a repair ticket and a paper in the nature of a waranty guaranty fell from the manual. He said he noted that the vehicle was titled and registered to KAREN SILKWOOD and that the repair ticket was marked paid and [redacted] said it was dated November 5, 1974, and he believes b6 b7C

the repair ticket had been issued by Eskridge Oldsmobile - Honda.

[redacted] said that the repair ticket had specified body work and repair to the left rear quarter panel and that as a force of habit, [redacted] said he ran his hand down the quarter panel of the vehicle. He said that while so doing he does not recall that he observed any damage to the rear of the vehicle and stated that from this he does not believe that he had caused any damage to be done to the rear of the vehicle when he towed it from the ditch. b6 b7C

At about 13:30 p.m. on November 14, 1974, another Kerr McGee individual appeared at his garage and asked for another sample of the red substance which [redacted] had placed in the box of personal effects. [redacted] said that he broke the seal on the box and allowed the individual to take an additional sample of the red substance. [redacted] said that he then resealed the box. b6 b7C

About 1:30 p.m., November 14, 1974, DREW STEVENS came to Ted Sebring's Ford Agency requesting that KAREN SILKWOOD's personal effects be released to him. [redacted] told STEVENS that the only way that the personal effects would be released to him would be for STEVENS to show proof that he is family. While in [redacted] office, STEVENS dialed a Texas telephone number under [redacted] scrutiny and was informed by the operator that he had dialed an inaccurate number. Following that, STEVENS went outside to a car occupied by two men, came back and dialed another Texas number and was connected with and spoke to a Mrs. SILKWOOD first and then to Mr. SILKWOOD, at which time [redacted] said that he [redacted] spoke on the phone to the man on the other end of the line calling him BILL, to which name the man responded. [redacted] at this point explained that he had previously heard an OHP trooper mention the victim's father's name as WILLIAM SILKWOOD. In this manner [redacted] said that he felt satisfied that STEVENS was in fact speaking b6 b7C

to the parents of KAREN SILKWOOD and that whatever authority he would receive would be legitimate. In speaking with BILL SILKWOOD, [redacted] said that he was informed that he should let DREW STEVENS have SILKWOOD's personal effects and her car and SILKWOOD also mentioned that STEVENS was a body man and had previously done some work on KAREN SILKWOOD's car. Mr. SILKWOOD further mentioned that he should get power of attorney for DREW STEVENS since STEVENS was in Oklahoma and the SILKWOODs were in Texas and it would be easier to handle matters on their behalf. STEVENS then spoke to SILKWOOD about the AEC and DREW STEVENS asked Mr. SILKWOOD's permission to have an AEC doctor accompany the autopsy of KAREN SILKWOOD. [redacted] said he heard Mr. SILKWOOD say yes, that would be a good idea. STEVENS then remarked to SILKWOOD on the phone that he and KAREN had discussed during the last two months that she would like to be cremated. Mr. SILKWOOD, in response, indicated that he and KAREN's mother would decide that matter. b6 b7C

After STEVENS obtained KAREN SILKWOOD's personal effects and was leaving he said that he would be back later in the afternoon with his own wrecker to obtain and remove her car.

[redacted] said that the two men with STEVENS occupied a blue Plymouth or Dodge, four-door sedan, white over white about 1972 or 1974 model. The two men remained in the car seated in the front and [redacted] noted that one of the men has a dark beard. b6 b7C

About 5:00 p.m., November 14, 1974, STEVENS called on the telephone stating that he was on his way to get KAREN's car and asked [redacted] if he would wait until STEVENS arrived. STEVENS arrived about 5:45 p.m. and said that he wanted to pay for the towing charges. The service manager, [redacted] took care of this matter and STEVENS paid $25.00 by check concerning the wrecker towing service. b6 b7C

In this connection [redacted] made available a copy of Invoice Number 3555 on the invoice form of Ted Sebring Ford, 303 North Grand, Crescent, Oklahoma, dated November 14, 1974, bearing the name of KAREN SILKWOOD, showing the $25.00 charge for "wrecker service" which was marked paid and initialed by [redacted] according to [redacted] said he did not observe STEVENS wrecker nor did he observe STEVENS depart with the wrecked vehicle, at that time was setting outside in back of Ted Sebring Ford building. b6 b7C

[redacted] noted that STEVENS' check in the amount of $25.00 was deposited in the Bank of Crescent, November 20, 1974, according to a deposit slip of that date which was a grand total of $3,702.09, which deposit slip was prepared by [redacted] employee. b6 b7C

FD-302 (REV. 3-7-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/5/74

[redacted] Trooper, Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), Badge Number [redacted] District Number One, Oklahoma City, stationed at Guthrie, Oklahoma, (Logan County) furnished the following information: b6 b7C

On November 13, 1974, he was working the 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. shift when at about 8:05 p.m. he was in Crescent, Oklahoma when he was notified by the OHP, District Number One Dispatcher, via radio of a signal 82, Accident with Injuries, with a possible signal 30, Fatality. He was informed that the subject was pinned inside and he asked the dispatcher to have the Guthrie Police Department dispatch an ambulance to the scene of the accident. The accident was reported to be about seven miles south of his location in Crescent on State Highway 74, which runs north and south in Crescent.

It is his understanding that the dispatcher at District Number One was notified of the accident by the Guthrie Police Department (PD) who was contacted by a private citizen who informed them of the accident. District One was also informed of the accident by a private citizen who called in about the same time as the Guthrie PD.

He drove directly to the scene of the accident, arriving there at about 8:15 p.m. When he got to the scene he found some four to six people there. The accident involved a 1973 white Honda Civic, two-door sedan bearing 1974 Oklahoma License YF 8261. He determined that the car was occupied only by the driver who was learned to be KAREN GAY SILKWOOD.

The car was off the road laying on its left side between the sides of a culvert on the east side of the road.

He checked SILKWOOD and determined that she appeared

Interviewed on 11/27/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :jgs Date dictated 11/31/74 b6 b7C

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to be dead. The ambulance arrived on the scene about 8:30 p.m. and she was transferred to the Logan County Hospital, Guthrie, Oklahoma, arriving there at about 9:00 p.m. Subsequent contact with the emergency room doctor determined that SILKWOOD was dead upon arrival at the hospital and the doctor advised that it was most likely that she died upon impact or very shortly after.

Estimates that the actual time of the accident was approximately 7:30 p.m. Investigation revealed that SILKWOOD had been in the Hub Cafe in Crescent attending a Union Meeting, having left there at 7:10 p.m., according to one of the Union Members, [redacted] and another Union Member, [redacted] (phonetic), had indicated to him after the accident that they were concerned about SILKWOOD's ability to drive in view of her extreme emotional condition caused by her concern about her contamination problem. He understands that [redacted] offered to drive SILKWOOD home, but she declined the offer. b6 b7C

His initial examination at 8:15 p.m. of SILKWOOD determined that the blood on her face was already dried. This would indicate to him that the accident had occurred some 45 minutes previous, or at about 7:30 a.m., as he had previously indicated. It was necessary to pop the door open with a porta power tool before SILKWOOD's body could be removed from the wreck. She had suffered facial injuries and her legs were broken as a result of the considerable portion of the front end of the car being driven back to the firewall, which was pushed into the passenger compartment. SILKWOOD's car was equipped with both shoulder and lap belts, which were not in use at the time of the accident.

Investigation failed to reveal any witnesses who actually observed the accident. One or more fellow coworkers of SILKWOOD's, employed at the Kerr McGee Crescent

Facility, who also are Union Members, were at the scene of the accident shortly after it occurred.

His investigation of the accident determined that the SILKWOOD car was southbound on State Highway 74. He estimated that her car was traveling 50 to 55 miles per hour before impact. The legal speed limit in this area is 55 miles per hour. He estimates the car speed at the time of impact to be 40 to 45 miles per hour. The car ran off the east side of the roadway leaving the road at a very shallow angle, entered the east barditch and traveled some 255 feet in the ditch. The car struck the north side of the north retaining wall of the culvert, which crosses the highway in a east-west direction. The point at which the retaining wall was struck was three feet from the face of the bridge or culvert. The car thereafter became airborne for about 24 feet, traveling across the opening of the culvert, striking the north side of the south retaining wall at a point about three feet from the face of the bridge and about three feet above ground level. The car landed on its left side with the front of the car pointed toward the culvert or west.

There were no skid marks at any point along the path of the vehicle, either on the road or in the barditch. The car tracks in the barditch were very well defined and there was no indication that the driver appeared to be fighting for control of the car. At a point just before impact, the tracks appeared to turn slightly west or toward the road.

He was able to accurately determine where the car had left the road and entered the barditch and at no point in that area on the roadway surface did he find any skid marks, such as would be caused had SILKWOOD's car been struck by another vehicle.

At the time of the accident it was partly cloudy

and dark (night). The road conditions were dry and the road surface was a rough asphalt. The accident occurred in the rural area with no residents or businesses nearby.

The car was very heavily damaged, particularly the front end. The sides and the top of the vehicle were wrinkled. The tailpipe was buckled as result of the impact. The Sebring Wrecker from Crescent was called to the accident. Wrecker was operated by the garage owner, [redacted]. It was necessary to roll the car over on its wheels before attempts could be made to remove the car from the ditch. b6 b7C

He does not recall seeing any damage to the rear of the car. He is quite certain that if there were any major or extensive damage to the rear of the car he would have noticed. If any damage did occur to the rear of the car it likely occurred as a result of the car being extracted from the ditch. It is his recollection that the car was pulled into the south wall of the culvert on the first effort to remove it from the ditch. It is his recollection that the rear of the car may have struck the culvert wall at this time. Before [redacted] was able to actually get the car out of the ditch, one of his employees, [redacted] arrived on the scene and helped [redacted] get the car out of the ditch. The car was thereafter transported to the Sebring Wrecker Service in Crescent. b6 b7C

In regard to the contents of the car, he recalled seeing at the scene of the accident in the back window well a camouflage campaign hat, a raincoat, spare tire, jack and wrenches.

In the rear seat was a large clear plastic bag containing many used sanitary napkins. Also in the rear seat there were two stacks of paper approximately one-half inch thick each, which contained papers relative

to Kerr McGee - Union Bargaining Session. Included in this stack of paper he recalled seeing a letter from an individual from Montreal, Canada. There were also some photographs of SILKWOOD and her friends which were apparently taken at a zoo. There was a thin spiral notebook, red in color, approximately nine inches by eleven inches in size.

In the front seat was a plastic flask with a jigger size top which appeared to contain spoiled tomato juice. In the glovebox there were car papers including title and a damage estimate for the Honda relative to a previous wreck. There was no briefcase in the car. SILKWOOD's purse was in the front seat and from the purse her identity was determined. Also from the purse were obtained two marijuana cigarettes, a pill and one-half of a capsule, all of which were furnished to the Oklahoma Criminal Laboratory for identification.

The following day on the 14th, at the Sebring Wrecker Service, he saw a Union Representative, [redacted] (phonetic) and DREW STEPHENS, SILKWOOD's boyfriend. This was at about 10:30 a.m. They asked him what his opinion was in regard to the accident. He told his investigation revealed that the car had run off the road. It is his feeling that SILKWOOD fell asleep and went off the road causing the fatal accident. It is almost a classic example, in his opinion, of the one car sleeping driver type accident. b6 b7C

[redacted] and STEPHENS told him that it was their opinion that she had been run off the road. They, at this point, had not looked at SILKWOOD's car as yet. He told them that he had found no such evidence. b6 b7C

It is his understanding that among the other persons at the Union Meeting who offered to drive SILKWOOD home prior to the accident was [redacted] and [redacted] b6 b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIG

Date of transcription 12/6/74

DREW STEPHENS, 836 Northwest 48th Street, Oklahoma City, was contacted at Bob Shull's Volkswagen, (formerly Whitfield Volkswagen), 5600 Northwest 39th, Oklahoma City, where he is employed in the body shop. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. He furnished the following information:

STEPHENS stated that he was very close to KAREN SILKWOOD and dated her off and on for approximately two years before her death.

STEPHENS stated in regard to the damage to SILKWOOD's auto resulting from an accident on or about October 31, 1974, SILKWOOD brought her car, a 1973 Honda Civic, two-door, white in color, to the Whitfield Volkswagen body shop on or about November 1, 1974, to obtain an estimate of repairs. STEPHENS stated he wrote the estimate for the repairs for her. He said the damage to her car at that time was as follows:

1. Right rear qurater wrinkled;
2. Right taillight assembly broken;
3. Bumper creased approximately 2" deep, right of center;
4. Back panel around the license tag damaged including the light tag lamp assembly and sheet metal wrinkled.

The estimate for the repair was approximately $300. STEPHENS stated that the damage was not repaired prior to her fatal accident. STEPHENS said that he now has SILKWOODs car and it is located at [redacted] residence, 5818 Northwest 33rd, Oklahoma City. He stated that there is additional damage to the left rear of the car which was not present at the time he wrote the above estimate. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] /psh Date dictated 12/3/74 b6 b7C

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FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/6/74

[redacted] BOB SHULL Volkswagen, (Formerly Whitfield Volkswagen), 5600 Northwest 39th, Oklahoma City, was contacted at his office. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. He furnished the following informatin: b6 b7C

[redacted] stated he is familiar with KAREN SILKWOOD. He stated that she was dating DREW STEPHENS, who is an employee at the body shop. Approximately four or five days before SILKWOOD's fatal accident, she brought her Honda Civic into the body shop for an estimate of repairs on damage caused by an earlier accident. [redacted] described her automobile as a 1973 or 1974 Honda Givic, two-door, white in color. b6 b7C

[redacted] statdd that STEPHENS drew up the estimate for the repairs of damage to her car. [redacted] stated he observed the damage and described it as being damage on the rear of the car, right of center. He stated that it needed a new taillight assembly on the right side, a new bumper, and that the gravel deflector was damaged. [redacted] stated that to his knowledge these repairs were not made prior to SILKWOODs fatal accident. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that he has seen SILKWOOD's automobile since her fatal accident. He said that he observed new damage to the left rear of the car which was not there when it was brought in earlier for the estimate. He said he knows the whereabouts of the car but declined to furnish that information. He said he feels this infomation should be obtained from another source. He said he feels DREW STEPHENS will be willing to furnish that information. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] /psh Date dictated 12/3/74 b6 b7C

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FD-302 (REV. 1-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/6/74

[redacted] Lynn Hickey Dodge, (formerly May Avenue Dodge), 4025 North May, Oklahoma City, was contacted at his office. He furnished the following information: b6 b7C

[redacted] advised that the body shop records reflect no records identifiable with KAREN G. SILKWOOD and stated that to his knowledge the body shop has made no repairs on her 1973 Honda Civic. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] /psh Date dictated 12/3/74 b6 b7C

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FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/5/74

[redacted] Oklahoma City, was contacted at his office. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. He furnished the following information: b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that he was KAREN G. SILKWOOD's physician from November 28, 1973, until November 4, 1974. His records reflect that SILKWOOD was single, worked nights, and slept during the day. On October 25, 1974, [redacted] saw SILKWOOD and prescribed Qualude (Methaqualone) to assist her in sleeping. The prescription was for 30 tablets of 300 milligram Qualude and was to be taken upon retiring. The prescription could not be refilled, but after 30 days SILKWOOD could return and have another prescription written. b6 b7C

[redacted] records reflect that he saw SILKWOOD on November 1, 1974, regarding minor neck pains as a result of a previous auto accident. She was seen again for a follow-up examination on November 4, 1974. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] psh Date dictated 12/3/74 b6 b7C

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FD-302 (REV. 1 [illegible]-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/5/74

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[redacted] Allstate Insurance, 4705 Northwest Highway, Oklahoma City, was contacted at his office. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and the nature of the interview. He furnished the following information:

b6
b7C

[redacted] advised that Allstate claim number 16F88344 for KAREN SILKWOOD, 908 North Washington, Apartment 2, Edmond, Oklahoma, dated November 2, 1974, relfects the following:

Car year	1973
Make	Honda Civic
Model	2-door
Insured car damage	Right rear side
Date of loss	October 31, 1974
Time of loss	1:15 am
Location of loss	Highway 33, five miles west of Guthrie, Oklahoma
Description of loss	Insured swerved to miss cow on road and ran off into ditch

Allstate estimate dated November 2, 1974, claim number 16F88344 for KAREN SILKWOOD on a 1973 Honda Civic, white, odometer 35,167, identification number 1014541, license number YF-8261, reflects the following decription of repairs:

1. Replace rear bumper;
2. Replace rear bumper arms;
3. Replace rear deflector;
4. Repair rear body panel
5. Replace right tag lamp assembly;
6. Replace right tail lamp assembly;
7. Repair right quarter panel

This estimate reflects the following estimated costs for the above repairs:

Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] psh Date dictated 12/3/74

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b7C

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Labor	$ 73.80
Paint sublet	56.00
Parts	93.62
Tax	2.81
Total	$226.23
Less deductible	$100.00
Net total	$126.23

The extimate reflects Whitfield Volkswagen as the repair shop. [redacted] advised that the Adjustor's Inspection Report dated November 4, 1974, reflects May Avenue Dodge to do repairs, paint rear body panel and right quarter. b6 b7C

[redacted] advised that Allstate records reflect that Allstate paid $146.23 on November 4, 1974, by check payable to KAREN SILKWOOD and May Avenue Bank, Oklahoma City. b6 b7C

FD 302 (REV. 10-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/6/74

[redacted] age [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] Ted Sebring Ford, 303 N. Grand, who resides 202 W. Jackson, Crescent, Oklahoma, telephone 969-2916, was interviewed in a Bureau automobile in the vicinity of his place of employment.

[redacted] advised that on November 13, 1974, he received a telephone call at home from the Police Department Dispatcher in Crescent, requesting that he proceed and help [redacted] at an accident scene six or seven miles south of Crescent, Oklahoma on State Highway 74. He said he proceeded immediately in a company pickup with his son, [redacted] age [redacted] and arrived at the accident scene sometime between 8:30 and 9 p.m. He said it was dark. He said a wrecked car was upright in the ditch at the location of a bridge, being on the east side of the highway. The SEBRING wrecker was already hooked onto the rear of the wrecked car. [redacted] said he assisted in unhooking a line cable from the car and rehooking the line through the winch line on the back end of the wrecker. He said by so doing, the line attached to the car would be in a higher position, tending to raise the rear of the car up more. He said at that point the back end of the wrecked car was facing due south or perhaps a little southeast. He said he was sure that [redacted] had pulled the car around somewhat and the car was partially up on the bank and the left quarter panel of the car was up against the wing wall of the concrete bridge.

[redacted] said that at that point he was not sure what the tow line was hooked onto underneath the car, but he said it was not the bumper, for the reason that the bumper was not stout enough to hold the tow line. He said there was a good incline to the bank at the point where the rear end of the car was resting at that time when he had rehooked the tow line.

Interviewed on 12/2/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :pw Date dictated 12/5/74

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159-45-Sub

[redacted] said he did not pay any particular attention at that time to the specific condition of the rear end of the car as to whether or not any damage was apparent. He said the left driver's side door was open, the windshield had been knocked all of the way out, and he was not sure, but the trunk lid may have been up.

[redacted] said that this one hookup that [redacted] had made with the tow line onto the rear end of the car enabled [redacted] in the wrecker, to tow the car up out of the ditch. He said at that time the wrecker was located about center distance from the berm to a wire pasture fence line. He said that [redacted] then pulled the car far enough back from the ditch in order to maneuver the wrecker around in front of the wrecked vehicle, and that then the wrecker was hooked onto the front and the car was towed up out of the ditch onto the highway. He said the rear tires were still inflated, enabling the car to be towed on the highway.

[redacted] said that the only other persons that he knew at the scene of this towing operation, aside from his son and [redacted] were [redacted] and [redacted]. He said when he first got to the accident scene there was an Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper at the scene, whose name he thought was [redacted] however, [redacted] said that he did not pay much attention to the Trooper and [redacted] said he really did not pay much attention to what the Trooper was doing while [redacted] was at the accident scene.

[redacted] said when he initially approached the scene that he parked his vehicle on the east side of the roadway facing the wreck, being parked on the wrong side of the highway, in order for his headlights to shine on the wreck scene. He said he noted that there may have been a half dozen or so other cars parked along the highway south of the bridge where the accident took place; however, he said he did not know who the occupants of those cars were.

He said when he arrived at the scene of the wreck, he was told that a woman had been traveling south, and he said he could not believe it because of the location

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b7C

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b7C

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b7C

b6
b7C

of the wrecked car on the wrong side of the highway for that direction of travel, south. He said he did not know how many persons had been in the wrecked vehicle and did not know if anyone had been killed in it.

[redacted] mentioned that the [redacted] wrecker is a Ford product, one ton short wheel base. [redacted] said when he arrived at the accident, scene, there were no other wreckers or truck type vehicles there, other than the [redacted] wrecker. [redacted] said that he had picked up the windshield of the wrecked car and stuck it back through the front. He said he did not see any other property that might have belonged to any of the occupants on the ground, but that he did note there were chrome and parts from the outside of the car in the creek bed where the car had come to rest. He said he could identify a mirror, which was a racing type with a dome shape to it, which was lying on the ground, as coming from the wrecked car.

b6
b7C

[redacted] said the car was towed to the TED SEBRING garage in Crescent and that he followed [redacted] to the garage. The car was put just inside the Service Department door and left attached to the wrecker in the garage. He said that [redacted] were at the garage and that a man in a big car got out and looked at the wrecked car briefly, got back into his own car, an Oldsmobile or a Cadillac, and left. He said he was a small man, gray haired and bare headed. [redacted] said he thought this man was just a curious onlooker and not an official of any type.

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[redacted] said that he and his son, [redacted] went home about 10 p.m.

b6
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The next morning, [redacted] said he opened the garage a few minutes before 8 a.m. and since the wrecker and wrecked car blocked access to the Service Department, he had one of the employees move the wrecker and car outside. He said when he opened up the garage that [redacted] an Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper, [redacted] a Crescent Police Officer, and another Police Officer from Guthrie, Oklahoma, were at the garage.

b6
b7C

These Officers examined the contents of the interior of the wrecked car as [redacted] watched. [redacted] said he was concerned about watching the car for the reason that [redacted] had previously instructed him not to move the car outside. He said he observed the Officers to examine or handle the following items: b6 b7C

1. A purse which was open on the floor of the car, which contained personal letters.

2. A roller. One of the Police Officers said this was a roller for rolling cigarettes. [redacted] said he had never seen one of these before. It had been found on the floor in the front part of the car. b6 b7C

3. [redacted] said the Officers picked up other "stuff" from the floor of the car, both in front and behind the seat. b6 b7C

4. An Australian type hat.

In addition, [redacted] said that he observed two binders, which were approximately 3/8" to ½" thick, which had soft covers, which had black lettering on the outside, some of which said Kerr McGee, and in part, "Nuclear". He said these binders were not of the loose leaf type and [redacted] said he had occasion to flip the edges of these with his thumb and he noted that they contained typed document material. He said one of these was on the floor in the front part of the car at the passenger side and the other was on the floor in front of the driver's side. He said that later he and [redacted] while putting personal effects into a box, had placed these binders in a box for safekeeping. He said he did not know [redacted] was aware that these binders had been placed into the box. b6 b7C

[redacted] said that later when he and [redacted] were gathering up personal effects from the interior of the car that he, [redacted] put the following items into a box to be sealed: b6 b7C

1. The Australian type soldier hat.
2. A deflated air mattress.
3. A plastic like rain jacket or coat.

4. A white plastic flask with a silver cap containing reddish appearing liquid.

[redacted] said that a kitchen type butcher knife about 12-14" long was in the trunk of the vehicle, which he said he left where he observed it. [redacted] said he did not examine any letters which were in a purse in the vehicle, but these letters had been examined by Oklahoma Highway Patrol Trooper [redacted]. He said he believes that one of these letters was from someplace, probably Ontario or Vancouver or New York; and he was told by Trooper [redacted] that this letter instructed that the recipient of the letter was to learn how to use the cigarette roller before a certain time when the writer of the letter was due to arrive. b6 b7C

[redacted] said that sometime after the Officers had left after examining the car and after [redacted] and [redacted] had placed the personal effects in a box and sealed the box, that a gray haired man came to [redacted] office and wanted a sample of the reddish liquid from the plastic flask. The box had hardly been closed and sealed when this man arrived and he talked to [redacted] about it. [redacted] opened the box and let him take a small sample of the contents of the flask. b6 b7C

On Monday, November 18, 1974, [redacted] left to go to Dallas, Texas, on business, and was gone for approximately a week. On that Monday, [redacted] said he got a call from Channel 5 News and later that day he met with [redacted] and a cameraman. [redacted] showed them the accident scene where they took pictures and he answered the questions for [redacted]. b6 b7C

[redacted] said he had also been called by station KOTK and that he furnished them some brief information as he could recall. He said also the Guthrie Daily Leader newspaper had called him, however, he said he did not know what particulars he had given them. b6 b7C

Concerning recovery of the wrecked vehicle, [redacted] said he observed DREW STEVENS when he appeared with his wrecker to tow the wrecked car away. He observed [redacted] b6 b7C

did not see the wrecker, nor did he see him actually tow the car away. He said he did not have any conversation with DREW STEVENS.

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/74

On December 2, 1974, SA [redacted] b6 b7C telephonically contacted DREW STEPHENS at his residence, 836 N. W. 48th, Oklahoma City, telephone 848-6181, in an effort to set up an appointment with MR. STEPHENS. An appointment was made for 6:30 pm on December 3, 1974, at MR. STEPHENS' residence.

SA [redacted] met MR. STEPHENS at the appointed b6 b7C time, identified himself to MR. STEPHENS and indicated to STEPHENS the nature of the current investigation. MR. STEPHENS advised that the wrecked Honda automobile in which KAREN SILKWOOD was killed was not at his residence, but was at a location in Northwest Oklahoma City and offered to take SA [redacted] there.

Enroute to the location, MR. STEPHENS indicated b6 b7C that prior to the examination of the car, that he desired to return to his residence where he wanted the interview between SA [redacted] and himself to take place, inasmuch as he had various papers and tape recorder. He stated that he wanted to record the interview.

SA [redacted] thereafter explained in additional b6 b7C detail the nature of the investigation, STEPHENS' status as a witness and the fact that the circumstances of any interview would not be dictated by STEPHENS. STEPHENS therafter indicated that if he could not record the interview, he desired to have another person present at the interview such as a friend or better yet, an attorney of his choice. MR. STEPHENS was informed by SA [redacted] that this also would be unacceptable to SA [redacted]

MR. STEPHENS advised that he was not being b6 b7C hostile or argumentative, but was merely following advice that had been given to him in regard to any interviews relative to the SILKWOOD matter. He advised that he had no objections in showing SA [redacted] the car and he would check and receive further instruction relative to any possible interview.

Interviewed on 12/2-4/74 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted] /jr Date dictated 12/9/74 b6 b7C

by

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159-45-55

SA [redacted] and STEPHENS proceeded to [redacted] which location was a private residence with an attached garage. SA [redacted] was advised that this was the residence of a co-worker of MR. STEPHENS, one [redacted] (phonetic). b6 b7C

At this location, SA [redacted] examined a white 1973 Honda. During the course of the examination, SA [redacted] partially overheard MR. STEPHENS placing a telephone call in the kitchen just off from the garage. At the conclusion of the car examination, SA [redacted] asked MR. STEPHENS what the result of his instructions were and MR. STEPHENS advised that he had been in telephonic contact with [redacted] in Washington, D. C, who advised him that the union preferred that he, STEPHENS, have an attorney present for any type of FBI interview. SA [redacted] again indicated to MR. STEPHENS that this was an unacceptable condition for actual interview, however, in the event that MR. STEPHENS had any information he wished to furnish the FBI, the FBI would accept this information. MR. STEPHENS was also advised that the conditions he set forth in regard to the interview would be brought to the attention of the U. S. Attorney and that the U. S. Attorney could cause STEPHENS to be called before a grand jury to furnish them information relative to the current investigation. b6 b7C

On the morning of December 4, 1974, MR. STEPHENS telephonically contacted SA [redacted] to advise that he would be available that day for interview and he was not making any conditions relative to the terms of the interview. b6 b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/74

On the evening of December 3, 1974, SA [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] in the garage located at 5818 N. W. 33rd, Oklahoma City, examined a white 1973 Honda Civic bearing current Oklahoma license YF 8261.

The odometer read 35596.4. The car was heavily damaged on the front end. The extreme front portion of the left front had been driven back to a point within 14 inches of the fire wall on the driver's side. The fire wall, dash board and steering wheel had all been driven forward into the driver's compartment. The front windshield was knocked out. The car roof was buckled and roof chrome trim displaced. The left side, including the left door, was heavily damaged with numerous dents and wrinkles in the sheet metal.

The right door was wrinkled at the top just below the window glass.

The right rear of the car was damaged, which included broken tail light and damaged right tail light assembly; wrinkled fender, right side immediately in front of of tail light, near bumper creased and wrinkled right of center to terminal portion of right side. The right side tag license plate was cracked and broken.

At the extreme left rear corner (the rounded surface between the outside of the left rear fender and the flat surface from the rear of the car) at a point below the rear bumper was an eliptically-shaped dent. The long axis of this dent was nearly parallel to the ground. The center of the dent was approximately 13 inches above ground level. The dent had numerous horizontal parallel striations. No paint other than the white Honda paint and underlying primer coats were obvious to the naked eye.

SA [redacted] scraped the dent surface with a b6 b7C hard steel tool and obtained paint samples. The dent was approximately five inches long and three inches high.

Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted] jr 12/9/74 b6 b7C

by Date dictated

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159-45-56

Located on the under surface of the extreme left corner of the rear bumper was an undefined scratched area bout one inch in diameter. The bumper did not appear to be denting at this point. There were no pieces of paint discernible to the naked eye in this scratched area. There several small particles of what appeared to be soil in this scratched area. The scratched area was at a point some 15 inches above ground level. SA [redacted] scraped the surface of the scratched area with a hard steel tool obtaining a very minute quantity of debri. b6 b7C

SA [redacted] took photographs of the automobile which he examined. b6 b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted] b6 b7C
Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

She is an employee of the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Nuclear Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. She is not a union member.

On the evening of October 16, or October 17, 1974, she was at the Hub Cafe in downtown Crescent. There was a meeting of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW), who were KMC employees also at the cafe. This meeting took place in a back room of the cafe. She was not in attendance at the union meeting, but merely a customer. At about 6:30 pm, she saw KAREN SILKWOOD come out of the meeting. She was with [redacted]. She noted that KAREN b6 b7C looked very bad, that is, she looked just like "death". She was very pale, moving very slowly and her speech was very slurred. She asked KAREN what was wrong.

KAREN told her that a doctor had given her some medication, not specified, that she felt sick because of the medication and was afraid that she could not make it home.

She was aware of the fact that KAREN lived in Edmond or Oklahoma City and faced a rather long drive. She told KAREN that KAREN could come spend the night with her at her Crescent residence. KAREN indicated that she would do that and would be over shortly.

However, KAREN did not show up until 11:30 pm. She does not know where KAREN was in the meantime.

[redacted] stated she was truly concerned about KAREN b6 b7C and made this offer out of her concern. KAREN had not been looking well for some time. She appeared to be losing weight. When KAREN came to her residence, her son, who had not previously seen KAREN, made an aside comment to her that there must be something wrong with KAREN because she sure looked sick.

She had previous conversations with KAREN in which KAREN had related to her that she had tried suicide on two occasions.

Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted] /jr Date dictated 12/9/74 b6 b7C

by

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159-4552

The last time she tried suicide, was when she had an argument with her boy friend, DREW STEPHENS, over another girl. KAREN said this occurred about one year previous to their conversation and said that she had taken an overdose, but had thereafter called [redacted]

b6
b7C

In regard to the medication that KAREN indicated she was taking during the October 16, or October 17, 1974 conversation, KAREN said she was taking this medication for depression.

KAREN spent the night with her without incident and she awoke KAREN at 5:30 am the following morning and KAREN thereafter went to work.

She was not at the Hub Cafe on the evening of November 13, 1974. It has previously come to her attention that apparently someone thought she was at the cafe on November 13, 1974, but she was not there at that time.

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted] Oklahoma, furnished the following information: b6 b7C

He has been employed at the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation, (KMC) Crescent Nuclear Facility since August 12, 1968. He is a member of the Oil, Chemical, Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) Local 5283. The President is [redacted] at Cushing, Oklahoma. The employees of the Crescent Facility are a separate branch of the local and [redacted] even though he is local President, has very little to do with union-KMC relations. The union at the Crescent facility has a three-person bargaining committee led by [redacted] Chairman; [redacted] Committeeman and the late KAREN SILKWOOD, Committeewoman. b6 b7C

He was not a close friend of KAREN and knew little of her outside of company-union activities, however, he was very concerned about her physical, and emotional health after KAREN became involved in a contamination incident sometime around November 5, 1974. It was most apparent to him that KAREN was under a severe emotional strain as a result of this incident and apparently the exact nature of any medical problem she may have had from the incident, was not yet known. She had been sent to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) site at Los Alamos where extensive physical examination was conducted and returned to Oklahoma, he believes, sometime on November 12, 1974.

The union and company had a bargaining session set for November 13, 1974 at the Crescent plant and KAREN was to participate in this bargaining session. The bargaining committee was to have a meeting before they entered into negotiations with the company shortly prior to 9:00 am, November 13, 1974 at the Hub. KAREN did not appear for this meeting on time, but joined the group as they were en route to the plant from the Hub.

He, [redacted] and KAREN went into negotiations about 9:15 am. They stayed at the session until 11:30 when they broke for lunch. The three of them joined by [redacted] international representative from Tulsa, Oklahoma, all went to Crescent and ate lunch. They returned to the negotiating session about 1:00 or 1:15 am and stayed in session until 2:45 pm. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted] /jr 12/9/74 b6 b7C

by Date dictated

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159-45-58

OC 159-45

After the negotiating session, KAREN briefly met with company representatives relative to the fact that she did not call to report into work that she was not coming in the previous day, Friday. She became rather upset as a result of this particular meeting. KAREN thereafter met with two AEC representatives, one of whom was named [redacted] in regard to her contamination. He was present with KAREN during both of these meetings. He was with her the entire day with the exception of one or two occasions when she went to the restroom, but during those times, she was escorted by another female employee so that supervised body specimens could be obtained. She apparently experienced some difficulty in locating some specimen kits, which seemed also to be upsetting to KAREN. b6 b7C

The rank and file union meeting was scheduled for that evening at the Hub Cafe. He and KAREN left the plant and arrived at the Hub about 5:15 or 5:20 pm. She drove and he rode as a passenger in KAREN's car. No one else went with them. The meting lasted to sometime between 6:30 and 7:00 pm.

He was very concerned about her and felt that she was in no condition to drive from Crescent to her residence and he offered to drive her home, which offer she refused. [redacted] also offered to drive her home because he too was concerned. She refused his offer. b6 b7C

During the course of her meetings with the company officials after the negotiation session and during her meeting with the AEC representatives, KAREN on several occasions broke down and cried and he recalls that she even broke down on one occasion at a union meeting. The entire situation appeared to be upsetting to her; not only was she contaminated, her apartment was too, and she lost most of her personal effects and furniture and did not seem to know for sure the full extent of her physical contamination.

He did not see her leave the union meeting. She did say sometime during the day that after the unim meeting, she and her boy friend, DREW STEPHENS, were going to the airport

to pick up someone. He did not know the identity of the person or persons they were going to pick up until he read about it in the newspaper, nor did he know the purpose of KAREN meeting with these persons until he read about it in the newspaper. To his knowledge, no local union member, including [redacted] the Committee Chairman, was aware that KAREN was meeting with a national union officer and "New York Times" reporter on the evening of November 13, 1974. He did not know that she was making allegations about quality control about plutonium fuel rods. He said the first he knew of this allegation against the company was when he read about it in the newspaper. The fact that he and other union members were unaware of what KAREN was doing in this regard was upsetting to him and several other people. b6 b7C

During the time he was with KAREN on November 13, 1974, he saw her eat fried chicken at noon. She did not drink any alcoholic beverage, including beer, anytime he was with her during the day. The only thing he saw her drink at the union meeting was perhaps a glass of tea or a cup of coffee. There is absolutely no drinking that goes on during the union meetings. The Hub does not serve beer. He is certain that no other union member would have "slipped" KAREN a drink at the time of the meeting. In regard to any documents KAREN might have had in her possession, both he and KAREN had in their possession their roughdrafts of union demands against the company. He did not see in KAREN's car any briefcase or large file of papers or documents. He does not recall seeing in her car any items that may have related to her allegations concerning quality control. There may have been such documents in the car, but he did not see them.

Neither he, nor any other local union member to his knowledge, was aware of the fact that the national union had hired an independent accident investigator to investigate KAREN's accident.

OC 159-45

He has no information that would indicate KAREN's accident involved foul play. In fact, he knows nothing about the accident, other than what he read in the newspaper. He, in his own mind, would rule out the fact of KAREN committing suicide inasmuch as if she had been contemplating suicide, he doubts she would have taken as much time as she did in locating specimen bottles earlier on November 13, 1974.

He knows nothing in regard to the circumstances surrounding KAREN's contamination.

FD-302 (Rev. 1-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted] b6 b7C

Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

He is currently employed as [redacted] in b6 b7C
the Uranium Lab at the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Crescent Nuclear Facility. He formerly was employed in the Plutonium Lab. He has worked for the company some three years. He is an active member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) and until very recently, was a committeeman.

On November 13, 1974, he first saw KAREN SILKWOOD that day at the Hub Cafe in Crescent at a union meeting which was attended by some 15 to 20 members. He was aware of the fact that she had been involved most of the day in company-union negotiations at the plant.

At the end of the union meeting, he heard [redacted] b6 b7C offer to drive KAREN home. He made a similar offer and she refused both of them.

He made the offer because it was very obvious to him that she was under a severe strain as a result of the contamination incident and related problems.

KAREN's trop to Los Alamos was supposed to have been better organized by the company and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) than it was, but KAREN had several aggravating problems arise during the course of the trip, had problems in renting a car using her own credit card and also incurred some lodging and food expenses on her own. Apparently, she would be reimbursed for these expenses, but the overall hassle added to b6 her numerous problems. She indicated that she was very upset b7C about the trip in general. During the course of the union meeting, she was sitting with [redacted]. He did not recall seeing her eat or drink anything other than a glass of tea. There was no beer or other alcoholic beverage at the meeting and he is certain that KAREN at that time, did not drink anything other than tea. There is no place that he knows of in the immediate vicinity of the Hub that serves intoxicants.

Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted] /jr 12/9/74 b6 b7C

by Date dictated

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159-45-59

OC 159-45

KAREN seemed "normal" when she left the meeting at about 7:00 pm. He cannot describe her condition, other than normal. All he can say, is that she, just before she left, did not appear to be behaving in any fashion other than her usual fashion, but he was still concerned enough to offer to drive her home.

He did not know that KAREN was going to meet anyone after the union meeting and was completely unaware of the fact that she was going to make further allegations concerning quality control on fuel rods. He was aware of the initial allegations made in this regard, but was unaware of these additional allegations.

In regard to her accident, he does not know what happened. He has no information whatsoever and does not know whether foul play occurred or not. He would find it hard to believe that the company would have had KAREN killed because he thinks that the company is aware of the fact that the company can munipulate KAREN should they desire to place enough pressure on her. KAREN will bend under pressure, he knows it and the company knows it. So it would not be necessary for the company to take such extreme action against her.

In late September, 1974, he, [redacted] and KAREN went to Washington, D.C. to take part in an AEC Safety meeting. This meeting was specifically in regard to the Crescent Facility. A similar safety meeting had been held about one month before concerning the Atomic Facility at Erwin, Tennessee. The fuel rod allegations were not brought up during the course of this meeting. Only allegations concerning health and safety at the KMC Crescent Facility were discussed. The union's allegations in this regard consisted of some three or four charges. b6 b7C

The allegations concerning the fuel rods were brought up by the National Union after KAREN's death and to his knowledge there had not been a prior complaint.

He does not know what kind of documentation KAREN may have had concerning the fuel rod allegations, but she may have had some specifics in a small notebook, approximately 3 X 5 inches in size, which he has in the past seen her carry.

FD-302 (REV. [illegible]-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/11/74

GEORGE WAYNE MARTIN, born December 18, 1916, Barton County, Missouri, who resides at 1911 West Mansur Street, Guthrie, Oklahoma, proprietor of Martin's Auto Salvage and Repair, 2400 South Division, Guthrie, Oklahoma, telephone number 282-1406, was interviewed at his place of business. Mr. MARTIN advised as follows:

He has been in business three years at this location. He operates a wrecker service in connection with his business under a "Corporation Commission of Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing License" number 26329W, effective January 25, 1974.

MARTIN exhibited a pink copy of a bill of lading, number 1416, dated October 31, 1974, which bears the caption "Martin's 24 Hour Wrecker Service, 2400 S. Division, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044, Tel. 282-1406 or 282-3022" which document shows the following data:

Vehicle	Honda
Tag number	YF 8261
Payment	Cash
Location	Five miles west on 33
Remarks	Pulled car from ditch $8.00; five miles $5.00; Total amount $13.00
Truck number	2 (which MARTIN said is a GMC truck, 1973 model, blue with yellow trim)

MARTIN advised that he initialed this document as "GEO" for his first name GEORGE. The bottom of the form showed the answer of no to the following questions on this printed form:

Round trip?
Use of dolly?

Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Guthrie, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :pwo Date dictated 12/6/74

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Was vehicle wrecked?
Was vehicle damaged?
Was vehicle loaded?
Perishables?

It is noted this form bore a space for customer signature, however, none was shown.

Mr. MARTIN advised that this document was in connection with the Honda vehicle believed owned by KAREN SILKWOOD which he said he pulled from a ditch five miles west of Guthrie on State Highway 33 at about 1:30 P.M. on October 31, 1974, at which time SILKWOOD paid him in cash in the amount of $13.00 for his services.

MARTIN advised that SILKWOOD called him by telephone between 9:00 and 10:00 A.M., on October 31, 1974, and asked him to meet her at the car's location at 1:30 P.M., on October 31, 1974, in order to tow it from the ditch. In this telephone conversation she said she slid off the highway into a ditch "five miles west of Guthrie on 33 highway".

He said it was his understanding that the vehicle ran into the ditch at a time when SILKWOOD was returning home from work and that she had been confronted by a cow on the highway and in order to avoid the cow, lost control of the car, spun in 180 degree turn and went backwards into the ditch on the wrong side of the highway coming to rest with the right-hand taillight against a fence post breaking the dome type lens in the taillight. MARTIN said that this was the only damage sustained to the car. He said the housing containing the light was not bent or damaged and he could see the point of impact of the lens on the fence post at the time he pulled the car from the ditch. He said that when the car was retrieved from the ditch he and SILKWOOD and a male friend that was with her who apparently had driven her to the scene of the accident, carefully looked over the car for any damage and as stated above the only damage they observed was the the taillight lens.

MARTIN said that on October 31, 1974, he had not observed any personal effects or material inside this

vehicle for the reason that he had no reason to examine anything within the car as his concern had primarily been with whether or not there had been any damage to the exterior of the car when it ran into the ditch and when he towed it from the ditch back onto the highway. He said in order to pull the car from the ditch it was necessary to ask SILKWOOD to unlock the car in order to turn the wheels and secure the steering wheel with a rope by means of tying a rope to the steering wheel and then closing the other end of the rope in the door jamb. This was necessary to keep the wheels straight for towing the vehicle from the ditch. He said in towing the car out of the ditch in that incident, he hooked his cable underneath the car on a rear suspension bar making the attachment of the tow cable on the inside of the tow bar towards the center of the vehicle. MARTIN stated that he was certain that he did not damage SILKWOOD's car in any manner in towing it from the ditch on October 31, 1974. MARTIN advised that in his examination of her car on that date he did not recall finding any paint scratches or dents on the exterior of the car which he said was a "kind of blue color", two-door vehicle, of the station wagon type or style, "as I remember".

MARTIN advised that he did not observe anything unusual in SILKWOOD's physical condition on October 31, 1974. He said she seemed to be very alert.

MARTIN said the individual who was with SILKWOOD was a white male, in his mid or late 20's, long blond hair, approximately 5'10"-6', slender build, approximately 145-150 pounds, fair complexioned, wearing a pair of slacks and shirt.

MARTIN further advised concerning the accident where SILKWOOD slid into the ditch, he would estimate it was about 40-50 feet from the shoulder of the highway to where the car came to rest against the fence post. He said her direction of travel was east and the car had come to

rest north of the highway. The highway was concrete, two lane divided, and MARTIN further advised he did not observe any marks in the concrete on the highway on October 31, 1974.

MARTIN said that SILKWOOD did not inform him of the time when she ran off the highway, but merely indicated she was going from work to her home. MARTIN noted that there was a ravine before the area where she reported she had skidded and the highway at that point was a fill area. He said he did not note the condition of the tread on her tires. He said he assumed she was alone when she skidded and went into the ditch, however, she did not so state.

Subsequently MARTIN showed the area where SILKWOOD had slid into the ditch on Highway 33 to a Lieutenant of the Highway Patrol and to Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) Trooper [redacted] on November 23, 1974. He said he did not recall the Lieutenant's name but the Lieutenant was a Negro male. He said he showed the area to them on November 23, 1974, at around 5:00 P.M. He said he established this date from a record he has maintained which shows that on that date he was engaged in delivering a vehicle to an individual in Crescent, Oklahoma, and the site of SILKWOOD's skid into the ditch was on his route to Crescent. He said he pointed out to the OHP officers on that date the exact location from which he towed the vehicle and pointed out to them the fence post which the car had struck and pointed out some of the broken glass from the taillight lens still at the scene. MARTIN stated that in fact the fence post was broken and the bottom of the post was still hanging in the fence wire.

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Mr. MARTIN advised additionally that on the night that KAREN SILKWOOD was killed in a subsequent automobile accident he was on his way home from his place of business and the Guthrie Police Department was trying to get hold of him by radio. MARTIN noted that he has radio communication in his wrecker with the Guthrie Police Department and the Logan County Sheriff's Office. MARTIN

said that he walked into the Guthrie Police Station and was informed by Captain [redacted] that District 1 of the OHP had called indicating that a party was trapped in a car in an accident one mile south of Highway 33 on Highway 74 and MARTIN was to get there as fast as he could. MARTIN said that he left the police station immediately, driving his wrecker, and as he proceeded to the scene of the accident he was in view of Guthrie Fire Department ambulance which was proceeding ahead of him. There were two men in the ambulance, but MARTIN did not get close enough to the ambulance to determine who they were. MARTIN said that he got as far as five miles west of Guthrie on Highway 33 and was advised by radio by the Guthrie Police Department that he was to turn back and return to Guthrie. The police department advising a wrecker from Crescent, Oklahoma, had been obtained to take care of the wreck. MARTIN said that he did as instructed, turning around, returning to Guthrie, and went home and thought nothing more of the matter at that time.

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MARTIN advised that the Guthrie Fire Department ambulance, to the best of his knowledge, is a Chevrolet van type ambulance, is city owned, and is red and white or orange and white in color.

Concerning interviews regarding KAREN SILKWOOD's skidding into the ditch on or about October 31, 1974, Mr. MARTIN advised that he has been interviewed by the following:

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[redacted] of Channel 5 News, Oklahoma City.

A Negro Lieutenant and Trooper [redacted] of the OHP.

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A brief interview by two men from the Atomic Energy Commission whose names MARTIN said he does not recall.

Two men from Kerr McGee Corporation.

FD-302 (Rev. 7-30)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/12/74

On December 3, 1974, [redacted] observed the scene to which the fatal accident of KAREN G. SILKWOOD occurred on November 13, 1974. SA [redacted] made photographs of the area. b6 b7C

The scene is located on Oklahoma State Highway 74 seven and three-tenths miles south of Crescent, Oklahoma. It is noted that the scene is approximately one and three-tenths miles south of the intersection of State Highways 74 and 33 and the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Cimarron Facility is located between Crescent and the accident site at a point approximately two and one-tenth miles north of the accident site. State Highway 74 is the most direct route between the Cimarron Facility and Oklahoma City with access to the Oklahoma City suburb, Edmond, Oklahoma.

The road at the point where the accident occurred is straight and flat with a slight down grade (south) toward a creek bottom.

The road is a two-lane, rough asphalt highway with a painted center divided line. The shoulders (four feet wide) are smooth and well maintained and at the same level as the road surface. On either side of the road is a broad, grass-covered bar ditch, which surface varies from smooth to undilating.

Visibility north from the accident scene along the highway is unrestricted for approximately one and one-half miles. Visibility south along the road is unrestricted for approximately one-half mile.

There are farm fields east and west of the road at the accident site. There are no nearby residences or businesses. The highway is not lighted in this area.

The concrete culvert in which the vehicle of KAREN SILKWOOD came to rest on the east side of the road is not clearly noticeable from the road. The culvert is not readily apparent to a south-bound driver of a passenger car.

Considerable debris, including broken glass, ornamental

12/3/74 Logan County, Oklahoma Oklahoma City 159-45

Interviewed on at File #

SA [redacted] /jr 12/6/74 b6 b7C

by Date dictated

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159-45-61

metal, broken plastic and a white racing mirror still littered the impact area. Careful inspection of the north-bound and south-bound highway lanes between the culvert and the section line road some 500 feet north failed to reveal any skid marks, which would appear to relate to the November 13, 1974 accident.

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-74)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/74

DREW STEPHENS, 836 N. W. 48th, furnished the following information:

He was the boy friend of the late KAREN SILKWOOD. He formerly worked at the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Crescent Nuclear Facility and quit that job in September, 1974, because he was disallusioned with his job and the company.

He had been going with KAREN for most of the time that she was employed at the Crescent Facility and during the time that he was employed at the facility, he was very active in the union affairs. KAREN was also active in the union. KAREN was involved in a contamination incident, which was discovered on or about November 5, 1974 and as a result of that incident, KAREN, her roommate, SHERRI ELLIS and he all were sent by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to the AEC Facility at Los Alamos, New Mecixo for a full body count. They were at Los Alamos during the period of November 10-12, 1974, returning via air to Oklahoma City at about 9:30 pm. They stopped at the Crescendo Club located on N. W. 36th, spending a period of time there, arriving at his residence sometime about 11:00 pm. They drank a little wine that evening.

SHERRI and KAREN both spent the night at his residence. He saw both girls the next morning before he left for work. He understands that KAREN went to the Crescent Facility. He does not know where SHERRI went that day. KAREN was involved in contract negotiations, which were then ongoing at the Crescent plant.

He and KAREN had previously made arrangements to meet with [redacted] Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Unim (OCAW) international representative and [redacted] a "New York Times" reporter in reference to allegations concerning falsification of fuel rod records at the Crescent plant. He was to pick up [redacted] at the Oklahoma City airport at 6:00 pm, November 13, 1974 and thereafter pick up [redacted] who was to arrive on a flight a short time later.

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12/4/74 Oklahoma City, Okkhoma Oklahoma City 159-45

Interviewed on at File #

SA [redacted] /jr 12/9/74

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by Date dictated

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While he was still at work, just before 6:00 pm, he received a telephone call from KAREN who was then at a union meeting at the Hub Cafe in Crescent. He finalized their plans for the meeting with [redacted] and KAREN was to meet them at the Holiday Inn Northwest, Oklahoma City. She appeared to be in good spirits at the time of their telephone conversation. b6 b7C

They had previously made arrangements to meet [redacted] prior to their going to Los Alamos. He believes that the actual date that the arrangements were made was early on November 10, 1974. KAREN had been gathering data for quite sometime on specific falsification incidents relative to the quality controls that were set up to check the fabrication of the plutonium fuel rods made at the Crescent Facility. It is his understanding that her data consisted of the weld numbers of rods that had been passed that were not up to standard, and alphas (x-rays) of the imperfect welds themselves. It is his understanding that she had in her possession an actual negative that had been altered. b6 b7C

He had not seen any of the documentary information that KAREN had to support her allegations. He did, however, have turned over to him all the papers and documents that were recovered from KAREN's wrecked car. He retained a portion of these items and other items of KAREN's personal property and sent the remainder to her parents in Texas. In conversation with KAREN's family in Texas, he found out they had in their possession something which might have been the negative of which KAREN spoke. This was sent to him by the family and inspection determined that this negative had nothing to do with the altered fuel rod documentation, but related to a fuel rod examination (valid), which took place sometime in December, 1973, which was a time prior to the falsification incidents.

It is his understanding that KAREN had previously had conversations, perhaps in Washington, D.C., and perhaps by telephone with [redacted] which [redacted] recorded, in which she described the negative which she then apparently had in her possession. He thinks that [redacted] may have more specific information as to what material or data KAREN was supposed to have. b6 b7C

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KAREN had also gathered information where she was able to document instances where a supervisor, [redacted] b6 b7C recorded raw data and adjusted these figures to conform with acceptable standards. She reportedly had specific times, dates and the numbers of the analysis that had been altered.

He believes that she had mentioned to [redacted] b6 b7C these falsifications in rather general terms, not giving specifics such as times, numbers, etc., and that [redacted] had told KAREN to get all of the stuff together in a form that would be useable and it is his impression that this is what KAREN had done and was going to give to [redacted] and [redacted] at the time of their November 13, 1974 meeting; however, he has never actually seen any of this specific information KAREN was supposed to have.

He left work at 6:00 pm, went to the airport and met [redacted] plane at about 6:40 pm. [redacted] came in on a later flight, getting there about 7:20. While the three of them were together in the airport, they saw an AEC employee by the name of [redacted] commented, "I wonder if [redacted] recognized me?" b6 b7C

[redacted] went to the Holiday Inn Northwest and he went home to change clothes. He joined [redacted] at the motel about 8:15 or 8:30. They decided that KAREN appeared late and called the plant and found that she had left sometime earlier. They had telephone trouble with the room telephone for about 45 minutes and could not complete an outgoing call. Around 9:30 or 10:00, [redacted] called [redacted] at Crescent who told [redacted] that KAREN's car had been towed to a garage in Crescent (after having been wrecked) and that he had gone down to the police department and found that she had been killed. b6 b7C

[redacted] and he immediately thereafter drove to Crescent; while enroute there, they tried to find the scene of the accident, however, could not do so. They went to the Ford garage and could see the car still attached to the wrecker inside the garage. The garage was closed and they could not closely examine the car. Inquiry determined where the accident was located and they went to that scene and looked around for a few minutes and thereafter went to [redacted] house. They made a few telephone calls to the hospital and so on, to gather b6 b7C

additional details concerning KAREN's death. He called KAREN's parents in Texas and got their consent to have an autopsy performed on KAREN. He thereafter went home and to bed while [redacted] went back to the motel. b6 b7C

Early the next day, the three of them went to Guthrie, Oklahoma, to talk to Trooper [redacted] who conducted the Oklahoma Highway Patrol investigation relative to KAREN's accident. They went thereafter to Crescent, to the Ford garage where KAREN's car had been taken and found that the car was outside the garage. They looked at the car and tried to find the documents that KAREN was bringing to the mdal meeting. The man who ran the garage had KAREN's personal belongings, including some papers that had been recovered from the car, boxed up. He called KAREN's parents in Texas and secured their authority to obtain KAREN's personal effects and the car. b6 b7C

They thereafter went through the personal effects, but could not find the documents which would seem to relate to the meeting. He found a folder containing old union papers, another folder consisting of information concerning nuclear hazards and industrial ecology, typewritten unim proposals to change the contract and type-written proposals to change the contract from the company. There was a small notebook about four by five inches, which contained old notes. [redacted] has this notebook. There was no spiral binder about nine by 11 inches in dimensions, included in this material and there was no material that contained any specifics concerning the allegations of falsification of fuel rod records. He thereafter had the car pulled to its present location in Oklahoma City and he took KAREN's personal effects, most of which he shipped to her parents in Texas. He retained certain papers. b6 b7C

His immediate thought when he heard of KAREN's accident was that she perhaps met with foul play because KAREN was a very good driver, who drive that same road every day. He and KAREN have participated in several sport car events and he has had numerous opportunities to evaluate her driving skill.

It appeared to him that her car had gone off the left side of the road at a sharp exit angle and based on his knowledge of her driving skills and her familiarity with the road, he finds this hard to believe that she would have just gone off the road on her own.

He certainly does not suspect that KAREN may have committed suicide as others have suggested, because she was very excited and looking forward to the meeting that they were to have that evening because after a long period of frustration concerning the union-company problems, the safety situation and so on, it appeared to her that at last, something was going to be done. He does not believe that she could have purposely driven into that particular culvert, since it is not visible from the road, therefore, she would not have known that the culvert was located there. Also when he had talked to KAREN earlier that evening, when she called from the union meeting, she sounded fine and in good spirits.

He has no tangible information to support the theory that KAREN met with foul play. The only information he has in this regard is the report made by the independent accident investigator [redacted] who the union hired. [redacted] said he believed that her car was hit on the left rear bumper by another vehicle, causing her car to go off on the left side of the road. [redacted] theory is primarily based on the bumper damage as he understands it and not on the damage to the corner of the fender below. In regard to the [redacted] theory, he could go along with it or reject it, he just does not know at this time. b6 b7C

In regard to the methaqualone sleeping pills that KAREN had been taking, this was a prescription drug that had been prescribed to her by her doctor in Oklahoma City, [redacted]. She is under quite of bit of tension and strain and was relying on these pills, not for sleeping pills as such, but she was "dependent on them as downers to keep her head together, that is, she was using them as a sedative and not as a sleeping pill". It is her recollection that she had been dependent on these pills b6 b7C

for about the last one and one-half months. He is aware of the fact that some toxicologists involved in the investigation have made a big point of the amount of methaqualone in KAREN's system at the time of the accident. He has seen her on numerous occasions when she has been under the influence of these pills and found her to be perhaps a little drowsy, but still very functional. He does not believe that the pills would have impaired her driving ability.

In regard to the minute amount of alcohol found in her blood stream, which some people have taken great note of, he feels that this amount of alcohol would not have impaired her driving ability and was likely a residual amount in her blood stream, resulting from the fact that the evening of November 12, they drank a little wine.

He has no other information that would indicate that KAREN met with foul play from any other sources. He knows of no person, including union officials or KMC employees that have any personal knowledge of KAREN's accident or whose information would support the claims of foul play.

KAREN has taken in the past two years that he has known her, a multitude of prescription drugs for a variety of ailments, including sinus pills, stomach relaxants and etc.

He heard that KMC had dispatched a salaried-employee to go to the scene of KAREN's accident, as soon as the information came out that she had been involved in the accident. He does not know the identity of this employee.

He heard that a Guthrie, Oklahoma, wrecker driver, GEORGE MARTIN, had been dispatched to KAREN's accident and called back while enroute. He finds this most peculiar. Of cours,e the accident was handled by the Ford Garage in Crescent. He talked to [redacted] the garage owner, who actually drove the wrecker that night and he also talked to the helper, [redacted] and from

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his conversatins with them, he does not believe that they caused the pertinent damage to the left rear to KAREN's car.

He does not know the names of any other witnesses, including union members who may have been at the scene of the accident.

In regard to KAREN's contamination, he has no reason to suspect that she may have purposely contaminated herself and believes that the contamination was of an accidental type, which occurred on the job. He has no personal knowledge as to how the contamination occurred. KAREN told him that on November 5, 1974, she "check hot" after working in a glove box. Two of the KMC Health Physics people, he understands, checked the box out and found a hole in the glove. KAREN thereafter followed the standard decontamination procedures, scrubbing and so on, and was found to be "clean" after the procedures.

He was at KAREN's apartment Wednesday evening, November 6, 1974. This was the first time he saw her in two days. At this time, she described the November 5, 1974 contamination incident. He spent the night at the apartment with KAREN. KAREN called him on November 7, 1974 and told him that the Health Physics people from the company had checked her apartment and found it to be contaminated. She indicated that SHERRI ELLIS, her roommate and he both needed to be checked to see if they were contaminated too. That evening, he went to KAREN's apartment and found about 20 persons there, including KMC personnel and State Health Department representatives. Of these individuals, several were in the safety uniforms with respirators and they were checking the apartment and its contents for radioactivity. He was checked at this time and he showed no surface contamination.

He asked some of the people involved in the check as to what kind of levels they were getting. One individual told him that they were getting readings in the area of 400,000 disintigration per minute (dpm). This is a very high level of radioactivity and he became rather upset out of concern for the safety of KAREN and

others that a contamination of this magnitude at the Crescent Facility could occur. However, he later got additional information that indicated the levels were much lower and he also was upset over this because there was such a variation in the information that people were giving him. Someone was wrong, but he did not know who. He is also upset over the fact that KAREN was not there, no one knew where she was and no one was concerned. He felt that in view of the severity of the problem, that someone should have gotten hold of KAREN and taken care of her.

He thereafter went to his residence in Oklahoma City with the Health Physics people who checked his house and found it not to be contaminated.

Thereafter, KAREN called his next door neighbor's house in a hysterical condition. She was convinced that she was going to die because of the abnormal high body samples that she had submitted earlier that day. He tried to find out her location so that he could come get her, but she would not tell him where she was other than she was in a telephone booth somewhere in Edmond, Oklahoma.

KAREN indicated she was coming to his house, so the only thing he could do was wait for her. While he was waiting, he got a telephone call from [redacted] KAREN had apparently called [redacted] just before. KAREN had related the full nature of the current contamination problem to [redacted] was concerned for KAREN. b6 b7C

KAREN came in a short time later and he was able to get her calmed down.

He has no definite idea as to how KAREN's apartment got contaminated. He noted that the refrigerator and some of the food therein was highly contaminated and he is aware that the toilet bowl in the bathroom was highly contaminated. He feels that KAREN may have ingested at the plant a radioactive particle and brought it home.

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He is sure that the ingestion was accidental and from what he has found out, the amount was very likely a minute sample. KAREN was a mouth breather and therefore, it would be very easy for her to contaminate her stomach, rather than her lungs. From what KAREN said concerning the contamination, she definitely believed that the contamination was tied to a contamination incident at the plant. KAREN felt responsible for bringing the contamination to her apartment and did not think that her roommate, SHERRI, had been the source of the apartment contamination through SHERRI having been involved in a separate contamination incident at the plant. KAREN was aware of the fact that SHERRI had checked relatively clean.

He is also aware that certain allegations have been made against KAREN having salted her body samples with radioactive material. He has no personal knowledge of her having salted her body samples and cannot conceive of her doing such a thing. She came back from her Washington,D.C. trip in late September, 1974, very much more aware than she ever had been concerning the dangers involved in handling radioactive material. She had a healthy respect, almost in fear of radioactive material. He is convinced in his own mind, that she would not try to handle radioactive material on her own outside of the controlled conditions that exist in the laboratory. She certainly would not knowingly bring anything home that was "hot".

During the period of November 7, through November 11, 1974, KAREN was very distraught. She was upset because of the high readings obtained from the body samples that she submitted on November 7, and in her own mind, she was convinced that she was going to die. However, after going through the thorough examination at Los Alamos, she had a better insight into her physical condition and found that she had no "lung burden" and all indications were that her contamination problem was not serious. Her spirits picked up considerably after this.

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In regard to information concerning the alteration of fuel rod records, he has no specific information or personal knowledge in this area. KAREN revealed nothing to him in regard to specifics.

This information was not surprising to him because he had been previously employed at the Crescent Facility and quit because he was disenchanted. He felt "that the place was nothing but a numbers mill" ad their quality control procedures would be somewhat questionable. While he was working there, he made no effort to document any derelictions in quality control, which he observed, but he is aware that such things had occurred in the past and would likely occur again. He cannot give any specifics concerning these derelictions.

KAREN was quite upset about the overall situation at the plant, including union-company relations, safety and so on, and he felt that it was best that she not worry about these matters as much as she did. Whenever she would bring anything up concerning KMC, he would cut her off and not let her discuss the matter, for he felt it was better for her to try to put these thoughts aside. This is one reason why he knows as little as he does know concerning KAREN's allegations.

It is his understanding that [redacted] b6 b7C has some tapes relative to these allegations. The information contained in the tapes is the information that was previously given to the AEC at the safety meeting in Washington,D.C. and they included some additional telephone conversations from local people who were not in attendance at the meeting. Most of the information that [redacted] has, if not all, has previously been given to AEC.

He had been in contact with KAREN's parents in Texas and found that they had in KAREN's effects, some negatives that may have related to KAREN's allegations concerning alteration of fuel rod documents. This material was sent to him and examination determined that the two negatives pertinent to examinations made in late 1973 and did not relate to the fuel rod falsification matter.

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He never heard KAREN mention the name of a specific individual as having been involved in the fuel rod falsification matter; however, on the evening of December 3, 1974, he received a telephone call from an "Oklahoman" and "Times" reporter, [redacted] that supposedly a former employee by the name of [redacted] was involved in the falsification. How [redacted] got this name, he does not know.

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FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/10/74

SHERRI L. ELLIS, temporary residence - Broadway Motel, Edmond, Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

She is employed as an analyst at the Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), Nuclear Facility, located near Crescent, Oklahoma. As of January 2, 1975, she will have been working for the company one year. ELLIS advised she can be contacted through her parents [redacted] and [redacted] who live [redacted] on a farm road. She was the roommate of KAREN SILKWOOD, who is now deceased. She and KAREN shared an apartment located at 908 North Washington, Apartment #2, Edmond, Oklahoma, and shared the apartment with KAREN for about two months prior to KAREN's death. She was not really what one would call a close friend of KAREN's. They shared the apartment for mutual convenience. Prior to moving in with KAREN, she was living at home and wanted to get away and was anticipating attending Central State University (CSU) in Edmond. About this time KAREN had a fight with her boyfriend, DREW STEPHENS. DREW lived in a house on Northwest 48th. KAREN lived there with him. ELLIS stated she believes they truly loved one another but they both were coming off a divorce and apparently had decided to both remain "free." From time to time either KAREN or DREW would do something, such as go out with someone else to demonstrate their freedom.

DREW became briefly involved with another girl and had invited her over to his house as she understands, and while this was acceptable under their agreement, KAREN got mad and got the apartment she and KAREN shared. KAREN did not stay mad very long and moved back in with DREW shortly after they acquired the apartment.

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Interviewed on 12/5/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # OKLAHOMA CITY 159-45

by SA [redacted] mbs Date dictated 12/9/74

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KAREN spent very little time at the apartment and almost every night was at DREW's. She would see KAREN only infrequently at best, inasmuch as they worked different shifts - KAREN worked days and she worked "graveyards."

KAREN was very much a union-oriented person; however, ELLIS stated she (ELLIS) was not a union-oriented person, has not joined the union, and is not thinking about joining the union. When KAREN would try to discuss company and union problems with her, she would simply turn KAREN off and say there were more important things to talk about. Therefore, KAREN and she would not even discuss topics in this area, let alone KAREN confiding in her concerning any important information relative to the company and union. ELLIS stated she is aware of the fact that KAREN did not fully trust her and certainly would not disclose to her any union secrets.

KAREN's boyfriend, DREW, would not discuss union affairs with KAREN. DREW had worked at the plant himself until about September, 1974, and quit after he became very disgusted with the company. DREW is the type of person that when he is done with something, he is done with it. He was done with the plant, the union, and so he did not care what was going on out there.

On the evening of November 12, 1974, DREW, KAREN, and she returned from Los Alamos, New Mexico, where they were examined at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) facility in regard to a contamination incident. They got back into town sometime around 11:00 p.m. and the three of them briefly stopped by a night club to pick up a friend of hers. Thereafter the four of them went to DREW's house where they all spent the night. During the course of the evening they drank "Bloody Marys"that were mixed with 190 proof "Ever Clear" grain alcohol. They did not measure the amount of alcohol that they poured into each drink but gaged the drink by eye. The drinks were about four fingers each. KAREN had perhaps three or four such drinks.

She got up the next morning about the same time KAREN did and briefly saw her at the house. During this time she did not observe KAREN drink any other alcoholic beverage.

She and KAREN went to the plant that morning in their respective cars. KAREN went into union negotiations and she (ELLIS) met with AEC representatives. She did not see KAREN afterwards. She can not really say if KAREN on the morning of November 13, 1974, was high or low emotionally because of her limited contact; however, the previous evening KAREN was perhaps more relaxed than any time that she had seen KAREN. KAREN had been very distraught over her contamination and apparently thought she was going to die as a result. The physical they took, however, in New Mexico put KAREN's true physical condition in proper respective and thus relieved KAREN considerably.

She has no personal knowledge concerning KAREN's fatal car accident. Her first impression upon hearing about the accident was that KAREN possibly committed suicide but when she later heard that KAREN's car might have been forced off the road, she could see something like that happening too. Just what happened, she does not know. She has absolutely no suspects in the matter if there was truly foul play. She never heard KAREN say that she was in fear of her life; that is, she never said that she thought any member of the company, an ex-girlfriend of DREW's, or any other person was after her.

She knew that KAREN and DREW had a meeting set up with a union representative, [redacted] for the evening of November 13, 1974, but she did not know the purpose of the meeting. She did not know that a New York Times reporter was supposed to be at this meeting. She thought that the meeting was to be at DREW's house so she went over to DREW's house about 7:00 p.m. on November 13, 1974, and found no one there. She thereafter left after waiting briefly. b6 b7C

She knew that KAREN had been going around picking up information regarding the health situation at the Crescent plant, but did not know anything else about KAREN's activities. She did not know that KAREN had made any allegations concerning falsification of fuel rod records.

About October 31, 1974, KAREN was involved in a wreck between Guthrie and the plant. KAREN said a cow had been out on the road and she went off the road when she tried to get around the cow. KAREN wrecked the back end of her car at that time. Another employee of the plant,

[redacted] who came to work just a short time prior to when KAREN called about the accident, said she too had seen a cow on the road at about the place where KAREN indicated the wreck had occurred. KAREN told her that she tried to flag down a couple of cars but was unsuccessful in doing so. She walked back to her car and "took a pill" and walked to a nearby farmhouse from where she called. She does not know anything about KAREN having been prescribed sleeping pills at this time. b6 b7C

However, on November 10, 1974, Dr. [redacted] who was examining them at Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City, gave them both a prescription for Valium for their nerves. He made only one prescription in KAREN's name. She obtained two of the pills while KAREN got the rest. She does not know if KAREN received any other medication by prescription at Los Alamos, New Mexico, thereafter. b6 b7C

If KAREN stole some nuclear material from KMC, she certainly would not have told her (ELLIS) because KAREN knows that she would have turned her in. She is totally afraid of Plutonium and certainly would not have stood for KAREN ever bringing any Plutonium or other radioactive material into their apartment.

If KAREN had stolen some material from the plant it would seem that she would have had a better idea of the nature of her contamination problem, but she acted very concerned and during the examination at the Baptist Hospital, she told her (ELLIS) that she had radioactive material in her lungs and was breathing it out into the atmosphere.

She does not think that if KAREN had stolen any material she would have dared told DREW because she believes that DREW would not go along with such an irresponsible act. She feels that if KAREN did steal some nuclear material, she did it on her own.

She has no information whatsoever which would indicate that KAREN was salting her urine and fecal samples with radioactive material.

She was at the apartment on November 7, 1974, when the apartment was being checked for contamination. She was present at the discovery of the kit which contained the two

hyperdermic needles, the syringe, and the vial, which was filled with some sort of fluid. She was very shocked when this kit was discovered and had never seen it before. She did not know what it could have been used for, other than for shooting drugs. She never observed DREW or KAREN "shoot up" and feels that this would have been a very unlikely thing for them to do. She certainly would not be surprised to learn that DREW and KAREN used marijuana. In her opinion, however, they would nevergo so far as to use drugs injected into their veins.

The first night that KAREN had spent at the apartment in a good long while, was the evening of November 6, 1974. She spent the night with DREW. They may have also spent the previous night there but she is not sure since she worked. On Wednesday night they were sharing a pizza at the apartment when KAREN casually mentioned that she had gotten contaminated the day before. She did not pick up on KAREN's remark and nothing was further said about the matter.

She was at the apartment Thursday morning and just got home when KAREN called and said some people were coming to the apartment to check it for contamination. She could not believe the remark KAREN made and just went to bed. Later on that afternoon, however, the apartment was checked and determined to be contaminated. It was also determined that she had surface contamination herself.

To her knowledge, KAREN never broke down to such a point that she was crying in regard to her contamination. KAREN did act as if she were truly concerned. Her understanding of the contamination incident was that it was a result of there being a leak in the gloves, which were in the glove box KAREN had been working out of. On November 5, 1974. When she learned on November 13, 1974, that the company had apparently found nothing wrong with the gloves, it indicated KAREN was a liar. She believes that it is likely that KAREN was aware of this information prior to the time she died.

Sometime during mid October, 1974, perhaps two weeks before the contamination incident, KAREN made the remark that she was considering taking a vacation and committing herself to Norman. She said that everything (company and union) was building up within her and she was getting confused and needed to rest. She also stated she needed to talk to someone about it. ELLIS does not know for sure but assumed that KAREN was serious when she said this. KAREN had also told her

that she had previously received therapy and did have a psychiatrist somewhere.

ELLIS has no personal knowledge concerning KAREN's allegations about falsification of fuel rod records. KAREN did not keep any documents or papers at the apartment. ELLIS felt that if KAREN did keep papers, she would probably have kept them at DREW's house. She does not know of any items, such as papers, notebooks, etc., which might have been missing from KAREN's car after the accident.

FD-3[illegible] (RE[illegible]-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/11/74

[redacted] Crescent, Oklahoma, furnished the following information: b6 b7C

He is employed by the Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC) at the Crescent Nuclear Facility where he is a nonunion salaried employee working the Uranium Plant X-Ray Section.

On the evening of November 13, 1974, he went home from work and was thereafter contacted by his wife, who informed him she had a flat tire between Oklahoma City and Crescent on Highway 74, at a location some 12 or 15 miles south of Crescent. He called on a co-worker, [redacted] a KMC office salaried employee (nonunion). [redacted] picked him up and they drove down Highway 74 past the Crescent facility, past the intersection of State Highway 33, and continued on south to where his car was with its falt tire. They stayed only long enough to change its flat tire, and he and [redacted] thereafter proceeded up State Highway 74, towards Crescent. b6 b7C

About one and a half miles south of the intersection of State Highway 33 and State Highway 74, they happened upon a wreck. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), had not yet arrived at the scene. There were five or six people there and perhaps two or three cars. He does not know the identity of any of the persons at the wreck scene. There was a Negro man and his wife who stayed only momentarily. It is his impression that the wreck was discovered by a white male driving a pickup truck. He cannot describe the pickup truck. It is his understanding that the pickup truck driver was able to see partially into the culvert where the wrecked car came to rest. Apparently persons in passenger cars would not be able to see the car from the road since their point of view would be closer to the ground.

He got out of his car and looked at the wrecked car which was a white foreign sub-compact which had been extensively damaged. The pickup truck driver advised him that he believed there was possibly a person pinned in the car.

The car was off on the east side of the road in a culvert opening. The car was laying on the left side with the front of the car pointing toward the culvert opening and very

Interviewed on 12/9/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] /psh Date dictated 12/10/74 b6 b7C

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close to the mouth opening. It was as if someone had tried to drive the car on its side through the culvert. He had difficulty visualizing in his own mind as to how the car had ended up positioned as it was. He first assumed that the car had come directly off the top of the road over the culvert into the ditch. He later found out that the car had been traveling south and gone off the east side of the road, traveled down the bar ditch for a considerable distance and entered the culvert area from the north side.

He took a flashlight and went to the car and could see a white feamle in the driver's seat. She appeared to be dead. She was motionless and he could detect no sign of breathing. It appeared as if the steering wheel had pushed against and almost pinned her to the ceiling. There was blood on the girl's face which had partially dried.

After he did determine that there was indeed a person trapped in the car, he informed his friend, [redacted] who went to make sure the police and OHP had been contacted. He remained at the accident scene. One of the persons at the scene wanted to turn the car over from its side to its wheels. He suggested that inasmuch as the occupant appeared dead and that first aid could not be administered, that the wreck scene be maintained as it was until the arrival of the OHP. He noted that a woman's purse was laying on the ground next to the wreck and he would not let anyone pick this purse up until the OHP got there. b6 b7C

He did not recognize the wrecked car, but he, after first seeing the girl in the car, thought she possibly was a person he knew, KAREN SILKWOOD, who was also employed at the Crescent facility. Because of the position of her face and the blood upon it, he would not be sure in his identification.

He had been at the wreck site for only a few minutes when the OPH arrived on the scene. The OHP trooper assisted by one or two other bystanders, turned the car over. It was at this point he recognized the occupant of the car as being KAREN SILKWOOD. The ambulance from the Guthrie Fire Department arrived shortly after the OHP and it was necessary to force the door open with an air jack on the driver's side in order to extract the body. The ambulance immediately departed the scene.

[redacted] of the Ford garage in Crescent arrived on the scene about the time the ambulance left. [redacted] b6 b7C

was driving his garage wrecker.

He and [redacted] left the scene before [redacted] made any effort to remove the car. When he first arrived on the scene, he looked into the wrecked car rather thoroughly to insure that there was not a person such as a small child also trapped in the car. He cannot recall seeing any papers or documents in the car, and he does not know of any personel effects that KAREN may have had in the purse which he saw on the ground. The purse was recovered by the OHP tropper who investigated the accident. b6 b7C

The car was very heavily damaged, particularly to the front end. The windshield was knocked clear out of the car and the top and sides of the car appeared damaged as well. He cannot see what the extent of the damage was to the rear end of the car, but he did not see anything in regard to the rear end of the car which would be outstanding in his mind.

He cannot say exactly when he arrived at the accident, but it must have been sometime between 7:30 and 8 p.m. He and [redacted] may have possibly driven by the wreck headed south after it had occurred, but without noticing the car off the road and in the culvert. He is not sure when he left his house to go fix the tire, but it may have been sometime a little after 7 p.m. b6 b7C

He did not see anything unusual in his trip from Crescent to where his car was located, nor did he see anything unusual between where his car had been located and where the wreck had occurred. He did not recall seeing any speeding or erratic driving vehicles, and did not recall seeing the SILKWOOD car on the road prior to its accident.

Neither he nor [redacted] were dispatched to the scene of the accident by the company. They came there only by chance. b6 b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/74

[redacted] Crescent, Oklahoma, furnished the following information: b6 b7C

He is employed at the nuclear plant owned by Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC), which is located just south of Crescent, Oklahoma. He is the chairman of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) Local Bargaining Committee and is considered to be the highest union member employed at the KMC plant.

The company and union have been in a prolonged period of contract negotiations. The company and union in late November, reached agreement and the union membership ratified the agreement.

Prior to reaching an agreement, he and two or three other union members were imminently involved in these negotiations. On November 13, 1974, a meeting was scheduled for the then on-going negotiations. An international representative from Tulsa, Oklahoma, [redacted] KAREN SILKWOOD, [redacted] and he were to meet about 8:30 am at the Hub Cafe in Crescent for a pre-negotiation conference. KAREN did not arrive for this conference. However, she joined the group when they were enroute to the plant. b6 b7C

The group entered into negotiations with the company, which continued throughout the better part of the day, breaking up around 3:30 pm. After the negotiating session, KAREN and [redacted] stayed at the plant while KAREN talked to AEC representatives about her recent contamination incident. b6 b7C

She and [redacted] thereafter joined some 12 to 15 union members at the Hub Cafe for a rank and file union meeting. During the course of the evening, KAREN appeared to be a little upset about her contamination problem. She started crying during the course of the meeting, apparently as a result of her concern. He is aware of the fact that [redacted] because of his concern over KAREN's condition, asked KAREN if he could drive her home after the meeting. KAREN refused his offer. He is not sure the exact time KAREN left, in that he did not see her go, but believes she must have left after the meeting broke up and likely, departed sometime around 7:00. He never b6 b7C

Interviewed on 12/3/74 at Crescent, Oklahoma File Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] jr Date dictated 12/9/74 b6 b7C

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saw KAREN after the meeting.

At about 9:00 pm or 9:30 pm, he received a call at home from a [redacted] an operator at the plant, who said he had just seen a wrecker pulling a car, which appeared to him to be very similar to KAREN's car to the Ford garage in Crescent. b6 b7C

He thereafter went to the garage, which was closed at the time he got there, but he could see through the windows a white Honda behind a wrecker. The right rear tail light was broken out. He was aware of the fact that KAREN's car had a broken right rear tail light. The car was also heavily damaged to the front end. In his mind, he was positive that this was KAREN's car, however, he conducted inquiry to positively determine this. He contacted the dispatcher at the Crescent Police Department, who would not reveal to him the identity of the driver, inasmuch as the driver was dead. Apparently, there were not releasing any detailed information concerning the wreck pending notification of the next of kin.

He thereafter contacted a member of the KMC Health-Physics Unit, [redacted] to advise [redacted] that he believed KAREN was either seriously injured or may be even dead. He did so because he was aware of the fact KAREN was contaminated however, he did not know the degree of her contamination. He was apprehensive that should medical personnel be working on KAREN, there might be some danger to these persons from being exposed to any possible internal contamination within the body of KAREN. b6 b7C

He was successful in subsequent contact with the Crescent Police Department in confidentially determining that there had indeed had been an accident in which KAREN was fatally injured.

He does not have any personal information or even any suspicions concerning the circumstances of KAREN's fatal accident. To his knowledge, no union member at KMC or any other KMC employee has any personal knowledge concerning KAREN's accidnt. He feels that it would be highly unlikely that the company was involved in any foul play connected with her death. He heard a rumor that KMC salaried employee, [redacted] was at the scene of the accident sometime after it had occurred, but he has no information that would lead him to believe that the company had caused [redacted] to go to that scene. b6 b7C

In regard to further activities on November 13, 1974, he was in close contact with KAREN for most of the day, however, he did not observe her taking any type of medication. He is aware that she has from time to time taken medication; in fact, KAREN sometime earlier in November, had received a letter of reprimand from the company for taking some type of medication during a break. It is against company rules to take any medication that might possibly interfere with your alertness or work performance.

He cannot positively state what KAREN drank during November 13, 1974, but he recalls that she preferred to drink Dr. Peppers and he seems to recall her drinking a glass of ice tea at the union meeting. He certainly did not see her drink any beer or any other form of alcoholic beverage during the course of the day, which was also including the union meeting. In the last five years, that he has been an active member of the union, he cannot recall having seen anyone bring "booze" to a union meeting and he would have been very much surprised if anyone had a bottle at the meeting and in some way offered KAREN a drink.

He has heard some speculation that an incident involving a plutonium plant employee, [redacted] which occurred sometime on or about November 16, 1974, may possibly have been related to KAREN's accident, but he finds this theory rather hard to believe. It is his understanding that someone had been "running up behind and following close [redacted] car". b6 b7C

He did not know anything about KAREN's supposed meeting with the "New York Times" and [redacted] in Oklahoma City, which had been reportedly set for sometime later on the evening of November 13, 1974. He feels if that if anyone in the local union would have had knowledge of this meeting, it would have been him, but he was completely unaware of this meeting. He is somewhat offended that he was not included in this meeting if it was as important as the media had indicated. In fact, he did not know [redacted] was anywhere in the vicinity until about 10:00 pm when [redacted] called him at his residence at [redacted] told him that he was to have met KAREN in Oklahoma City between 7:00 and 8:00 pm and she had not arrived at this meeting. He told [redacted] that from his information, he understood that KAREN had been killed in a wreck. b6 b7C

[redacted] DREW STEPHENS and a "New York Times" reporter thereafter came to his residence, arriving sometime between 11:00 and midnight. They had further conversation about the wreck and telephone calls were made from his residence, including a call to the hospital in Guthrie, Oklahoma, where they learned that KAREN was in fact dead and had been taken to a local funeral home. b6 b7C

From his conversations with [redacted] and the others at his residence, he learned for the first time that the purpose for KAREN's meeting with the group was to discuss allegations against the company concerning falsification of documents, which assure quality control of plutonium fuel rods, which are fabricated at the Crescent Facility. He does not know what if any type of document KAREN had to support these allegations. He does not recall seeing any papers that might relate to these allegations in KAREN's possession. He seems to recall that KAREN at one time indicated that she had made some tape recordings relative to some problem perhaps concerning quality control and had sent the tapes to [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] KAREN SILKWOOD, [redacted] some national union representatives and he and AEC in late September, 1974 had a health-safety meeting in Washington,D.C. The meeting was limited to discussions regarding health-safety. He does recall hearing [redacted] and KAREN in conversations outside of the September meetings disucssing with [redacted] in very broad generalities problems concerning quality control at the Crescent Facility. b6 b7C

On November 14, 1974, he went to Las Vegas, Nevada, for a nuclear council meeting and so he does not have much personal informatin concerning events immediately subsequent to November 13, that related to the overall SILKWOOD situation. [redacted] was in attendance at this Las Vegas meeting and told him that the union thought that she might have been run off the road by someone unknown and they were, therefore, going to hire an independent accident investigator, a [redacted] made the comment that it did not look that there had been a collision prior to the wreck, but she had gone off the road into a ditch. He said something about KAREN was supposed to have had something at the time of the wreck, apparantly meaning some papers, but [redacted] did not elaborate. b6 b7C

KAREN, even though she had been employed at the nuclear facility for quite sometime prior to the September meeting in Washington,D.C., she did not appear to be overly concerned regarding the possible danger of contamination from plutonium, however, after this health-safety meeting, she appeared to be much more cognizant of the potential hazards from plutonium. In fact, it was his impression that she was unaware that plutonium could possible cause cancer in contaminated persons until she attended this meeting. This may have accounted for some of her distress connected with her contamination incident.

FD-302 (REV. 1-27-71)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/2/74

[redacted] Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC), furnished the following information: b6 b7C

A review of KMC records reflects that KAREN GAY SILKWOOD was hired by KMC on August 3, 1972. She was hired under the name of KAREN GAY MEADOWS, was divorced and reverted to her maiden name of SILKWOOD. She was a white female, born February 19, 1946.

At the time of her death, SILKWOOD worked as an analyst in the Metalagraphic Plutonium Section of the Plutonium Laboratory, Crescent Nuclear Facility.

[redacted] made available a copy of SILKWOOD's application dated July 31, 1972. b6 b7C

In regard to SILKWOOD's roommate, SHERRI L. ELLIS, she was hired by KMC on December 27, 1973 and works as an analyst in the Wet Laboratory, Plutonium Laboratory, Crescent Nuclear Facility. She is described as a white female, born October 13, 1953.

In regard to SILKWOOD's boy friend, DREW STEPHENS, he formerly worked for KMC also as an analyst at the Crescent Facility from August 11, 1969 to September 20, 1974. He is a white male, born May 22, 1950.

[redacted] made available copies of ELLIS' and STEPHEN's KMC applications dated December 21, 1973 and June 16, 1969 respectively. b6 b7C

KMC is currently conducting investigation relative to the KAREN SILKWOOD contamination incident and other related matters. Much work remains yet to be done.

As a point of information, it might be well to consider certain events, which have occurred previously which may well have some bearing on the SILKWOOD incident and related matters. DREW STEPHENS, who is active in the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) quit his job

Interviewed on 11/27/74 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

SA [redacted] /jr Date dictated 11/29/74 b6 b7C

by

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with KMC in September, 1974. It is his understanding that STEPHENS was rather unhappy with KMC, but had been doing a good job for the company prior to quitting. Apparently STEPHENS felt that he was not getting proper recogition for some of the jobs that he had done. He had two contemporaries with the company, both of whom continued on to college while they worked for KMC and both of whom received degrees. STEPHENS did not continue his education and therefore, fell behind as far as being able to compete for promotions.

Additionally, STEPHENS' father, [redacted] b6 b7C was one of the key persons who helped KMC establish the Crescent Nuclear Facility. It is his understanding that [redacted] had personality clash with his Project Head, a [redacted] and therefore, quit KMC and went to work in the Marketing Division of another oil company. It is quite possible that the difficulty that STEPHENS' father had with company carried on over into the STEPHENS' family home life and may have had an adverse effect on DREW.

[redacted] again stated DEW was very active in b6 b7C the OCAW and was one of several persons involved in the leadership of the OCAW Local. Two years ago, the local got its "ears pinned back" in contract negotiations with the company and it appeared that since that time, the union had lost popularity with many of its members who worked at the Crescent Facility. Even though DREW terminated in September, he has continued to remain active in the OCAW. His girl friend, KAREN, also was very active in the OCAW. DREW, KAREN and their associates had control of the local until about three or four months ago, at which time another group from within the union seemed to dominate the leadership.

It is well to note that at the time of the SILKWOOD contamination incident, that the union and company were in a period of new contract negotiations, which contract incidentally, was overwhelmingly accepted by the union membership on November 26, 1974.

OC 159-45

KAREN was a committee woman with OCAW and in that capacity, in late September, 1974, KAREN and union members [redacted] (First Name Unknown) [redacted] and the present local president, [redacted] went to Washington, D.C. to participated in a meeting of the Safety Arm of the National OCAW Union and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). It is his understanding that the itinerary for this meeting was to include two atomic installations, (other than Crescent) and complaints regarding the Crescent Facility were thrown in by KAREN and the other local members, apparently as an afterthought. b6 b7C

At the September meeting, KAREN, after getting approval from the Local President [redacted] presented to AEC a four page list of allegations concerning safety violations at the KMC Crescent Facility. The first that KMC was aware of these allegations was from newspaper publicity generated by the SILKWOOD contamination problem and her subsequent death. Procedures have been in the past established for such allegations to be referred to the company, however, the company was not notified. It was only within the last week that the company received the allegations concerning safety from AEC. b6 b7C

It might be also well to consider that at the time of the death of SILKWOOD, KMC was completely unaware that she had apparently scheduled a meeting with [redacted] of the "New York Times". Nor was the company aware that SILKWOOD had collected documents, which purportedly related to the alleged safety problems at KMC Crescent Facility and/or allegations concerning falsification of documents for fuel rods. b6 b7C

Whether or not any of the documents or papers in the possession of SILKWOOD at the time of her death are actually missing, KMC does not know. [redacted] stated that he is aware of the fact that the OHP and wrecker personnel did see some papers in SILKWOOD's car after the accident and he is also aware that an AEC representative, a [redacted] who checked SILKWOOD's car for radiation at Crescent, Oklahoma, on November 14, 1974, made a check of some papers. It is his understanding that [redacted] had indicated that the papers that he checked were "union notes" and [redacted] was unable to be more specific concerning the notes' contents. It is his further understanding that b6 b7C

the contents of the car, including the papers, was turned over to DREW STEPHENS and to KAREN's parents.

DREW STEPHENS took possession of the car after it was released by the wrecker service at Crescent and he has reportedly held the car since that time at some secret location in Oklahoma City. It is his understanding that DREW took several photographs of the car and on November 24, 1974 left one roll of film in a "drop" in a telephone booth at 23rd and Broadway for "The Daily Oklahoman". He does not know the reason for this type of secrecy in connection with the SILKWOOD incident.

KAREN SILKWOOD and her roommate, SHERRI ELLIS, were sent to the AEC Facility at Los Alamos for medical checks during the period November 11-12, 1974. On November 13, 1974, she participated in negotiating season at the Crescent Facility, met with the AEC and later attended a union meeting in the City of Crescent, which was held in a local cafe, possibly the "Hub". She left the union meeting sometime shortly after 7:00 pm. Reportedly, several people at the meeting were concerned about SILKWOOD's ability to drive at the time she left the meeting. These included an OCAW committee man [redacted] b6 b7C

It was about 7:30 pm at a point seven and one-fourth miles south of Crescent where SILKWOOD's fatal accident occurred. It is his understanding that two union employees, whose identities are presently unknown to him, were among the first to stop and help at the accident scene.

He is aware that SILKWOOD had previously had a wreck on or about October 31, 1974, at which time the car in which she had the fatal accident had received considerable rear-end damage. As a result of this October wreck, SILKWOOD complained of neck pain and consulted a [redacted] who has offices on May Avenue in Oklahoma City. It is his understanding that [redacted] did prescribe the drug which SILKWOOD was under the influence of at the time of her death. b6 b7C

It is also his understanding that SILKWOOD had another type of medication prescribed to her while she was at Los Alamos during the period of November 11-12, 1974; however, he does not know what type of drug was prescribed.

His company has interviewed SHERRI ELLIS at length and SHERRI has indicated that to further complicate the situation, that KAREN had told her that she had an affair with [redacted] which started in [redacted] and she was looking forward to continuing this relationship with [redacted] since he was there in connection with the contamination incident and related matters. b6 b7C

The continuation of this affair, she assumes, would have to be rather secretative inasmuch as KAREN was at this time still living with DREW STEPHENS.

SHERRI also continued that KAREN had said that the information that she was going to pass on to [redacted] and the "New York Times" reporter was lacking somewhat in quality and she was very disappointed in this regard. b6 b7C

SHERRI has also indicated that KAREN was going through periods of deep depression and was supposedly very worried about her contamination and needed to take medication to sleep. She was also reportedly visiting a psychologist, identity as yet unknown, in Oklahoma City.

In regard to the falsification of the fuel rod records, his office and representatives of AEC have interviewed at length [redacted] who resides at [redacted] and who is presently [redacted] worked for about a 11 month period for the company at the Crescent Facility, terminating on [redacted]. He was a fuel rod inspector and microscopically b6 b7C

inspected the stainless steel welds which attached the caps to the fuel rods. He would visually inspect the welds with a microscope making impressions with highly magnified photographs of the welds, looking for voids and inclusions. During the 11 month period, he inspected some 1700 fuel rod units and admittedly altered the photographic negatives of less than 50 rods with the use of a felt-tip pen.

[redacted] claimed that he did this of his own volition. He claimed that his immediate supervisor had no knowledge of these acts and also claimed that he received no encouragement or instruction from KMC to make these alterations. [redacted] claimed he had told no other person of these acts. b6 b7C

[redacted] made full admissions both to the company and AEC. b6 b7C

[redacted] indicated that the primary reason that he did this thing was to increase his productivity inasmuch as the person who was inspecting his work, [redacted] was rejecting an abnormal number of units which should not have been rejected because there were no flaws. b6 b7C

Even though [redacted] had indicated that no one else knew of the alterations that he was making to the negatives, two union members, [redacted] appeared to be knowledgeable of [redacted] acts and it was [redacted] who first informed the AEC in specific detail in this regard. [redacted] was able to identify a particular fuel rod assembly as to number, thus pinpointing an altered negative. b6 b7C

The first knowledge that KMC had of the alterations was as a result of media publicity concerning a union telegram to AEC and the Department of Justice reporting the allegations.

To date, the company has discovered some 37 altered negatives, however, apparently one negative is presently missing.

OC 159-45

Various items were recovered from SILKWOOD's apartment in a contaminated state. These items are being stored in a safe place at the Crescent Facility inasmuch as they are "hot" with radiation. These items included two roaches (partially smoked marijuana cigarettes) and several inches of marijuana plant. Also recovered at her apartment, but not "hot", is what appears to be a narcotics kit, which included a syringe, two needles, a small vial and a larger vial. Also obtained at the apartment was a list which appears to be a separate budget for SHERRI ELLIS and KAREN. One of the budget entries is for an item "dope" with the maximum amount indicated for this entry under KAREN's name of $300.

There are indications that KAREN had contact with several juveniles in the immediate Crescent area and had reportedly supplied these juveniles with drugs and had reportedly also indicated to these persons that she had diverted a quantity of nuclear material. Further inquiry is being made by AEC and KMC in this regard.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
OKLAHOMA CITY	OKLAHOMA CITY	12/13/74	11/25-12/12/74

TITLE OF CASE
UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

REPORT MADE BY

TYPED BY jr b6 b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE
LMRDA; OOJ

REFERENCES: Bureau airtels to Oklahoma City, dated 11/21,25, and 27/74.
Oklahoma City teletype to the Bureau, dated 11/19/74.
Oklahoma City airtels dated 11/27 and 12/11/74.

-P-

ENCLOSURES

TO THE BUREAU

Enclosed are three sets each of five photographs of the accident scene and five photographs of SILKWOOD's car.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☒ NONE					ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

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1- WFO
2- Oklahoma City (159-45)

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Notations

b6 b7C

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159-45-62

A

COVER PAGE

OC 159-45

ADMINISTRATIVE

As previously indicated to the Bureau by referenced Oklahoma City communications, SILKWOOD was employed at the Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, which facility is considered a critical Atomic Energy licensed facility. Oklahoma City maintains a separate file regarding the facility, [redacted] b3 b7E and maintains liaison with the facility and has included the facility within current division contingency plans in accordance with existing Bureau instructions.

Continued liaison with KMC and AEC representatives indicates that the circumstances of SILKWOOD's contamination incident on or about November 5, 1974 are yet not fully understood, nor are the anomalous readings obtained from body samples submitted by SILKWOOD understood. There apparently is the possibility that a small quantity of nuclear material may have been diverted in regard to the contamination incident and it is also possible that the SILKWOOD body samples were "salted" with nuclear material. It is understood that both AEC and KMC investigation relative to these two aspects is ongoing.

It is noted included in the several allegations made against KMC was an allegation that documents relative to fuel rods fabricated at the Cimarron Facility were altered. As previously indicated, KMC and AEC representatives have obtained a statement from a former employee of the facility, [redacted] b6 b7C in which he admits he retouched inspection negatives for fuel rod quality control.

Leads are presently outstanding for Dallas to obtain copy of report of [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Lab in Dallas, who investigated SILKWOOD's fatal accident. When received, these results will be included in subsequent report prepared by Oklahoma City Division. b6 b7C

OC 159-45

Three copies of report being provided Bureau in view of Obstruction of Justice aspect of case and in the event that dissemination of report to AEC is desired.

LEADS

WFO - INFORMATION

Information copy furnished to WFO in view of outstanding investigation that division.

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, WDO, WILLIAM R. BURKETT, upon receipt of outstanding investigation at Dallas and WFO.

C*
Cover Page

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 2- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: [redacted] Office: Oklahoma City b6 b7C
Date: 12/13/74

Field Office File #: 159-45 Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis:

On or about 11/5/74, KAREN G. SILKWOOD, white female, DOB 2/19/46, a member of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) Local 5283, was involved in a contamination incident at her place of employment, Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC) Nuclear Products Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. Her apartment in Edmond, Oklahoma, was contaminated. SILKWOOD, her boyfriend, DREW STEPHENS, and her roommate, SHERRI ELLIS, were sent to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Facility, Los Alamos, New Mexico for examination on 11/10-12/74. On 11/13/74, SILKWOOD involved in union-company negotiations, met with AEC representatives and later attended a union meeting at Crescent. Two union members, [redacted] and [redacted] offered to drive her home from the meeting, b6 b7C for they thought she was in no condition to drive. SILKWOOD turned down offers, left meeting shortly after 7:00 pm and was involved in fatal one car accident 7.3 miles south of Crescent. Accident investigated by Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), whose official report revealed no indication of foul play in the accident. Autopsy indicates cause of death multiple injuries and that she was under influence of hypnotic drug, methaqualone at time of death. A trace of ethyl alcohol also found in her system. Allegations received from OCAW indicating that independent accident investigator hired by union suggests that SILKWOOD's car was hit from behind by another vehicle causing fatal accident. Oklahoma Highway Patrol has ruled out any such possibility. [redacted] a Sebring Ford (garage) employee, who helped move SILKWOOD car from culvert,

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1970 O - 406-840

said her car at one point had left rear quarter panel against wing wall of bridge (culvert). He cannot state specific condition regarding damage to rear end. [redacted] b6 b7C KMC employee, advised that SILKWOOD, after October union meeting Crescent, Oklahoma, spent night with her because SILKWOOD was in no condition to drive because of medication. SILKWOOD was involved in a one car accident on 10/31/74, not reported to OHP, at which time right rear of car received damage. Description of accident scene and damage to SILKWOOD car set out. DREW STEPHENS has no tangible information to support theory SILKWOOD met with foul play. STEPHENS said KAREN was using methaqualone, not as sleeping pills, but using them as downers, and that he has seen her under influence of the pills, finding her a little drowsy, but still very functional. STEPHENS had no specifics regarding SILKWOOD's contamination or allegations concerning quality control. SHERRF ELLIS has no personal knowledge concerning fatal car accident or related matters, including contamination. USA, Oklahoma City, requests written report prior to making final judgment concerning allegations.

-P-

ENCLOSURES

TO USA

Five photographs of accident scene and five photographs of SILKWOOD's car.

DETAILS:

OC 159-45

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b6
b7C

OC 159-45

I. PREDICATION

Investigation in this matter was initiated upon receipt of request from the U. S. Department of Justice dated November 20, 1974 as made by [redacted] b6 b7C Assistant Attorney General, as set forth below:

"It is hereby requested that the Bureau conduct a preliminary investigation into the matters alleged in the attached New York Times article of November 19, 1974 and the telegram of Mr. Anthony Mazzocchi, Legislative Director of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union.

"These allegations, if substantiated, may constitute violations of Section 530, Title 29, United States Code (through the impairment of Ms. Silkwood's rights guaranteed by Section 411, Title 29, United States Code) and Section 1505, Title 18, United States Code (in that Ms. Silkwood was a witness in a pending investigation before the Atomic Energy Commission)."

OC 159-45

II. CONTACT KERR MC GEE CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVES

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The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted]: b6 b7C

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

On November 21, 1974, [redacted] b6 b7C
Kerr McGee Corporation, and [redacted]
Kerr McGee Corporation, appeared at the Oklahoma City Office of the FBI to advise that they had been instructed by their company to advise the FBI that they were conducting an internal investigation within the Kerr McGee Corporation regarding allegations made by the Oil, Gas, and Atomic Workers International Union concerning safety procedures at the Kerr McGee Nuclear facility at Crescent, Oklahoma, and allegations surrounding the circumstances of the death of KAREN G. SILKWOOD, who was employed at the facility. They advised that they were extending the full co-operation and the resources of their company to the FBI in connection with the FBI's investigation into the SILKWOOD matter and indicated that they hoped that their investigation would in no way hinder the FBI investigation. They noted their company had given considerable co-operation to the Atomic Energy Commission who also is interested in several aspects of the SILKWOOD matter. They indicated that the company had rather belatedly started this internal investigation, having instituted it only two days previous.

On November 23, 1974, [redacted] b6 b7C
Kerr McGee Corporation, and [redacted]
Kerr McGee Corporation, both extended the full co-operation of their company to the FBI relative to the SILKWOOD matter and related matters involving the Kerr McGee Corporation. [redacted] advised that he hoped that the FBI would not limit their investigation only to the allegations made against the Kerr McGee Corporation by the union but would include thorough inquiry into other areas which he understands are within the jurisdiction of the FBI such as possible theft or diversion of nuclear

material, possible doctoring of SILKWOOD's biological specimens and determining who really was behind the falsification of the plutonium fuel rod records.

III. INVESTIGATION RELATIVE TO NOVEMBER 13, 1974 FATAL ACCIDENT

OC 159-45

IV. AUTOPSY - MEDICAL

V. INVESTIGATION REGARDING OCTOBER 31, 1974 ACCIDENT

VI. INTERVIEWS WITH DREW STEPHENS AND SHERRI ELLIS

OC 159-45

VII. CONTACT WITH USA

On December 4, 1974, an on December 12, 1974, SA [redacted] discussed the prosecutive aspects of this matter with U. S. Attorney [redacted] Western District of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. [redacted] advised that it would appear that investigation thus far has apparently failed to substantiate the allegations that the SILKWOOD fatal accident was a result of foul play. However, [redacted] would like to hae the opportunity to study at length the results of the FBI investigation conducted in this matter before making final judgment. He is particularly interested in seeing the results of the investigation conducted by the independent accident investigator, [redacted] He is desirous that the Atomic Energy Commission also furnish the results of their completed investigation to the Department and his office so that consideration can be given to other aspects of the case, such as possible diversion or theft of nuclear material and the merits of the allegations concerning alteration of quality control records of fuel rods.

b6
b7C

12/24/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ACTING SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) P

UNSUBS;
KAREN C. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City report of SA [redacted] dated 12/13/74; Bureau telephone call to Oklahoma City on 12/24/74; and Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau dated 12/19/74. b6 b7C

Enclosed for Baltimore are two copies of referenced Oklahoma City airtel dated 12/19/74.

On 12/24/74, [redacted] Labor Section, FBIHQ, telephonically contacted the Oklahoma City Office to advise that FBIHQ had been contacted relative to report resulting from Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) investigating relative to captioned case and related matters. [redacted] of AEC Operations, 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, telephone number 973-7353, was in possession of the report and desired to provide same to the FBI. b6 b7C

[redacted] would be available on the afternoon of 1/2/75 or 1/3/75 and requested that he be telephonically contacted by FBI representative prior to his coming by to pick up the report. b6 b7C

For the information of Baltimore, captioned case relates to a deceased employee of the Kerr McGee Corporation

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159-45-68

(KMC), Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, which facility is considered to be a critical AEC licensed facility. The facility has two production units - uranium enrichment plant and a plutonium fuel rod fabrication plant.

SILKWOOD was active in the affairs of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW).

On or about 11/5/74, SILKWOOD was involved in a contamination incident at the plant. Her residence was found to be contaminated. SILKWOOD and two others were sent to the AEC facility, Los Alamos, New Mexico, for examination on 11/10-12/74.

On 11/13/74, SILKWOOD, upon her return to Oklahoma was involved in union-company negotiations, and at about 7:30 p.m., 11/13/74, she was involved in a fatal one-car accident when reportedly she was enroute to meet with a union representative and a New York Times reporter.

OCAW made allegations that SILKWOOD's death was a result of foul play.

The Department requested an investigation re captioned case under LMRDA since allegations, if substantiated, may constitute violation through the impairment of SILKWOOD's rights (as a union member) guaranteed by the act and OOJ (in that SILKWOOD was a witness in a pending investigation before AEC).

For the further information of Baltimore, additional related allegations have been made re health and safety standards at the Cimarron Facility that SILKWOOD's contamination was contrived that body samples submitted by SILKWOOD were "salted" with radioactive material and quality control records re plutonium fuel rods were altered (by the company).

Several related investigations have been conducted by various departments (units) of AEC concerning the various aspects of this case. Some of the allegations, if substantiated, could possibly constitute violations of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA) within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

OC 159-45

LEADS:

BALTIMORE

AT BETHESDA, MARYLAND. Will contact [redacted] AEC Operations, 4350 East-West Highway, and obtain copy of AEC report relative to captioned matter.

b6
b7C

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 12/23/74

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (159-107) (RUC)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ

OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

Re Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau dated 11/27/74.

Enclosed for Oklahoma City is a copy of a report prepared by [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Lab, 1710 Bolt Street, Dallas, Texas, dated 12/15/74, concerning the fatal car accident of KAREN SILKWOOD on 11/13/74, and consisting of 17 pages and 20 photographs. b6 b7C

On 12/18/74, [redacted] made available the enclosed report, and further advised the original report was sent to the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), and that the OCAW has been advised that he is providing a copy of the report to the FBI, Dallas, Texas. b6 b7C

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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PD-350 (Rev. 7-10-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Silkwood Death Theory Disputed

New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — An investigator hired by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union has disputed the theory of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol about the death of Karen Silkwood, 28 years old, who had raised safety questions about a plutonium processing plant.

In a 37-page report received by the union Monday, A. O. Pipkin Jr., an investigator from Dallas, said a new microscopic investigation had shown that a dent in the left rear bumper of the car in which Miss Silkwood died was not caused by impact with a cement culvert or by the handling of the car by the wrecker.

Several days after Miss Silkwood's death on Nov. 13, a spokesman for the Oklahoma State Highway Patrol said her death had been caused by an accident and that the dent found by Pipkin in his preliminary investigation had been made by the wrecker or the culvert.

In his final report to the union, Pipkin said the combination of the dent and the configuration of the tracks found on the Oklahoma highway indicated that the crash had occurred after Miss Silkwood's car had been struck from the rear by another car.

It was a preliminary oral report about Pipkin's finding of the bumper dent that prompted the union's Washington representative, Anthony Mazzocchi, to ask the attorney-general, William B. Saxbe, on Nov. 18, to order an investigation by the Federal Bu

Orig: To Bur
12-24-74 nia

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: December 24, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennet
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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reau of Investigation of Miss Silkwood's death.

A spokesman for the FBI said Monday its investigation was not complete. The Atomic Energy Commission also has initiated investigations of Miss Silkwood's allegations about the nuclear fuel plant of the Kerr-McGee Corp., a few miles south of Crescent, Okla.

(Kerr - McGee Board Chairman Dean A. McGee declined to comment on the report Monday night, saying, "We prefer to wait and talk about it all at one time."

(He said that time would be when all possible facts about the matter have been learned. He said the collision has been probed "in detail" as part of the firm's internal investigation.)

At a meeting with the AEC in Washington on Sept. 27, Miss Silkwood, a laboratory technician, and two colleagues charged that work practices at the Kerr-Mcgee plant had endangered the lives and health of the 300 employees in the plant. The day she died, she was on her way to meet a reporter of The New York Times and an official of the union to present new charges that the plant was making faulty plutonium fuel rods and falsifying inspection rounds.

On the basis of the investigation by the two men, Pipkin concluded that "the dents on the left corner of the rear bumper and the left rear fender were not made due to impact with either the north or south wingwall (of the culvert) or the subsequent wrecker handling of vehicle one after impact and during its removal to the garage."

He said his opinion was that "there is enough circumstantial evidence present to indicate that vehicle one was struck from the rear by an unknown vehicle, causing it to go out of control, due either to inital impact or the combined impact and driver overreaction."

(Highway patrol Lt. Kenneth Vanhoy said Pipkin has agreed to furnish the patrol with a copy of his report, but that it hadn't arrived yet.

("We'll check his report and see if he has anything we haven't already considered," Vanhoy said. "He'll have to have something fairly strong because everything we have indicates it was an accidental death of a driver who was apparently asleep.")

7-1b

REPORT of the FBI LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: SAC, Oklahoma City

Date: December 23, 1974

FBI File No.

Lab. No. PC-L4261 MW

Re: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD
(Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ
CO: Oklahoma City

Specimens received 12/16/74

Q1 Paint from dented area of Honda
Q2 Scrapings from bumper of Honda

Result of examination:

The Q1 specimen from the dented area of the Honda contained paint particles exhibiting the following layer structure:

1. White enamel
2. Gray primer

The Q2 specimen from the bumper of the Honda contained one paint particle that matched those of Q1 in colors, textures, layer structure and types.

No significant material or paint which could be identified as foreign to the two-layered paint particles was found in Q1 or Q2.

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DOJ/FBI

159-45-71

Laboratory Transmittal Form
7-72

FBI
LABORATORY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) Date: December 23, 1974

From: Director, FBI

Re: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD
(Deceased)
LIEDL; COJ
CO: Oklahoma City

FBI File No.

Lab. No. PC-L4261 MW

Examination requested by: Oklahoma City

Reference: Airtel 12/11/74

Examination requested: Instrumental

Remarks:

Specimens Q1 and Q2 are being returned to your office under separate cover by registered mail.

DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE(S) IN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Enclosures (2) (1 Lab report)

ADMINISTRATIVE PA

DEC 25 1974

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DOJ/FBI

0-9 (Rev. 7-27-73)

FBI

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel

(Type in plaintext or code) (Priority)

12/24/74
(Date)

To: SAC, Oklahoma City (159-45)

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);
LRMDA; OOJ
OO: OC

ReButelcal to Oklahoma City 12/24/74.

This will confirm reButelcal wherein you were advised that on 12/24/74, [redacted] Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Operations 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, telephone 973-7353, contacted FBIHQ relative to a report prepared by AEC concerning captioned matter. [redacted] related he desired to brief representatives of the FBI concerning this report on either January 2 or 3, 1975. He requested he be telephonically contacted at the above number so that a definite date and time could be agreed upon.

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FILED

DEC 27 1974

FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY

(Do not type below this line.)

[redacted]

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159-45-73

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Contamination Suit Possible, Attorney Says

Sherri Ellis Seeks Medical Records From Kerr-McGee

By Alan Bromley

Sherri Ellis, Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. employee who was exposed to radiation during a plutonium spill at Kerr-McGee's Cimarron Facility near Crescent last summer, has threatened to sue the corporation to get copies of her health records.

Miss Ellis has hired Oklahoma City attorney D.C. Thomas to sue Kerr-McGee and possibly the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) if necessary to force release of the records.

Miss Ellis is the former roommate of Karen Silkwood — another Cimarron facility worker who died in a car crash near Crescent on Nov. 13. Miss Silkwood was en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and an official of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) where she planned to discuss safety hazards at the plant.

The girls' Edmond apartment was found to be contaminated by plutonium.

Thomas said he wants Miss Ellis' complete health records from the company, whether Kerr-McGee deems them pertinent or not.

Miss Ellis was contaminated in July in a plutonium spill at the plant. On Nov. 7 she was found to be internally contaminated — the same date Kerr-McGee officials realized Miss Silkwood was contaminated, according to the AEC.

Following the July incident, Miss Ellis wanted copies of her health records from the company, she said.

She said she made several efforts to see her medical reports, but the company either told her she was "O.K., or they beat around the bush."

She has not received any records from the July incident, according to Thomas.

Miss Ellis and employee David Beene were "the only people working the graveyard shift (midnight to 8 a.m.) when there was a spill (of plutonium) caused by a leak in a gasket — they wet vacuumed it up and were contaminated in the process," a Kerr - McGee source revealed.

According to the source, the leak has still not been repaired permanently.

"They're still using the room and haven't gotten a new gasket yet — a diaper (a plastic protective shield) is being used," the source said before the closing.

It's been at least five months since the gasket first leaked, and the delay in obtaining a new gasket is cause for concern, the source said.

"You can only hope it (the diaper) works," the source said.

A Kerr-McGee spokesman said he had "no comment" about the incident.

After it was learned in November that Miss Ellis, Miss Silkwood and the apartment were contaminated, the women and Drew Stephens, Miss Silkwood's boyfriend, were flown to Los Alamos, N.M., for extensive testing.

Some Results Given

It was learned there that both women were internally contaminated, according to the AEC.

Miss Ellis has received some of the Los Alamos test results, but only those from Nov. 8 through Nov. 18, she said.

She said she has tried to get more present data but has been unsuccessful.

"It's very discouraging," she said of her efforts.

The test results from Los Alamos, dated Nov. 11 and Nov. 12, reveal an eight-fold jump in her contamination level in the one-day period.

Taken from fecal samples, the results are measured on disintegrations of plutonium per minute (DPM) — the amount of plutonium passing through her body per minute.

The study shows she had a rate of 25 DPM on Nov. 11 and a rate of 200 DPM on Nov. 12.

Since that time, the results up to Nov. 18, have vacillated from less than 25 DPM to less than 200 DPM, according to the source.

Neither amount has been deemed a lethal dose, but Miss Ellis said she has been experiencing health problems.

Aside from the constant worrying and doubt, Miss Ellis said she has been having trouble with her gums.

Attorney Thomas said he wants "an independent expert to look at all of her

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Sunday Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: December 29, 1974
Edition: Sunday
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennet
Title: Karen G. Silkwoo
Kerr McGee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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records," and will sue both Kerr-McGee and the AEC in her behalf to get them, if necessary.

He said it might be necessary to include the AEC in the suit because of the unique relationship between the company and the agency, which regulates the plutonium industry.

He said he was very upset about AEC regulations which do not demand full company compliance with injured workers who want to see the health records.

Attorney Puzzled

"I just don't understand it. How can the AEC or the company justify not allowing a person to see how his or her health is?" he asked.

Under AEC regulations, the company does not have to reveal an employee's health record to the worker, even if the person has been contaminated, James G. Keppler, AEC regional director of regulatory operations said.

Also under AEC regulations, the company is not obligated to inform a person if a roommate is internally contaminated, Keppler said.

When Miss Silkwood was contaminated, the company did not have to tell her family or anyone she might be living with of her condition, Keppler said.

Miss Ellis and Miss Silkwood shared an Edmond apartment from August to November.

On Dec. 12, Thomas said, he sent a hand-delivered letter to Kerr-McGee attorney Derrill Cody requesting certified copies of Miss Ellis' records pertaining to any and all incidents involving "contamination of her property and person," including "tests, diagnosis or prognosis."

Neither Cody nor a Kerr-McGee spokesman would confirm or deny the letter or the attorney-client relationship of Miss Ellis and Thomas. They had "no comment" on whether they would comply with Thomas' demands.

Other Action Possible

If Kerr-McGee does not turn over certified copies of the requested records, Thomas said that it may constitute an additional cause of action for any possible lawsuit — the intentional infliction of mental anguish.

Shortly after Miss Silkwood's death, Jim Reading, a Kerr-McGee investigator and Cody questioned Miss Ellis at length, tape recording the long evening session.

Miss Ellis was visibly upset that night, and began to cry when an Oklahoman reporter encountered the threesome at an Edmond motel.

Counsel Not Wanted

Miss Ellis said, however, that she did not want legal counsel and planned to cooperate fully with the company's investigation.

She later praised the company, its investigation and its security procedures.

She disdained joining the union because, "If I can't make known to the company how I feel — without any outside help — then I don't belong there."

In addition to her inability to get her own health records, there were several other incidents which finally caused Miss Ellis to seek legal assistance, she said.

All of Miss Ellis' belongings were taken from her Edmond apartment by the company and put to uses which may be illegal, Thomas said.

No Release Given

Miss Ellis did not sign a release for the materials, which were later turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and used by Kerr-McGee for its own investigatory purposes, according to an informed Kerr-McGee source.

According to Thomas, the legality of the removal and usage of the property is questionable because she never signed a release and was under the impression that the material was being taken solely to test its contamination levels.

Earlier this month, Kerr-McGee officials tried to settle any financial claim Miss Ellis might have against the company, Thomas said.

Settlement Offered

"They offered her $1,000 to settle for everything known and unknown," he said.

"If she had signed that release for $1,000, that would have been it, no matter what her damages — and the company didn't even let her know what her state of health was," he said.

Thomas said Miss Ellis' health and the degree of compliance by Kerr-McGee would determine whether he filed suit or not.

350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kerr-McGee Planning Polygraph Tests, Sources Say

By Alan Bromley

Kerr-McGee plans to give all its Cimarron nuclear facility employees lie detector tests before allowing them to go back to work on Jan. 2, reliable sources said this week.

"It's my understanding that everyone will be given polygraph tests before being allowed to return to the plant," a reliable Kerr-McGee source said.

"Each person signed a letter stating he or she would be available to come back to work, if asked," the source said.

According to a Washington, D.C., official, who confirmed that tests were planned, "The company will ask (employees) about union activities and whether they spoke to the press or not."

On Dec. 17, Kerr-McGee announced it was closing its nuclear facility because it had evidence that "incidents" (safety violations) were "contrived."

The decision was made shortly after it became known that five persons were contaminated that week — four of them were exposed to plutonium above Atomic Energy Commission permissible limits and were internally contaminated.

The company also revealed that about a dozen enriched uranium pellets were found outside the uranium facility near Crescent, but on company grounds.

Officially, the company would not divulge the nature of the "contrived" incidents, but a Kerr-McGee source said they were contamination and leakage incidents.

A company spokesman said the evidence would be turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its agents to probe.

An FBI official, however, said that his agency was not

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Sunday Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: December 29, 1974
Edition: Sunday
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. SIlkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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involved in the new investigation because it had "no jurisdiction to do so."

He said everything which Kerr-McGee turned over to the office, was given to the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

On the advice of legal counsel, at least one person is balking at taking the proposed lie-detector tests.

D.C. Thomas, retained by Sherri Ellis in related matters, said the giving of polygraph tests to determine a worker's fitness, "amounts to a trial without due process of law."

The use of lie-detectors, even in court, has long been a source of controversy among lawyers and courts.

Thomas said he would want "to be standing at her side" while any such test is being administered.

He also said he wants to investigate the professional background of the people administering the tests because of the expertise needed for a fair test.

Kerr-McGee officials had "no comment" on whether they were going to administer the tests, or whether the results would constitute grounds for not rehiring specific personnel.

AEC regulations did not permit full security checks on personnel until six months ago, according a reliable Kerr-McGee source.

He said the company was allowed to institute full checks only on new personnel and not on those employed at the nuclear facility before the stricter regulations went into effect.

According to one source, employees asked back to work will receive a letter to that effect, and if they don't get a letter, they will no longer be employed with the company.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Two Earlier Kerr-McGee Plant Shutdowns Are Disclosed

By Tom McCarthy

The Kerr-McGee Cimarron Facility near Crescent was closed twice in the last year because more than the allowable limit of plutonium was not accounted for in routine inventories, an Atomic Energy Commission official confirmed Sunday.

Commission Regional Director James G. Keppler said the plant was closed for brief periods in March and October of 1974 after more than 1.8 kilograms of plutonium — the allowable limit — was not accounted for in company reports to the agency.

In both cases, Keppler said, the commission informed Kerr-McGee that an intensive re-inventory would have to be conducted in an attempt to determine the location of the missing amount.

"We felt a re-inventory was in order and they volunteered to shut down," he said. "We did not have to order them to shut down."

The bulk of the material unaccounted for in the initial inventories was found in each case in the second, intensive survey, he said.

The second survey discovered in the various phases of production enough plutonium previously unaccounted for to bring the unlocated amount well within the allowable limit, Keppler said.

"To do a re-inventory is a very complicated matter," Keppler said, and normally necessitates that the plant close so that it can be conducted.

Records reflect that in the first case, "The licensee (Kerr McGee) informed (The Atomic Energy Commission) by telephone on Feb. 28 that the February monthly plutonium physical inventory showed a significant material unaccounted for loss quantity.

"As a result, Kerr-McGee stopped fuel fabrication work and initiated a new inventory on March 1. The re-inventory, which was conducted from March 1 through

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: December 30, 1974
Edition: Morning
Author: Tom McCarthy
Editor: Charles L. Bennet
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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resulted in finding most of the plutonium (unaccounted for).

"Inspections were conducted on March 1 through 13 to observe the re-inventory and to review the implementation of the licensee's physical security program," the records say.

"No significant deficiencies were identified . . . The unaccounted for plutonium is not considered significant for the operation involved and is believed to be in the process piping systems.

"Based on the results of the licensee's re-inventory and the (Commission) inspection findings, the license was permitted to resume operations."

Excessive amounts of plutonium not accounted for were reported in the company's September inventory. The re-inventory began on Oct. 1 and lasted for about a week, Keppler said.

In this case also, the director said, enough of the formerly missing plutonium was found in the production process "to indicate there was no material diverted."

Keppler would not say how much plutonium was not accounted for in the first inventories in both cases.

However, he said, it was "not anywhere near" 20 kilograms, which was an amount cited in a recent news account.

"I can assure you it's (the report) not true," Keppler said. ". . . 20 kilograms is grossly in error."

He said he believed this figure was cited as the result of a misunderstanding between a national radio reporter and an industry official.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY BE EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, [redacted] DATE: 12/31/74

FROM : SA [redacted]

SUBJECT: KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);
KERR-MC GEE CORPORATION;
NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIV.
CIMARRON FACILITY,
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA;

On 12/30/74, [redacted] Acting News Director, KOMA, 820 SW 4th, Moore, Oklahoma was contacted at his request and he furnished the following two items:

1) A cassette tape copy of an unidentified female calling the KOMA "Sunday Forum" radio show on the A. M. of 12/29/74 and referring to the Kerr-McGee Cimarron facility.

2) An unsigned undated letter received in the mail by KOMA on 12/30/74 referring to deceased Kerr-McGee employee KAREN LYNN SILKWOOD.

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2 [redacted]

RNF:ddw
(2)

[redacted]

159-95-77

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108-02

FD-448 (10-28-71)

Transmit attached by Facsimile – PLAINTEXT Priority URGENT

To: SAC, BALTIMORE (Att: Supv. [redacted]) Date: 12/31/74

From: ACTING SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) Time: Transmitted – 11:18 AM

Received – CES

Subject: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

b6
b7C

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph

☐ Artists Conception ☒ Other OC airtel to Bureau 12/24/74

☐ (6 min) ☐ (4 min)

Special handling instructions:

Searched ...
Serialized ...
Indexed ...
Filed ...

Approved: _____

159-45-78

85

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
December 31, 1974

Unknown Subjects;
Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased)
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING
AND DISCLOSURE ACT of 1959;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

On December 30, 1974, [redacted] Acting [redacted] KOMA radio station, Oklahoma City, with offices and transmitter, 820 Southwest 4th, Moore, Oklahoma, was contacted at his request. [redacted] advised that during a Sunday morning radio audience participation talk show entitled "Sunday Forum", December 29, 1974, an unidentified female called the station and made reference to the Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility. The station received an unsigned, and undated letter on December 30, 1974, which referred to the deceased Karen Gay Silkwood. b6 b7C

[redacted] made available a copy of the tape recorded conversation of the female caller and made available the original envelope and letter received. The transcription of the tape recording is set forth below and a copy of the letter follows. b6 b7C

Radio Disc Jockey - DJ
Unidentified Female Caller - Unfemale

DJ: "This is Sunday Forum. You're on the air."

Unfemale: "Ah yes. I am calling concerning the Kerr McGee situation at Crescent, Oklahoma."

DJ: "Okay."

Unfemale: "I noticed one man already called in and a team of us have been investigating this and we have reason to believe it is definitely true there are 60 lbs. missing of that plutonium. We have reason to believe it has been sold to Russia due to some very informed sources. Unfortunately I can not divulge where my information has come from."

5 - Bureau
1 - USA, OC
2 - DL 159-107
2 - OC 159-45 (P)
LJO:mbs
(10)

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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Indexed ...
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159-45-79

DJ: "Uh-huh."

Unfemale: "However, we have just about traced it, and you're going to be hearing about the next two or three weeks, a team of very dedicated Oklahoma Citians are going to reveal the facts about this, and we are very interested in America, and you know a friend of mine has found that through very, very much investigation, his life has been threatened several times, that the plutonium is missing, and that the man has checked in at the Hilton Inn at the time of Karen Silkwood's death, and this is one reason we feel that her death was not accidental. I'm sorry but this is all we can tell you at this time, but you will be hearing about it in the future. Thank you."

DJ: "Okay."

On December 30, 1974, [redacted] Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), [redacted] advised that his company was furnished copies of the aforementioned tape and letter. Review of company records reveals that on the two dates that Karen Silkwood reportedly traveled to Dallas, Texas, September 14 and October 12, 1974, she worked 12½ and 11 hours respectively at the KMC Cimarron Facility. [redacted] advised that Kerr McGee has no financial connection or ownership in the Odessa Pipeline Inc., Midland, Texas, and this company is owned by El Paso Natural Gas Company. [redacted] advised his company considers the tape recording and letter both to be nuisance-type crank material. [redacted] advised the information concerning Silkwood's contamination set out in the letter was well reported in the media. b6 b7C

On December 31, 1974, [redacted] Department Director, Special Services, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), advised his agency had also been furnished copies of aforementioned tape and letter by the KOMA radio station. [redacted] advised his agency had conducted no investigation relative to Karen Silkwood or related matters, and the names of the persons appearing within the letter were unknown to his agency. b6 b7C

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 12/31/74

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ACTING SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) P

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LRMDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five (5) copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. Enclosed for Dallas are two (2) copies of instant LHM. (One copy of LHM being furnished to USA, Oklahoma City.)

On 12/30/74, [redacted] b6 b7C KOMA radio station, Oklahoma City (offices and transmitter, Moore, Oklahoma) telephonically contacted the Oklahoma City FBI Office to advise that his station was in possession of information of possible interest to FBI concerning captioned case. This information consisted of a tape recording of an unidentified female who telephonically contacted station during a radio talk show 12/29/74, and an unsigned letter received by the station 12/30/74.

Tape and letter would appear to both be "crank" or hoax-type. It is noted letter refers to victim as KAREN LYNN SILKWOOD, true name being KAREN GAY SILKWOOD. As set out on enclosed LHM, Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC) advised that SILKWOOD on two dates was alleged to have made trips to Dallas 9/14/74 and 10/12/74 and worked at the Cimarron Facility 12½ and 11 hours respectively. KMC also advised they have no financial or other interest in the company mentioned on page 2 of letter - Odessa Pipeline Inc., and that this company is owned by El Paso Natural Gas Company.

2 - Bureau (Enc.-5)
2 - Dallas (Enc.-2) (159-107)
2 - Oklahoma City
LJO:mbs (6)

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

159-45-80

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

83

Of the individuals specifically mentioned in instant letter, Oklahoma City indices are negative re the following:

[redacted] b6 b7C

It is also noted there is no motel known as the Capital Inn as such in Oklahoma City; however, there is the Capitol Motel, 2900 Lincoln Blvd.

The envelope and letter furnished by KOMA were handled by numerous station personnel and not preserved for latent fingerprints.

Liaison with Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) determined that that agency had no investigation re SILKWOOD or related matters in that the names of individuals mentioned in letter are unknown to them.

It does not appear that any extensive investigation regarding contents of letter is warranted; however, Oklahoma City is requesting that Dallas conduct the limited investigation set out below:

LEADS:

DALLAS

AT DALLAS, TEXAS. Will conduct indices and credit check re [redacted] and determine if [redacted] b6 b7C

December 18, 1974

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Kelley:

The enclosed article concerning plutonium spills at the Cimarron nuclear plant at Crescent, Oklahoma appeared in this morning's edition of the Washington Post.

With reference to the investigation which the Bureau has been asked to undertake to determine whether the spills were accidental or not, I would appreciate being kept informed as to the eventual disposition of this case.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mike Gravel

enclosure

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ...
SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
DEC 30 1974
FBI - OKC

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b7C

159-45-81

37

Plutonium Incidents

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kerr-McGee Corp., which has had evidence of deliberate plutonium spills, announced the Cimarron nuclear plant at Crescent, Okla., would be closed temporarily.

A company spokesman said the spills were "contrived" and said the evidence was turned over to the FBI. The spokesman also said operations would be suspended until "corrective action is taken."

The announcement came following an accident in which four employees were contaminated by plutonium, a radioactive element which is harmful if inhaled or ingested. A fifth employee also was contaminated while handling a scrap package of plutonium.

The Atomic Energy Commission, in releasing the official account of both incidents, said tests indicated the employees had not inhaled a substantial amount of plutonium.

December 27, 1974

Honorable Mike Gravel
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Gravel:

I have received your letter of December 18th, with enclosure, regarding the plutonium spills at the Cimarron nuclear plant at Crescent, Oklahoma. The FBI has been made aware of the incidents which have occurred at the Kerr-McGee facility; however, information available does not indicate that a violation of law over which the FBI has investigative jurisdiction has occurred. All data obtained to date is being forwarded to interested Federal agencies including the U. S. Department of Justice and the Atomic Energy Commission.

It is our understanding that the Atomic Energy Commission is investigating the incidents at this facility and any inquiries as to action which may be taken should be properly directed to that agency.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Kerr-McGee Corp.
Crescent, Okla.
Cimarron Facility
Scattering of Uranium
Fuel Pellets

[redacted]

(1) - Oklahoma City - Enclosures (2)

Kerr-McGee Corporation
Crescent, Okla.
Nuclear Products Division
Cimarron Facility
Stillwell, Karen D (deceased)

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
DEC 30 1974
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY

b3
b6
b7C
b7E

[redacted]

cc. [redacted]

[redacted] 82

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Officer in Silkwood case seriously hurt

The Oklahoma Highway patrolman who investigated the accident in which nuclear plant employee Karen Silkwood died on Nov. 13 is hospitalized in serious condition following a New Year's Eve collision between a pickup truck and a patrol car.

In the intensive care unit at Mercy Medical Center is trooper Rick Fagan, 24, of Guthrie.

A patrol spokesman said Fagan received a broken collarbone, lacerations, two fractured vertabrae and internal injuries in an accident at 11:45 p.m. Tuesday on SH 74 three miles south of Crescent.

Highway Patrol public information officer Kenneth Vanhoy said Fagan was riding in a patrol car driven by trooper Gary Adams, 30, of Guthrie. Adams was released from the hospital after treatment.

Vanhoy said Adams and Fagan were parked on the west side of the highway watching for speeders when they were struck by a pickup truck driven by James Lenhart, 24, of Cashion. Vanhoy said Adams saw the truck approaching but was unable to avoid the collision.

He said the patrol car was struck from behind at a speed between 90 and 100 miles per hour.

Upon impact, the patrol car was knocked into a concrete culvert, with both vehicles being overturned, said Vanhoy. Lenhart, who was cited on complaints of driving under the influence of liquor and illegal transportation of an open bottle, is reported in good to serious condition at Mercy Hospital.

Vanhoy said Fagan was off duty and was riding with Adams because of stepped-up activity by the Highway Patrol during the holidays.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

4 Oklahoma City Times
Oklahoma City, Oklaho

Date: January 2, 1975
Edition: Evening
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

[redacted]

b6
b7C

159-45-83 80

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Plutonium Exposure Didn't Occur Inside Plant, AEC Indicates

Agency Report On Silkwood Case Finished

Possibility Seen Nuclear Material Purposely Taken

By Alan Bromley

The final, unpublished Atomic Energy Commission report on the Kerr-McGee Corp. investigation indicates Karen Silkwood was contaminated outside the plant — possibly by plutonium intentionally taken from the firm's Cimarron nuclear facility, The Oklahoman learned Tuesday.

The report reveals a four-pronged AEC probe and conclusions. Sources said the company was given a copy of the report by the AEC several days ago, contrary to agreements between the commission, the company and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW). This was denied by the AEC and Kerr-McGee.

Conclusions Drawn

According to the sources, the AEC drew four conclusions about the internal contamination of Karen Silkwood, which was discovered on Nov. 7.

The sources said the report concludes that her contamination was:

—Not inconsistent with an internal contamination incident;

—Not inconsistent with the intentional removal of very small quantities of plutonium from the facility;

—Inconsistent with an incident occurring at the facility;

—Inconsistent with an accidental removal of plutonium from the plant — but, there is no evidence that Karen Silkwood was taking the plutonium.

Miss Silkwood died in a car crash Nov. 13 while on her way to meet with a New York Times reporter and an OCAW official to substantiate her claims that the company was falsifying records and that safety hazards existed at the plant.

Allegations Made

Miss Silkwood's death spurred an investigation by the AEC, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Kerr-McGee.

An FBI official told The Oklahoman his agency did not find Miss Silkwood was intentionally run off the road, but union officials contend they have evidence that indicates the contrary.

OCAW made 39 allegations against Kerr-McGee, which the sources said the AEC divided into six categories: the lack of proper employee training; the

Orig to Bureau 1-2-75 nr

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: January 1, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennet
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

FILED

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b7C

159-45-84 79

ability or inability of the company to keep worker exposure to plutonium as low as possible; hygiene precautions; the monitoring of employee exposure to plutonium; the workers' right to accompany AEC officials on inspection tours of the facility; and the resolving of conflicts between OCAW and AEC regulations.

The AEC substantiated approximately half of the union allegations, the source reported.

According to the sources, the AEC concluded that Kerr-McGee did have an adequate training program, but there were company violations in the related areas of employee overexposure.

The AEC reported one incident in which the company didn't inform employees who worked in a room which the company knew was contaminated, the sources said.

The report stated that the company could improve its control of worker exposures, its hygiene precaution program and its monitoring of employee exposures, the sources revealed.

The right of workers to accompany AEC officials on their inspection tours of the Cimarron facility and the resolving of conflicts between OCAW and AEC regulations were negotiated and agreed upon by the AEC and OCAW previous to this investigation.

Union representatives have been accompanying AEC inspectors for several months.

The AEC also will report on the recent incident in which about a dozen enriched uranium pellets were found outside the uranium facility, as well as OCAW charges that employees at the plutonium facility falsified records to hide faulty plutonium rod manufacturing.

Meanwhile, a reliable Kerr-McGee source said the firm had received a copy of the report from the AEC.

According to the AEC and OCAW, the report was not supposed to be shown to the company or the union until they met with the AEC.

A Kerr-McGee spokesman said he doesn't "think" the company has a copy of the report.

The meeting was scheduled for this week, but has been postponed until next week.

According to the source, when Kerr-McGee and OCAW meet with the AEC, the company will have had the report for at least a week and the union will then get its first look.

Monday, the chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on regulatory agencies called for a complete congressional investigation of Kerr-McGee and the AEC.

Rep. John D. Dingell, D-Mich., called for the government probe because of reports that up to 66 pounds of plutonium are missing from the Kerr-McGee plant.

He also charged that the AEC relies too heavily upon the company's records to conclude accurately whether the reports are correct.

Because the AEC admitted its heavy reliance upon Kerr-McGee's inventory, Dingell said, "the AEC was unable to assure me that its own independent check of the plutonium inventory disproved public charges of missing plutonium."

While Kerr-McGee issued a press release disclaiming that any amount near 66 pounds of plutonium was missing, and noting that the AEC was in accord in its findings, Dingell said his investigation would view possible modifications of the AEC's enforcement program.

James G. Keppler, regional AEC director of regulatory operations, said Tuesday the official findings do not reveal any safety threats to the general public.

He said the report cites internal company violations, but would not elaborate.

Meanwhile, the company's uranium plant reopened this week and the plutonium plant is tentatively scheduled to renew its operations Thursday.

Kerr-McGee sources said employees at the plutonium facility had to undergo polygraph tests before being allowed to resume their jobs.

The source said that each employee had to sign a company-drawn letter stating they would be eligible to return to work, if asked.

According to the source, many of the letters have been mailed to returning employees, but some won't be recalled and there will be a reduction in force at the plant.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Texas Investigator Licensed After Checking Death Auto

By Alan Bromley

The Dallas investigator who studied Karen Silkwood's car — and reported finding indications she was forced from the road by another vehicle — was not a licensed investigator at the time, The Oklahoman learned Thursday.

A. O. Pipkin Jr., the investigator who was hired by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW), became licensed on Dec. 1, 1974, after the Silkwood investigation, according to Texas officials at the Private Investigators and Private Security Agencies Board.

Texas has had a licensing requirement since 1969 for private investigators.

Jim McWhirter, administrative head of licensing at the board, said, however, that "Pipkin has always been in good standing."

Pipkin, of Accident Reconstruction Lab in Dallas, conducted his investigation of Miss Silkwood's car on Nov. 16. He reported to the union that there was evidence to suggest the mangled Honda Civic was hit from behind by another moving vehicle, causing her car to leave the road and strike the concrete culvert.

Miss Silkwood died in the crash on Nov. 13, on SH 74, as she was on her way to meet with a New York Times reporter and an OCAW official reportedly to substantiate claims that Kerr-McGee was falsifying its plutonium rod records.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol has consistently said it found no evidence

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: January 3, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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159-45-85 78

of foul play and that it seemed that Miss Silkwood fell asleep at the wheel.

State Medical Examiner A.J. Chapman said in his final report that Miss Silkwood was under a "significant" amount of the sedative methaqualone while driving.

Pipkin reportedly based his opinion on a small fresh dent on the left rear bumper of Miss Silkwood's car.

Lt. Kenneth Vanhoy of the Oklahoma State Highway Patrol, however, disputed Pipkin's conclusions.

Vanhoy said if her car had been hit in the left ~~rear, it~~ would have veered in the opposite direction.

Vanhoy said her car was traveling southbound and veered across the northbound lane and into the ditch on the left side of the road.

If the car had been hit on the left side, it should have gone into the ditch on the right hand side of the road, he said.

McWhirter said there were many exemptions under the Texas statute requiring investigators to be licensed, and that Pipkin did inquire about a license in 1969, and was told by the board he was exempt.

He did not, however, specify Pipkin's exempt status.

Even though his expertise has not been doubted, Pipkin told the Oklahoman Thursday he decided to get a license Dec. 1 to enhance his official status.

Pipkin said he conducted highway investigations for the Albuquerque, N.M., police between 1951 and 1959 before establishing his own firm.

He claims to have investigated more than 2,000 accidents and testified in over 300 trials, often for insurance companies.

Pipkin, in a telephone interview, said he was not an investigator, but an accident reconstructon expert.

OCAW officials have relied on his probe to dispute Oklahoma State Highway Patrol conclusions.

There is no Oklahoma law requiring licensing of investigators or private security agents, according to state officials.

Meanwhile, Kerr-McGee's plutonium facility reopened Thursday morning, a company spokesman said. He would not comment on published reports that there would be a reduction in force at the plant. The uranium operation was renewed earlier this week. The operations were shut down during company and AEC investigations of plutonium contamination incidents.

The Atomic Energy Commission also announced that it would meet separately with the company and the union on Monday to discuss findings of its investigations before making them public.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/8/75

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: ACTING SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Re report of SA [redacted], dated 12/13/74, at Oklahoma City; Oklahoma City airtels to Bureau, dated 12/19/74 and 12/24/74; and Dallas airtel to Oklahoma City, dated 12/23/74. b6 b7C

For the information of WFO and Baltimore, the Bureau has advised that the U. S. Department of Justice has indicated that they are desirous of bringing this case to an expeditious conclusion.

For the information of the Bureau, Dallas, by referenced Dallas airtel, furnished Oklahoma City a copy of report of [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Lab, which report is relative to a fatal accident of deceased. Copy of report also furnished by [redacted] to Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP). [redacted] report is being critically analyzed by OHP. Oklahoma City will include report and results of OHP analysis in subsequent Oklahoma City report. b6 b7C

LEADS

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Will expedite coverage

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

2 - Bureau
2 - Baltimore
2 - WFO
(2) - Oklahoma City
LJO:jgs
(8)

[redacted] b6 b7C

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

1-8-75

159-45-86

of leads and interview oil, chemical and atomic workers, union officials, [redacted] and ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI and submit report. b6 b7C

BALTIMORE

AT BETHESDA, MARYLAND. Will expedite reporting of contact with [redacted] AEC Operations, and submit report. b6 b7C

FD-350 (Rev. 5-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

PLANT CLEARED IN AEC REPORT

Silkwood Specimen Doctored

By HOWARD DAVIS
Of The Journal Staff

An Atomic Energy Commission report released Monday indicates Karen Silkwood apparently received her plutonium contamination last November while away from authorized duty at Kerr-McGee's Crescent facility.

The report, released after weeks of investigation, also showed two of Ms. Silkwood's urine samples had been "doctored" with plutonium added after the samples were taken.

The AEC investigating team found "no evidence of any incident or accident at the Kerr-McGee facility that released plutonium and could account for the contamination found on Ms. Silkwood's skin and clothing."

If there were no detectable incidents at the facility, the contamination could have been produced deliberately or from an off-site source, but the AEC report did not speculate on this point.

AEC spokesman Jan Strasma said upon releasing the report, "I don't think there's any question that there's some evidence there was contrivance involved."

Strasma said the only Kerr-McGee violation of AEC regulations was in the company's failure to properly date two urine samples records taken in October in connection with a previous contamination incident involving Ms. Silkwood.

Kerr-McGee President James J. Kelly said the dates were not provided "because Ms. Silkwood told Kerr-McGee officials she could not remember exactly when the samples were taken."

Kelly said the AEC findings were "not at all surprising" and correspond very closely with results of Kerr-McGee's internal investigation.

He said the firm remained silent during the period of the probe because it was felt that "premature statements before all the facts could be determined would serve no useful purpose and could in fact be detrimental to the progress of the investigation."

He noted that the AEC report shows no evidence "of an incident or an accident at Kerr-McGee's facility that contributed to the contamination of Ms. Silkwood."

A second report from t[redacted] AEC, dealing wi[redacted] allegations made by the O[redacted] Chemical and Atom[redacted] Workers International Uni[redacted]

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Oklahoma Journal
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: January 7, 1975
Edition: Daily
Author: Howard Davis
Editor: W. P. Atkinson
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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about working conditions at Crescent is scheduled for release Tuesday.

Ms Silkwood, a laboratory analyst at the plant, reportedly was contaminated with plutonium on Nov. 5, 6 and 7. She died Nov. 13 in a traffic accident while driving to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and an OCAW official. A union official said she was supposed to be carrying evidence to support charges against the firm.

The report gave this account of the unusual three-day period when Ms. Silkwood became contaminated:

Nov. 5 — Ms. Silkwood reported contamination on her hands about 6:45 p.m. after working with plutonium through a "glove-box" apparatus. She was examined by the company's health physics technician, decontaminated, and released to return to work.

A survey of the room where the incident occurred turned up no contamination except for two gloves she had been using and two shoe covers. No holes were found in the gloves.

Ms. Silkwood reported she continued to work until 1:10 a.m. and monitored herself as she exited, finding no contamination.

Nov. 6 — Ms. Silkwood arrived at work about 7:50 a.m. and "detected contamination on her hands" one hour later, after spending the hour performing "miscellaneous paperwork" in the laboratory.

After decontamination proceedings that lasted, on and off, until almost 7 p.m., Ms. Silkwood requested that a "nasal smear" be taken. This test showed a contamination level of less than 200 d/m (disintegrations per minute).

The health physics technician instructed her to come back upon reporting for work the following morning to have the nasal smear test repeated.

Ms. Silkwood, however, before leaving, asked that a technician survey her locker and automobile for contamination, and none was detected.

Nov. 7 — The following morning, the report shows, when Ms. Silkwood reported at her normal 7:50 a.m. starting time to the health physics office, the nasal smear tests showed contamination of 45,000 d/m.

It was at this visit to the office that she turned in the urine samples that the AEC concluded were "doctored."

The samples must have been doctored, the AEC said, because the high readings were inconsistent with post-mortem examination of Ms. Silkwood and with live tests performed on her later that week at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory.

The AEC later on Nov. 7 found contamination in Ms. Silkwood's apartment, her roommate Sherri Ellis, and Ms. Silkwood's boyfriend.

Since Ms. Silkwood apparently was not authorized to work between the time she was given the final decontamination tests Nov. 6 and the time she reported for work Nov. 7, there is no apparent on-site activity which could account for the new contamination the morning of Nov. 7.

The AEC report drew "no conclusions" about how the exposures occurred or how the biological samples which Ms. Silkwood administered on herself were altered.

The report summary said Ms. Silkwood's body contained "less than one-half the maximum permissible body burden" of plutonium, and the other two contaminated persons "did not receive a biologically significant internal deposition of plutonium."

The AEC said that "no more than .0003 grams of plutonium were identified in the contamination of the individuals and their apartment."

A slight amount of contamination was found in the Silkwood automobile, and the contaminated apartment has since been decontaminated and certified safe for any human use.

The Kerr-McGee plant was closed temporarily Dec. 17 when officials said they had evidence some plutonium spills were "contrived," and it reopened two weeks later.

Some employes, who refused to take lie detector tests, were transferred to other jobs.

An OCAW union investigator has charged Ms. Silkwood's fatal car accident may have been caused by being forced off the road by another vehicle.

However, State Medical Examiner Jay Chapman said her body contained "more than a therapeutic dose" of a hypnotic drug, methaqualone, which could have impaired her driving. Chapman also said traces of alcohol were found in the body.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

An Editorial

It's High Time For Truth About Kerr-McGee

It is high time for an end to the damaging and malicious charges that have been leveled at Kerr-McGee recently.

The Oklahoma Journal pledged in its very first edition more than 10 years ago never to abuse the power of the press by character assassination, printing unfounded charges, or libeling by innuendo.

The unfounded charges published first by The New York Times and echoed by others have both excited and exploited public alarm by attempting to attribute to one of the nation's leading energy pioneers an almost criminal negligence in the operating of the Crescent plutonium facility.

As the lengthy Atomic Energy Commission investigation of these charges draws to a close, many of these charges have already been shown to be false, and we predict that when the AEC probe is finally ended, those who were responsible for peddling rumors and half-truths will regret their actions.

Nuclear energy is needed to play a critical role in solving America's energy crisis. Those who would sabotage America's future by building a wall of public suspicion and hysteria against constructive solutions to the energy crisis are doing no service to the people.

We are particularly disappointed that as fine a symbol of American journalism as the New York Times would take the lead in printing unsupported accusations that could have such serious consequences to the nation's security. The Oklahoma Journal has not and will not turn its back on truth for the sake of cheap sensationalism.

The AEC has concluded that no threat to the public ever existed at the Crescent facility, and that one employe's plutonium contamination readings were artifically increased by "spiking" of a biological sample.

The total amount of plutonium found in personal and apartment contamination in the Silkwood incident was less than .0003 grams — millions of times smaller than the smallest amount needed to fabricate a plutonium weapon.

Dean McGee, chairman of Kerr-McGee Corp., should be given due recognition both for the outstanding role he has played in the growth and prosperity of Oklahoma in years past and for his courage and vision in helping to bring Oklahoma into the nuclear age.

It is hard to say if the damage done Kerr-McGee by what we consider totally irresponsible reporting can ever be adequately repaired, but it shall certainly be the goal of The Journal by in-depth reporting on the situation to keep its readers abreast of developments.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Oklahoma Journ
Oklahoma City, Okl

Date: January 7, 1975
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: N. P. Atkinson
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr McGee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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Orig. to Bur. 1-7-75

CC 80-293

159-45-88

1/6/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (159-618)(RUC)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ;
(OO:OKLAHOMA CITY)

Re Oklahoma City airtels to the Director, 12/19/74; 12/24/74.

Enclosed for Oklahoma City are the following:

1) A copy of the autopsy report dated 10/21/74 signed by Dr. A. JAY CHAPMAN re KAREN SILKWOOD.

2) One copy of the accident report prepared by the Oklahoma City Highway Patrol of the accident in which SILKWOOD was killed.

3) A copy of the Atomic Energy Commission report regarding "An employee and her residence were found to be contaminated with plutonium on 11/7/74."

4) A copy of an Atomic Energy Commission report regarding various allegations against the Kerr-Mc Gee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

2 - Bureau
2 - Oklahoma City (159-45)(Enc. 4)
1 - Baltimore
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SERIALIZED ... FILED
JAN 9 1975
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On 1/2/75, [redacted] Atomic Energy Commission, 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland, made available the above enclosures. b6 b7C

For information of Oklahoma City, the Atomic Energy Commission, in their report regarding the contamination of KAREN SILKWOOD and contamination of her apartment, does not set forth names of those contaminated and identifies them in the report as Individual A, Individual B and Individual C. [redacted] identified those persons as Individual A - KAREN SILKWOOD, Individual B - KAREN's roommate, SHERRI ELLIS, 841 Northwest 38th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Individual C - KAREN's boyfriend, DREW STEPHENS, 836 Northwest 48th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. b6 b7C

FD-350 (Rev. 7-15-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

AEC Issues Final Report

By Vivian Vahlberg
and Alan Bromley

The Atomic Energy Commission Tuesday said a special task force has been set up to monitor fuel production at Kerr-McGee's Cimarron nuclear facility.

The action was taken after the AEC issued its final reports in Washington, D. C., and Oklahoma City on its two-pronged probe.

The AEC found three violations at the nuclear plant which could result in actions or penalties against the company.

Several other allegations by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) against the company were substantiated in part and others were dismissed.

Kerr-McGee praised the reports while OCAW officials took exception to some of the findings.

As a result of the studies, an AEC task force is reviewing the quality of the fuel produced at Crescent and will reject or refuse to pay for any fuel which does not meet standards. Despite alleged violations, only a small percentage of the fuel rods have been found to be faulty, however.

Kerr-McGee's and AEC's procedures for insuring fuel quality and to prevent records falsification also are being scrutinized closely by the task force, the AEC said.

The report by the inspection division of AEC concluded there is evidence to show that a former employee, William S. Dotter, falsified negatives of plutonium fuel rods, and that quality assurance checks may have been compromised. The AEC found Dotter acted on his own, without knowledge of management, and that he acted not to cover up defects in the fuel rods, as has been alleged, but to cover up defects in his own photography which might cause him to have to redo testing procedures.

Two other allegations about inspection irregularities and data falsification were not substantiated.

The report by the Directorate of Regulatory Operations found "substance or partial substance" to 20 of 39 OCAW charges about working conditions, safety, health and education practices.

However the regulatory branch recommended action on only two of the 20 charges, and on an additional apparent violation not listed by the union. The other items involving working conditions at the plant were either outside the branch's jurisdiction or did not involve specific health and safety requirements, the AEC said.

The three apparent violations found by the regulatory branch could result in possible penalties or actions against Kerr-McGee.

AEC action on the three violations could range from a simple notice of violation with requirement for corrective action, on up to a $5,000 fine for each violation (maximum fine, $15,000) or suspension or revocation of its license.

The inspections division has set up a five member task force to review the facts offered in the inspec-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: January 8, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author: Vahlberg & Bromley
Editor: Charles L. Bennet
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma

Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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tion report, which drew no conclusions.

The regulatory branch found Kerr-McGee apparently violated regulations by:

—Failing to report an incident involving an overflow of plutonium into the work area which caused some operations to be shut down for 40 hours.

—Exceeding on two occasions the "safe operating limit," the amount of plutonium allowed in a room at one time.

—Routinely using plutonium metal in laboratory standards programs. Crescent is licensed to handle several forms of plutonium, but not plutonium as metal.

In Oklahoma City, Jan Strasma, AEC spokesman, contended "no hazards to plant personnel or the pubic" were found to exist at the Cimarron facility. Strasma did say it was possible that one violation found at the plant was of the type which could result in an explosion.

OCAW's allegation that "misvalving errors . . . could have posed a criticality problem" at the plant were substantiated by the AEC, Strasma said.

Strasma explained that a "criticality problem" occurs when too much plutonium is in one place, which might cause an explosion releasing plutonium into the air.

The inspection division found "substance" to these allegations:

—That Dotter, without the knowledge or encouragement of his supervisors, used a felt-tip pen to alter negatives of photographs taken of test samples of welding on plutonium fuel rods. The samples are taken to ensure that the caps of fuel rods containing plutonium are properly welded on.

Although the rods and welding are checked visually to determine if there are defects, they are also photographed, and if the photographs themselves are defective or if the photographs show the fuel rods are defective, the whole testing procedure must be run over again, which is more than a day's work.

Dotter admitted altering the negatives, which some times would get small white spots on them, from lint, static particles or defective emulsions. He wanted to avoid being required to run the samples over again, the AEC report said.

—That quality assurance procedures may have been compromised. Kerr-McGee's laboratories are required to run tests on samples of plutonium pellets. The results are compared with tests of a control sample, which is supposed to be closely guarded by one person. The purpose is to check the technician's competence and the adequacy of Kerr-McGee's analytical procedures.

It was alleged that one employee, Lynn Shearer, obtained copies of the control sample results — which would have the same effect as when a student obtains answers to a test before he takes it. It was also alleged that Shearer's superior may have known that Shearer had a "cribsheet."

AEC's investigation did not totally clear up the point. Shearer denied having copies of the control data, and several in-house investigations failed to substantiate the widespread rumors that Shearer had them. However, Shearer admitted obtaining a control figure from a superior once, and one of —Shearer's fellow employees testified under oath that she once used what looked to her like a photocopy of the control figures to tell her whether a sample she was taking was adequate.

Other allegations substantiated, or partially substantiated, by the regulatory report (on which no enforcement action was recommended) include:

—Several incidents where employees were contaminated with plutonium.

—A failure to post a notification that employees should wear respirators. Respirators are worn when plutonium is in the air, to protect workers from inhaling plutonium, because plutonium is most dangerous when ingested into the lungs.

—Failure to routinely replace filters on the respirator masks. The report said filters are replaced if they are contaminated, damaged or difficult to breathe through, however.

—Allowing a contaminated vacuum cleaner to sit in the work area. When a lab analyst was assigned to clean it, she received slight contamination — which was not reflected in her personnel contamination record.

—Filling a waste jug more than half-full, in violation of company procedures.

Providing only two shower heads for 75 workers per shift, and failing to require or make time for taking showers.

James J. Kelly, president of Kerr-McGee, praised the AEC report and noted that the company is "engaged in pioneering a new phase of the nuclear power industry" and new technologies are being used.

Kelly said the company's previous venture into the plutonium field was experimental and, "Under these conditons, we are well satisfied that less than two per cent of the product (plutonium fuel pins) produced today — as noted in the AEC report — has been rejected," by the contractor for the fuel pins.

OCAW officials took exception with the AEC regulatory report on the health and safety conditions prevailing at the plant.

Jack Tice, chairman of OCAW local 5-283, released a statement contending Kerr-McGee's health and safety training program lacks effectiveness, and employee exposures to plutonium have not been kept as low as possible.

A press release issued by Steve Wodka, a Washington, D.C. OCAW official in Oklahoma City for meetings between the AEC and the union, said union attorneys were studying possible legal action.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

2 Plant Violations Minor, No Hazard

By DON SHOCKEY
Journal Business Editor

Only two of 39 allegations concerning working conditions at Kerr-McGee's Crescent nuclear plant are of concern, an Atomic Energy Commission report released Tuesday shows.

The two confirmed violations weren't hazardous to workers or the general public, the report said.

"Essentially, the two items were of a procedural and reporting requirement nature," said Jan Strasma, an AEC spokesman.

Among the allegations made last September by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, 18 were partially substantiated but didn't violate AEC regulations, Strasma said.

Union officials could not be reached for comment.

Enforcement action, which could range from simple notification of violation to license action, will be taken within the next three weeks, Strasma said.

Other OCAW allegations on quality assurance procedures at the Cimarron plant will be discussed in another AEC report to be released later, he said.

Kerr-McGee President James J. Kelly said the AEC reports confirm that the company has excellent plutonium production and provides safe conditions for workers and the public.

He noted that the items of noncompliance were of the Category 3 type — the lowest level of error.

Kelly said the Cimarron plant engages in pioneering a new phase of nuclear power industry.

"It is extremely sophisticated and the product must be manufactured to extremely stringent tolerances," he said.

The Cimarron plant produces about 50 percent of the plutonium that will be used in Westinghouse's Fast Flux Test Facility — a prototype breeder reactor. The breeder reactor produces more fuel than it uses and is expected to help solve the nation's energy

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Oklahoma Journal
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: January 8, 1975
Edition: Daily
Author: Don Shockey
Editor: W. P. Atkinson
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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159-45-91

supply problems.

"Our people are constantly working with new technologies," Kelly said.

He noted that plutonium fuel pins had been previously produced only in an experimental laboratory which took four years to produce one month's output at the Cimarron plant near Crescent.

"We consider this a significant technical achievement," he said.

"With regard to an OCAW allegation about records falsification, Kerr-McGee's private investigation revealed that one worker, who left Kerr-McGee employment several months ago, did use improper practices in quality reporting."

He said the company told the AEC about the employe, who assumed full responsibility for the error. He said the employe's actions had no bad effects on the plant's products.

He also said Westinghouse Hanford, the buyer of Kerr-McGee's plutonium rods, wrote Nov. 1 that inspections show "a dedicated effort is being sustained to meet our quality standards."

Only about 2 percent of the fuel pins delivered to Westinghouse have been rejected, Kelly said.

Among the allegations partially substantiated was one of a potential problem of "criticality" that could have occurred in May 1974.

Criticality occurs when too much radioactive material comes together which, under special cirumstances, could produce a small non-nuclear explosion.

"I don't mean a bomb-type explosion," Strasma said.

To correct the potential problem, Kerr-McGee immediately installed special switches and controls.

"In the judgment of the AEC inspectors and officials the plant can be operated safely," Strasma said.

Strasma listed the two apparent items of noncompliance as failure to report to the AEC about an equipment processing problem and exceeding on two occasions amount of plutonium permitted in a specific work area.

A third item of noncompliance, unrelated to the union allegations, involved use of a small quantity of plutonium in a form not authorized by plant licenses.

"The items of noncompliance weren't necessarily poor business or operating practice, however," he said.

The other 18 items partially substantiated involved education and training of workers, keeping exposures as low as possible, taking proper hygienic precautions and adequately monitoring worker exposure.

Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 3-1-73)

To: ☐ Director

Date 1/7/75

Att.: _____ FILE _____

Title _____

☒ SAC ~~OKLAHOMA CITY~~ (159-45)

☐ ASAC _____ ~~DL 159-107~~

☐ Supv. _____

☐ Agent _____

☐ SE _____ UNSUBS;

☐ SC _____ KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LRMDA; OOJ

☐ CC _____ RE: _____

☐ Steno _____

☐ Clerk _____ ☐ Rotor #: _____

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge
☐ Assign ____ Reassign ____
☐ Bring file
☐ Call me
☐ Correct
☐ Deadline _____
☐ Deadline passed
☐ Delinquent
☐ Discontinue
☐ Expedite
☐ File
☐ For information
☐ Handle
☐ Initial & return
☐ Leads need attention
☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Open Case
☐ Prepare lead cards
☐ Prepare tickler
☐ Return assignment card
☐ Return file
☐ Search and return
☐ See me
☐ Serial # _____
☐ Post ☐ Recharge ☐ Return
☐ Send to _____
☐ Submit new charge out
☐ Submit report by _____
☐ Type

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JAN 10 1975

FBI

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159-45

GPO : 1973 526-720

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Plutonium Incident Possibly 'Contrived'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The Atomic Energy Commission reported Monday that a radioactive contamination incident involving Karen Silkwood, a nuclear technician who later died in an auto accident, appeared in some ways to be contrived.

The announcement was made at a news conference in which AEC officials issued a report on its investigation into the plutonium contamination of two employes and the disappearance of a small amount of radioactive material from the Kerr-McGee Corp. plant in Crescent.

MISS SILKWOOD, 28, died Nov. 13 in an auto accident — eight days after she first reported being contaminated. At the time of her death, she reportedly was on her way to meet a New York Times reporter and union officials to discuss the incident.

After her death, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union hired a private investigator who suggested that the auto mishap may not have been accidental. However, the highway patrol ruled it was.

The union has charged that there are hazardous working conditions at the plant.

Monday's news conference was called by James Keppler, director of the AEC's regional regulatory operations office in Chicago, and Jan Strasma of the Chicago AEC public information office, to discuss the agency's report on the investigation.

Strasma also said the investigation indicated "there was plutonium obviously removed" from the plant where Miss Silkwood worked. He said the investigation "didn't eliminate the possibility" that some radioactive plutonium was removed deliberately. But he said "we didn't find evidence to firmly support it."

The AEC report said that plutonium was first detected on Miss Silkwood's skin Nov. 5 while she was working at the plant. But it added: "Laboratory tests, conducted as part of the investigation . . . concluded that plutonium had been added to two of Miss Silkwood's urine samples . . ."

"THE RADIOACTIVE material was removed, but additional localized contamination was identified on her skin on Nov. 6 and 7," the report said. "Her apartment also was found to be contaminated."

However, Keppler said under questioning that Miss Silkwood could have swallowed a small amount of plutonium if her hands became contaminated and she touched them to her mouth.

The AEC officials said, however, that investigators uncovered no "firm evidence" to indicate who may have removed plutonium from the plant or added it to Miss Silkwood's urine samples.

Strasma was asked if the information in the report supported Kerr-McGee contentions that some contamination incidents at the Crescent plant were planned. He replied that there seemed to be "no question that there is evidence of some contrivance in the Silkwood incident, or an attempt to make it appear contrived."

Investigators said they later found contamination of Miss Silkwood's apartment. Also contaminated was another Kerr-McGee laboratory employe, Sherri Ellis, who shared Miss Silkwood's apartment, and Drew Stephens, a friend of Miss Silkwood.

BECAUSE OF Miss Silkwood's death, the AEC said it could not determine how the actual contamination took place.

(Indicate name of newspaper, city and state.)
"The Dallas Morning News"
Dallas, Texas

Page 1A

Date: 1-7-75
Edition:
Author:
Editor: Tom J. Simmons
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DALLAS

☐ Being Investigated

159-167

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SERIALIZED ... FILED
FBI ... OKLAHOMA CITY

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Kerr-McGee officials had no immediate comment on the report but indicated earlier that they welcomed any investigation into the incident.

The only violation investigators found of AEC regulations by Kerr-McGee during the probe was the company's failure to maintain proper records on two urine samples taken in October following a previous plutonium contamination incident involving Miss Silkwood.

Keppler stressed that the facility presents no threat to the public and stressed that both the AEC and Kerr-McGee are re-examining regulations and security procedures in an effort to guard against future unauthorized removal of radioactive materials.

Keppler added, however, that AEC investigators feel their investigation shows that the amount of plutonium taken from the Kerr-McGee facility was not sufficient for the manufacture of a nuclear weapon and that there is little likelihood of danger to the public through removal of such material.

IN THE PAST four years the AEC has reported 73 persons contaminated with plutonium in 16 separate instances at the plant. There have been no fatalities.

The plant, however, voluntarily closed down twice in the past year after it was discovered that 1.8 kilograms of plutonium were unaccounted for. However, it was located both times during reinventories.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Patrol Report Says Silkwood Death Accident

Evidence Shows Foul-Play Theory False, Webb Says

By Tom McCarthy

Following an intensive reinvestigation into the matter, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol discounted Friday any probability that foul play was involved in the traffic death of Kerr-McGee nuclear worker Karen Silkwood.

Public Safety Commissioner W. Roger Webb said all known evidence in the case indicates strongly that the crash was accidental — the result of Miss Silkwood apparently falling asleep at the wheel.

'Flaws' Cited

Webb and Lt. Larry Owen cited what they believe are several serious flaws in the foul-play theory propounded by Dallas private investigator A.O. Pipkin.

Pipkin, hired by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union, of which Miss Silkwood was a member, concluded in his report that Miss Silkwood's car was struck from the rear by another vehicle, possibly causing it to leave the road.

The renewed, week-long investigation into the incident was conducted by three highway patrol accident specialists, including Owen, the director of the patrol's training program.

Dent Probed

Owen said the probe determined that the dent on the car's left rear bumper and left rear corner, cited by Pipkin, was caused by the wrecker drivers in their efforts to remove the car from the culvert where it had come to rest.

Had the dents been caused by a blow from another vehicle, they probably would have been "smooth," Lt. Owen said.

However, he said, showing a close-up photograph, the dents were "raspy-type indentations" showing a "sandpaper effect."

Culvert Scraped?

This was caused when the wrecker dragged the car, rear first, over the end of the concrete wing wall of the culvert, scraping that part of the car, he said.

Owen said white paint flakes were found on the top of that portion of the wing wall, testifying to the gouging of that rear corner area of the car.

The investigator also said Pipkin's reconstruc-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: January 11, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author: Tom McCarthy
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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159-45-93

tion of the path the car left the road and wound up in the culvert defies all laws of physics.

He said Pipkin contends the woman, driving on SH 74 near Crescent, overcompensated upon receiving the blow in the rear and swerved from the right lane across the left lane and off the left side of the road.

But, he said, there were no tire marks to indicate she had lost control of the car before leaving the road.

Owen said Pipkin cites three lines of tire indentations toward the culvert, which the Dallas investigator believes were caused by her car moving in a somewhat sideways alignment toward the first wing wall.

If that was correct, Owen said, the tires would have gouged up grass along its path, but the there was no evidence of this found.

He challenged Pipkin's conclusion in reference to a tread mark found, saying if the car was jackknifing as Pipkin says, the tires could not have left tread marks.

Also disputed was Pipkin's contention that the right front of the car hooked the end of the first wing wall, went airborne and then smashed into the second wing wall, then landing in the culvert.

Owen said a tire mark higher on the first angular wing wall shows that the car ran over the top of it, then rotated counterclockwise and descended into the second wall.

He showed a slide of the face of the second wing wall depicting the mark made by the grill and bumper of the car upon impact.

The walls stand on either side of the culvert and are slightly above ground level.

Owen also took exception to Pipkin's interpretation of the significance of Mrs. Silkwood's car leaving the road on the left side.

Pipkin said that because road surfaces are slightly higher in the center to allow for drainage, Miss Silkwood would have veered off the right side if she was asleep.

Owen said this would be true only if her car was in correct alignment, citing an accident she had had two weeks prior to her death as a possible indication that it might not have been.

In concluding, Webb said Pipkin "makes a lot of conjecture and has a lot of opinions but he has no physical evidence to substantiate them."

The photographs of the car used in the re-investigation were furnished to the patrol by Pipkin in his report.

Webb also mentioned the state medical examiner's report, which said Miss Silkwood had 1½ times the therapeutic dose of a sedative drug in her blood at the time of the accident.

0-9 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Transmit in _____ (Type in plaintext or code) Via Airtel _____ (Precedence)

1/10/75
(Date)

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City (159-45)

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD, DECEASED
LMRDA; OOJ
OO: OC

ReBuairtel to Oklahoma City 12/24/74, and Baltimore airtel 1/6/75.

Enclosed for the information of Oklahoma City are the following documents, which were made available to FBIHQ by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Washington, D. C.

AEC News Release #U-11 dated 1/6/75

AEC News Release #U-12 dated 1/7/74

AEC Report of Inspection during period 11/21 & 22/74, and 12/5 & 6/74.

AEC Investigative Report #74-09

AEC Division of Inspection Report 44-2-339

Enclosures (5)

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kerr-McGee Sued for Use Of Lie Tests

By Alan Bromley

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union (OCAW) has filed suit against the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp. over the company's use of polygraph tests on its employees, a union official said Wednesday.

"We filed an unfair labor practice suit against the company on the grounds that administering polygraph tests and isolating union leadership in the warehouse interferes with union activities," Steve Wodka, OCAW legislative aide, said.

On Jan. 4, The Oklahoman reported sources contended two local OCAW representatives who refused to take the lie-detector tests were removed from positions of handling plutonium and placed in the warehouse.

NLRB Sent Petition

Wodka said the union sent the petition to the Fort Worth National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Director Ed Youngblood.

Youngblood previously said the administering of the tests "could be an unfair labor practice under the Taft-Hartley Act, and something we might be interested in."

Wodka said he understood the company was still administering the tests, and the union asked the NLRB for a temporary injunction while the matter is investigated by the board.

Tests 'Voluntary'

James J. Kelley, president of Kerr-McGee, said polygraph tests were used extensively during the company's investigation of what it termed "contrived incidents" at the Cimarron Nuclear Facility.

However, Kelley added that the tests were completely voluntary, and all but three employees refused to take them during the testing time of Dec. 16 and Jan. 2.

He said no employee was threatened with losing his job if he didn't take the test, and that "Kerr-McGee will not be deterred from performing these obligations (of investigating 'contrived incidents') by complaints from outsiders."

Claims Upheld

Atomic Energy Commission officials recently released reports substantiating the company's claim of contrived incidents.

James G. Keppler, AEC regional director of regulatory operations, said Kerr-McGee was acting without the sanction of the AEC in administering polygraph tests.

He said tests could be given if they involve classified material, but "as for working conditions at the plant, our regulations don't deal with that."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

14 The Oklahoman
[illegible], Okla.

Date: January 16 1975
Edition: Morning
Author: Alan Bromley
Editor: Charles A. Bennett
Title: Kerr-McGee Corp.;
Security Matter - Information
Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Okla. City

Pending Investigated

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159-45-9565

Washington Star-News
Wednesday, January 8, 1975
A-3
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CALLS INFRACTIONS 'MINOR'

AEC Closes Probe In Plutonium Case

By John Fialka
Star-News Staff Writer

The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission has closed its investigation into charges of major safety and security violations at an Oklahoma nuclear fuel fabricating facility, concluding that most of them were "unsubstantiated."

Yesterday the agency issued the last two of a series of three investigatory reports on the plant, the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation's Cimarron Plant at Crescent, Okla.

The reports find that Kerr-McGee committed only four minor infractions of AEC reporting regulations and they state that investigators could find no physical injury, significant loss of nuclear materials, major contamination or faulty workmanship at the plant.

Over 45 separate charges of faulty operations of the plant were made by the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) which represents the workers there. Much of the evidence was collected by Miss Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old laboratory analyst, who died in a highly publicized auto accident while pressing the case against Kerr-McGee.

THE OCAW had asserted that Miss Silkwood may have been forced off the road by another car before she died in the Nov. 13 crash and that she was seriously contaminated with radioactive plutonium after working with faulty equipment at the plant, which manufactures fuel rods for the nation's breeder reactor program.

Dr. A. Jay Chapman, chief medical examiner for the State of Oklahoma, however, said that an autopsy revealed that Miss Silkwood was under the influence of an apparent overdose of a sedative drug, methaqualone, at the time of the accident, which could indicate she fell asleep at the wheel. (The state's highway patrol has concluded that the crash was accidental.)

The drug, according to Dr. Chapman, was "present in greater quantity than would be expected in an ordinary therapeutic dose," and appeared to have been taken shortly before the crash. Miss Silkwood's car crashed as she was driving to a meeting with an OCAW staff member and a New York Times reporter.

As for the contamination charge, AEC investigators found plutonium traces in Miss Silkwood's lungs and liver as well as in urine and fecal samples, indicating she had inhaled and eaten quantities of plutonium dust.

However, they could not find records of contamination at the plant that would explain such high radiation levels. Studies of a series of five urine samples submitted to Kerr-McGee by Mrs. Silkwood after alleged contamination incidents at the plant on Nov. 6 and 7, the investigators concluded, showed that two of them had been tampered with by someone who added abnormal levels of plutonium to them before they were checked by the company.

Tony Mazzocchi, Washington representative of the OCAW, described Miss Silkwood as a "Bright union activist." He said that the union local at the plant was "upset" at the failure of the AEC to substantiate the charges and that the OCAW leaders would continue to press them.

"WE HAVE to rely on the information we get from the workers," said Mazzocchi, who asserted that one could conclude from the AEC reports that "either she was fed plutonium by somebody else or that she ingested it herself."

James J. Kelly, president of Kerr-McGee, said the company was "pleased with the results of the investigation." The AEC reports, he said, confirmed the "effectiveness" of the company's safety procedures and quality control.

The bulk of the OCAW's charges were a series of 39 items examined by the AEC, which concluded that 20 of them could be partly or wholly substantiated, but that only three of these represented actual violations of AEC rules requiring scrupulous reporting at the plant.

These, plus a fourth reporting violation found as the result of the investigation into Miss Silkwood's case, are all "Category III" infractions, violating the AEC's lowest level of punitive rules.

An AEC spokesman said that most violations in that category result only in a "notice of violation" that is sent to the company. The exact penalties in this case, he added, have not yet been determined by the AEC.

The infractions include a failure to report an operator's error at the plant, which resulted in contamination, exceeding the permitted radiation levels on a processing machine on two occasions; and the use of larger quantities of plutonium than are allowed for routine laboratory programs.

The AEC investigators also uncovered two cases where company employes have falsified quality control procedures, although their report notes that no faulty plutonium fuel rods have been found.

IN ONE CASE, William S. Dotter, a former plant employe, admitted to AEC investigators that he touched up photographic negatives of welds with a pen to get them to pass inspection.

"I decided that the small defects — white spots — that occurred in the photo negatives and which, in my judgment, were not defects in the weld itself, could be covered on the negatives by the use of a felt point pen to daub a small amount of ink on the spot," Dotter explained in a sworn statement.

He said the retouching was done to save "a lot of unnecessary work" and was not known to company officials.

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FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 1/16/75

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)

FROM: SAC, WFO (159-369)(P)

UNSUBS.;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ
(OO:OC)

ReOCairtel to the Bureau dated 11/27/74.

Enclosed for information is an article appearing in the "Washington Star-News" on 1/8/75.

LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will continue investigation set forth in reairtel and OCairtel to the Bureau dated 12/11/74.

2 - Oklahoma City (Enc 1)
1 - WFO

CMI:ctw
(3)

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[redacted]

JAN 17 1975

159-45-97

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-090 (11)

FD-263 (Rev. 1-7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
OKLAHOMA CITY	OKLAHOMA CITY	1/21/75	12/18/74 - 1/15/75

TITLE OF CASE

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased)

REPORT MADE BY [redacted] TYPED BY dah b6 b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE

LMRDA; OOJ

REFERENCES:

Report of SA [redacted] at Oklahoma City, 12/13/74; b6 b7C
Dallas airtel to Oklahoma City, 12/23/74; IO;
Baltimore airtel to Bureau, 1/6/75;
Oklahoma City airtel and LHM to Bureau, 12/31/74;
Bureau airtel to Oklahoma City 1/10/75;

-P-

ENCLOSURES:

TO BUREAU

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are three copies of xerox copies of Accident Reconstruction Lab dated December 15, 1974, and two copies each of the following items:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED				X NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
						PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES X NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES X NO

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

3 - Bureau (Enc. - 13)
2 - USA, Oklahoma City (Enc. - 6)
1 - WFO
(2) - Oklahoma City (159-45)
dah

Signature [redacted] b6 b7C

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

No

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159-45-98

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COVER PAGE

OC 159-45

AEC News Release #U-11 dated 1/6/75;

AEC News Release #U-12 dated 1/7/74;

AEC Report of Inspection during period 11/21 and 22/74, and 12/5 and 6/74;

AEC Investigative Report #74-09;

AEC Division of Inspection Report 44-2-339.

Three copies of the Accident Reconstruction Lab report were furnished to the Bureau, one of which is for dissemination to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Dissemination of other enclosed material to AEC is not warranted since the material is originally obtained from AEC.

Baltimore by re Baltimore airtel furnished Oklahoma City draft copies of much of the material furnished to Oklahoma City by the Bureau by re Bureau airtel, 1/10/75. None of the Baltimore material is being disseminated since it has been included in the material furnished to Oklahoma City by the Bureau by re 1/10/75 airtel. All the material in enclosed re Bureau airtel has been disseminated by this report.

Three copies of report being provided to Bureau in view of Obstruction of Justice aspect of this case in event that dissemination of report to AEC is desired.

LEADS:

WFO (Info). Information copy furnished to WFO in view of outstanding investigation that division.

OKLAHOMA CITY

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, WDO, upon receipt of outstanding investigation from WFO.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 2 - USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: Oklahoma City b6 b7C
Date: 1/21/75

Field Office File #159-45 Bureau File #:

Title: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased)

Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT of 1959;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis: [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Lab, Dallas, Texas, on 12/18/74, made available a copy of his report dated 12/15/74 re fatal auto accident of KAREN G. SILKWOOD. FBI Lab advised no significant material or paint could be identified as foreign to paint particles submitted. Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP) critically analyzed [redacted] report and advised that [redacted] report does not alter their original conclusion re SILKWOOD's death and that there was no evidence of foul play connected with her accident. [redacted] Kerr-McGee Cimarron facility, advised she attended union meeting 11/13/74 and saw KAREN SILKWOOD at the meeting. SILKWOOD had in her possession a tan manila folder. b6 b7C

-P-

Enclosures:

TO USA, OKLAHOMA CITY.

One copy of the Accident Reconstruction Lab and one copy each of the five enclosed AEC material is being furnished to USA, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Details: by SA [redacted] b6 b7C

On December 18, 1974, [redacted], Accident Reconstruction Lab, 1710 Boll Street, Dallas, Texas, made available a 17 page report dated December 15, 1974, concerning the fatal accident of KAREN SILKWOOD November 13, 1974. [redacted] advised that the original report was sent to the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW) and the OCAW has been advised that he is providing a copy of the report to the FBI, Dallas, Texas.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1970 O - 408-811

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/18/75

1

Lieutenant [redacted] Public Information, Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), furnished the following information: b6 b7C

The OHP is in receipt of the report prepared by [redacted] of Accident Reconstruction Lab, Dallas, Texas, which [redacted] prepared relative to the fatal one car accident of KAREN G. SILKWOOD which occurred in Logan County, Oklahoma, on the evening of November 13, 1974. b6 b7C

Upon receipt the report was studied at length by three Highway Patrol accident specialists led by Lieutenant [redacted] The group studied the report for a week. b6 b7C

On January 10, 1975, a lengthy press conference was held at OHP Headquarters, Oklahoma City, at which time the Highway Patrol's critical analysis of the [redacted] report was stated by Public Safety Commissioner [redacted] and Lieutenant [redacted]. No formal written report by the Highway Patrol relative to their analysis of the [redacted] report has been prepared. b6 b7C

He was in attendance at the January 10, 1975, press conference and also was aware of the complete details of the OHP study of the [redacted] report. The OHP has ruled out any possibility that foul play was involved in the SILKWOOD accident. All the known evidence indicates that the crash was accidental and apparently the result of Miss SILKWOOD having fallen asleep while driving. It was noted that the State Medical Examiner's report indicated that Miss SILKWOOD had one and one-half times the therapeutic dosage of Methaqualone, a hypnotic drug, in her blood at the time of the accident with a large quantity of undissolved drug in her stomach. b6 b7C

There was no evidence of SILKWOOD's car having been struck from the rear, thus precipitating the fatal crash as postulated by [redacted]. The dents to the left rear b6 b7C

Interviewed on 1/15/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :pwo Date dictated 1/16/75 b6 b7C

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bumper and left rear corner of the body noted by [redacted] were in the Highway Patrol's opinion caused by wrecker drivers in their attempt to remove the car from the culvert where it came to rest. If the dents had been caused from impact of another vehicle, they more than likely would have been smooth; however, close-up photographs of the dents were taken reflecting raspy-type indentations showing a sandpaper effect such as would come from the car having come in contact with the rough concrete surface of the culvert. White paint flakes were found on the top portion of the south wing of the culvert thus indicating that the dents to the car that [redacted] thought significant occurred there. b6 b7C

The OHP also noted that these dents that [redacted] thought significant occurred relatively close to the ground from 13 to 15" above the ground surface on the lower surface of the bumper and below the bumper. The OHP could not visualize what type of vehicle would be closer to the ground than a Honda that could have caused the accident in the version that [redacted] described. [redacted] reconstruction of the path of the SILKWOOD car as it left the road and striking the culvert was thought to be contrary to the laws of physics. [redacted] contended that SILKWOOD overcompensated upon receiving a blow in the rear and swerved from the right land across the left lane and off the left side of the road, but the OHP was unable to find any skid marks to indicate she lost control of the car before leaving the road. b6 b7C

[redacted] cited three lines of tire indentations toward the culvert which [redacted] believed were caused by the SILKWOOD car moving in a somewhat sideways configuration toward the north wing wall. If that were correct, the tire impressions would have ground up the turf along its path, but no such evidence was found by the OHP. b6 b7C

[redacted] also thought it significant that a tire tread mark found on the road surface indicated to him that the SILKWOOD car was jackknifing, but if a jackknife situation had occurred the OHP noted that the tires would not have left the tread marks thought significant by [redacted]. b6 b7C

[redacted] interpretation of the significance of SILKWOOD's car leaving the left side of the road was also b6 b7C

faulty. [redacted] had indicated because the road surface is crowned, that is slightly higher in the center, that SILKWOOD's car would have veered to the right side if she had fallen asleep. The OHP noted that this would have been true only if the car had been in alignment. The OHP noted SILKWOOD's car had been in another accident just two weeks prior to the November 13, 1974, accident. The damage from this accident had not been repaired indicating that the SILKWOOD car was likely not in proper alignment. b6 b7C

The OHP noted that [redacted] opinions had no real physical evidence to support the theory of foul play. b6 b7C

The [redacted] report in no way altered the OHP initial findings in the SILKWOOD fatality. b6 b7C

OC 159-45

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Washington, D.C., made available to FBI Headquarters, Washington D.C. the following items:

AEC News Release #U-11 dated January 6, 1975;

AEC News Release #U-12 dated January 7, 1974;

AEC Report of Inspection during period November 21 and 22, 1974, and December 5 and 6, 1974;

AEC Investigative Report #74-09;

AEC Division of Inspection Report 44-2-339.

OC 159-45
TWM:ddw
1

At Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

On January 8, 1975, [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, telephonically contacted the Oklahoma City Office of the FBI to advise that he had received information that a union member, who is employed at the Kerr-McGee Corporation (KMC), Cimarron Facility, saw a folder in possession of KAREN SILKWOOD at the union meeting, November 13, 1974 just prior to SILKWOOD's fatal accident. The folder contained information that would support the allegations concerning the company having been involved in the falsification of fuel rod records. [redacted] advised that he received much of SILKWOOD's personal possessions obtained from the car involved in the fatal accident but he did not receive a folder such as described by the union member.

[redacted] advised that the union member who saw the folder was [redacted] Oklahoma. [redacted] does not desire to be contacted at the plant inasmuch as she is apprehensive that the company may take some type of disciplinary action against her should it be known that she is talking to the FBI. b6 b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date of transcription 1/15/75

[redacted] Oklahoma b6 b7C was interviewed at her residence, a mobile home located at the corner of 11th and Sheridan, and furnished the following information:

She is employed at the Kerr-McGee Corporation (KMC), Cimarron Facility, and has worked at that plant for the past 18 months. She works in the pellet assembly room of the plutonium plant. She was acquainted with KAREN SILKWOOD. SILKWOOD worked in the laboratory in the plutonium plant. She and KAREN worked in different sections and often times on different shifts. Both she and KAREN are members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union. She knew KAREN through their mutual association in union activities. She and KAREN did not socialize with each other. She and KAREN were not close friends but were acquaintances.

On the evening of November 13, 1974, she attended the union meeting held at The Hub Restaurant in Crescent. KAREN also attended this meeting. There was a total of six or eight union members in attendance at this meeting.

She also attended a union meeting on the evening of January 7, 1975 at which the international representative, [redacted] was also present. It was not until conversation developed at this January 7, 1975 meeting that she recalled seeing certain items in possession of SILKWOOD at the November 13, 1974 meeting. In the conversation with [redacted] a Cimarron Facility employee and a union member, [redacted] mentioned that she believed she recalled seeing KAREN with a folder at the November 13, 1974 meeting. b6 b7C

After [redacted] mentioned the folder, she also recalled seeing KAREN with a folder at the November 13, 1974 meeting. b6 b7C

KAREN arrived at the November 13, 1974 union meeting after it had started. KAREN was accompanied by [redacted] She did not sit with KAREN. She recalled that KAREN had in her possession at the meeting a purse and a brown manilla folder b6 b7C

Interviewed on 1/9/75 at Kingfisher, Okla. File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] /ddw Date dictated 1/13/75 b6 b7C

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approximately one inch thick containing papers and a dark brown spiral notebook approximately 8 inches by ten inches and a half-inch thick. She believes that the notebook contained KAREN's notes concerning union-company negotiations.

The manilla folder was identical to the folder which she now observed in the possession of the interviewing agent. (It is noted that the folder [redacted] is referring to is a tan manilla folder nine inches by twelve inches.) b6 b7C

She does not know what the nature of the papers were within the manilla folder that KAREN had at the November 13, 1974 meeting. KAREN did not tell her what the papers were nor did she actually observe the contents of the folder. She assumes that the papers in the folder dealt with the information that KAREN had acquired regarding the falsification of the fuel rod quality control records but she does not know this to be a fact, it is merely an assumption.

After the meeting had broken up on the evening of November 13, 1974, KAREN mentioned to her that she was going to thereafter see [redacted]. KAREN said that she had evidence concerning the falsification of fuel rod records. Just what the nature of the evidence that KAREN had, she does not know. b6 b7C

During the course of the November 13, 1974 meeting, KAREN was visibly shook. By this, she means that KAREN appeared very nervous and very "scared". This condition was a result of KAREN having been contaminated. At the meeting, KAREN broke down and cried. She heard KAREN say "I don't know who got it in for me to take my life with this contamination. I've got enough to kill me."

It was her opinion that KAREN should have someone drive her home because of her "condition". She did not hear any of the other union members make any offers to drive KAREN home prior to KAREN's leaving but after KAREN left, she learned that [redacted] had offered to drive KAREN home but she refused. b6 b7C

She did not see KAREN eat or drink anything at the union meeting. She did not see KAREN take any type of pill or medication at the union meeting.

OC 159-45

It was shortly after the November 13, 1974 meeting, that KAREN was involved in the fatal automobile accident.

She has no personal knowledge as to how the fatal accident occurred. She has no personal knowledge as to how KAREN became contaminated. She has no personal knowledge concerning the allegations that KAREN's body samples were tampered with.

She has no personal knowledge as to what information KAREN had acquired relative to the falsification of fuel rod records. The only information she has in this regard is information that KAREN told her in various conversations at union meetings, etc., subsequent to the September, 1974 meeting in Washington, D. C. that KAREN and other union officials attended. From her conversations with KAREN and other union members, she is aware that KAREN had gathered much information concerning health-safety conditions at the Cimarron Facility and to her knowledge, KAREN had passed on this information to the Atomic Energy Commission.

She was at another union meeting sometime in October, 1974, exact date unrecalled, which meeting was held at The Hub Cafe in Crescent. During this meeting, KAREN had complained that she was sick, coming down with a virus. KAREN looked sick to her. KAREN talked to [redacted] b6 b7C a Cimarron Facility, non-union employee, who was at The Hub but not in attendance at the union meeting. [redacted] invited KAREN to spend the night with her and from conversation with both KAREN and [redacted] she understands that KAREN did in fact spend the night with [redacted]

She does not know where KAREN went immediately after the union meeting and presumes that KAREN went directly to [redacted] house. b6 b7C

OC 159-45
LJO:ddw
1

Reference is made to the report of SA [redacted] at Oklahoma City dated December 13, 1974. b6 b7C

It is noted that [redacted] b6 b7C Ted Sebring Ford Company, Crescent, Oklahoma, as set out on page 59 of the above-mentioned report recalls observing two "binders" which were placed in a box containing personal effects from SILKWOOD's car.

SILKWOOD's boy friend, DREW STEPHENS, as set out on page 115 of above-mentioned report, indicates that he obtained from SILKWOOD's personal effects two folders, one containing old union papers and the other concerning nuclear hazards and industrial ecology.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/16/75

[redacted] Texas, telephone [redacted] telephonically contacted the Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at 12:40 p.m. and furnished the following information: b6 b7C

She stated she had just read an article in the January 20, 1975, issue of "Time" magazine pertaining to an FBI investigation at Kerr-McGee Plutonium Plant, Cimarron River Facility, in Oklahoma. She said the article concerned a girl named KAREN SILKWOOD, who was killed in an automobile accident on November 13, 1974, at approximately 7:30 p.m. while driving on Oklahoma State Highway 74. [redacted] b6 b7C said she inferred from the article that the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAWU), Local 5-283, was implying that SILKWOOD was killed intentionally by persons unknown because of SILKWOOD's criticism of Kerr-Mc Gee for handling nuclear materials.

[redacted] explained she often visits in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and was in the general vicinity of the Kerr-McGee Cimarron River facility on November 13, 1974, in her own automobile. She said the wind gusts were very strong that day and estimated the wind to be gusting up to 60-70 miles per hour. She said the "Time" magazine article revealed SILKWOOD was driving a Honda automobile at the time of her accident. [redacted] said, in her opinion, in view of the windy conditions on November 13, 1974, and the fact that SILKWOOD was driving a lightweight car, it is highly probable that the wind blew SILKWOOD's car off the road. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated she has never been employed by or associated with anyone with Kerr-McGee or OCAWU. She added she has no direct knowledge of the conditions at the Kerr-McGee plant or the circumstances of SILKWOOD's death other than what she read in "Time" magazine. She said her b6 b7C

Interviewed on 1/15/75 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 159-107
Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] /lsr Date dictated 1/15/75 b6 b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

reason for contacting the FBI was simply that she was in the general area during the approximate time SILKWOOD had her accident and wished to point out her observations to responsible authorities of the wind conditions at that time.

[redacted] added she has not been contacted by anyone from Kerr-McGee, or OCAWU in regard to this matter and has no interest in it other than to furnish information which may be of assistance as a responsible citizen. b6 b7C

FD-[redacted] (11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/16/75

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Interviewed on 1/15/75 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 159-107
Oklahoma City 159-45

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JAN 20 1975
FBI - DALLAS

by SA JAMES D. CAREY/lcr Date dictated 1/15/75

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your [redacted] b6 b7C

159-45-99

reason for contacting the FBI was simply that she was in the general area during the approximate time SILKWOOD had her accident and wished to point out her observations to responsible authorities of the wind conditions at that time.

[redacted] added she has not been contacted by anyone from Kerr-McGee, or OCAWU in regard to this matter and has no interest in it other than to furnish information which may be of assistance as a responsible citizen. b6 b7C

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) 1/16/75

SAC, DALLAS (159-107)(P)

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LREMDA; OOJ

OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

Re Dallas telcall to Oklahoma City 1/15/75.

Enclosed for Oklahoma City are two copies of FD 302 re interview of [redacted] on 1/15/75, at Dallas, Texas.

b6
b7C

2- Oklahoma City (Enc. 2)
2- Dallas
JDC:lsr
(4)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 20 1975
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY

159-45-100

0-4 (Rev. 11-19-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

DATE: 12/23/74

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City
(159-45)

Re: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD
(Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ
CO: Oklahoma City

Invoice of Contents

01-02

Dlwm

REGISTERED MAIL

FBI File No.

All items listed above are contained in this package. A detailed description of items will be found in Bureau communication dated 12/23/74 # FC-L4261 IM

1974

159-45-101

57

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) DATE: 1/23/75

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (159-618) (RUC)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);
LMRDA; OOJ
(OO:OKLAHOMA CITY)

Re Baltimore airtel to the Bureau, 1/6/75.

Enclosed for Oklahoma City is an Atomic Energy Commission report dated 12/19/74 regarding the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Division, Cimarron Nuclear Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records.

The enclosed report was made available by [redacted] Assistant Director, Inspection Division, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Germantown, Maryland. b6 b7C

2 - Oklahoma City (Enc. 1)
1 - Baltimore
GGS:mjm
(3)

with Encl made 1

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 28 1975
[redacted] b6 b7C
OKLAHOMA CITY

159-45-104

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-110

53

Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 12-17-73)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC:

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☐ Albuquerque	☐ Indianapolis	☐ Philadelphia	☐ Phoenix
☐ Alexandria	☐ Jackson	☐ Pittsburgh	☐ Portland
☐ Anchorage	☐ Jacksonville	☐ Richmond	☐ Sacramento
☐ Atlanta	☐ Kansas City	☐ St. Louis	☐ Salt Lake City
☐ Baltimore	☐ Knoxville	☐ San Antonio	☐ San Diego
☐ Birmingham	☐ Las Vegas	☐ San Francisco	☐ San Juan
☐ Boston	☐ Little Rock	☐ Savannah	☐ Seattle
☐ Buffalo	☐ Los Angeles	☐ Springfield	☐ Tampa
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☐ Dallas	☐ Newark		
☐ Denver	☐ New Haven		
☐ Detroit	☐ New Orleans		
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☐ Honolulu	☐ Norfolk		

TO LEGAT:

- ☐ Beirut
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- ☐ Buenos Aires
- ☐ Caracas
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- ☐ London
- ☐ Madrid
- ☐ Manila
- ☐ Mexico City
- ☐ Ottawa
- ☐ Paris
- ☐ Rome
- ☐ Singapore
- ☐ Tel Aviv
- ☐ Tokyo

Date 1/27/75

RE: UNSUB; KAREN G. SILKWOOD
(DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ

☒ For information ☐ Retention optional ☐ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____.

Remarks:

Rerep of [redacted] dated 12/31/74, at Oklahoma City.

b6
b7C

In order that Internal Security Section of the Department, Energy Research and Development Administration and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, all of whom have an interest in instant matter, may be kept advised, please submit an additional 3 copies of all future reports or communications prepared for dissemination.

Enc.

Bufile 159-4005
Urfile 159-45

[redacted]

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 29 1974
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

[redacted]

b6
b7C

SPECIAL

159-45-1052

MIKE GRAVEL
ALASKA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 22, 1975

Honorable Clarence M. Kelley
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C., 20535

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Thank you for your letter of December 27 indicating that the FBI apparently does not have jurisdiction in the incidents of November and December, 1974, at Kerr-McGee's Cimmaron nuclear plant.

I would like to ask a few more specific questions to make sure I understand perfectly the position of the FBI in the case:

1. Has all FBI involvement in the investigation of the incidents now been terminated?

2. Did the FBI make any determinations in the case, and if so, may I learn what they were?

3. Specifically, did the FBI determine whether Miss Karen Silkwood may have smuggled plutonium from the plant? What is the extent of the FBI's role in protecting the Nation's stores of plutonium?

4. Did the FBI make any determination regarding Kerr-McGee's allegations that employes "contrived" accidents at the Cimmaron plant?

I appreciate your taking the time to answer my questions. I also will write to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the AEC's successor, as you recommend.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Gravel

We are accused for snooping, then they demand more!

INDEXED
FILED
JAN 20 1974
CITY

b6
b7C

159-45-106

January 20, 1975

Honorable Mike Gravel
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Gravel:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 22nd requesting specific information regarding the FBI's investigation at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron nuclear plant.

The results of inquiries by this Bureau at that facility have been forwarded to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, for a determination as to what Federal action may be warranted.

I am, therefore, taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter and my response to the Department of Justice for consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

(1)- Oklahoma City - Enclosure

b6
b7C

[redacted]

[redacted] RECEIVED
[redacted] FILED
JAN 20 1975
[redacted] OKLA. CITY

159-45-[redacted]
107

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Death Of Karen Silkwood:

BY KAY MCCARTHY
United Press International

CRESCENT — Just a few years ago most people here had never heard of plutonium.

The men worked in the oil fields and on farms. The town's population remained about 1,500, with no factories to attract new residents.

Then Kerr-McGee Corp., an energy giant headquartered 30 miles away in Oklahoma City, opened a plutonium processing plant south of town. New families arrived, increasing the population to about 1,800, and new housing was built between the nuclear plant and the town.

Today every store front in Crescent's three-block-long downtown is occupied. About 150 families are dependent on work at the plant, which makes fuel rods containing plutonium-uranium oxide for the Clinch River Fast Breeder Reactor project under construction near Hanford, Wash.

Now, some of the townspeople believe they have been unjustly subjected to notoriety because of controversy over radiation safety and the death of Karen Silkwood, a Kerr-McGee employee.

Miss Silkwood, 28, was believed to have inhaled or ingested traces of dangerous radioactive material in early November. Kerr-McGee announced the contamination publicly and she went to Los Alamos, N.M., for tests.

She returned to Oklahoma Nov. 12 and died a day later when her car ran off the road as she was driving to Oklahoma City to talk with a union official and a newspaper reporter about alleged safety hazards at the plant.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol and state medical examiner said Miss Silkwood was heavily sedated with methaqualone, a drug she was taking for a back injury she received in a car crash two weeks earlier. They said she was alone and probably fell asleep.

Miss Silkwood was a laboratory analyst at the plant. She and two others were contaminated by minute airborne samples of insoluble plutonium 239 on July 28 and Aug. 3.

Kerr-McGee reported the incidents to the AEC in October and federal inspectors subsequently found the firm failed to keep records of her urine samples. In November, radioactive material again was found on her skin and investigators found contaminations in her apartment, principally in the bathroom and on baloney in the refrigerator.

An AEC investigator later said the November contamination incidents involving Miss Silkwood "probably did not result from an accident or incident within the plant."

But the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union claims it has evidence that Miss Silkwood, who was a union member, was forced off the road in the accident in which she died. The union also has kept alive allegations that plant safety precautions were inadequate.

Washington OCAW leaders said Kerr-McGee fails to give employees adequate training and education; to keep exposure to radioactive material minimal; to take proper hygienic precautions; and to monitor workers' exposure to radiation.

The company has denied the charges. After an investigation, the Atomic Energy Commission said it found four violations of federal regulations but none that would endanger employees or the public.

The violations included failure to report to the AEC about a processing equipment problem; exceeding on two occasions the amount of plutonium permitted in a specific work area; and using in a work area a small amount of plutonium not authorized in the license. Kerr-McGee is preparing plans requested by the AEC to prevent further violations.

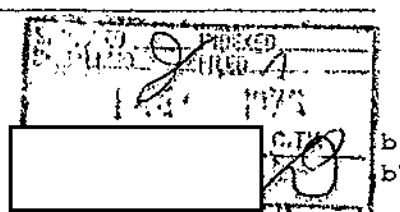
Questions about contamination outside the plant were raised by the discovery that

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Guthrie Daily Leader
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Date: February 2, 1975
Edition: Daily
Author: Kay McCarthy
Editor: Dale Himes
Title: Karen Silkwood; Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated



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159-45-1085

Miss Silkwood's apartment in nearby Edmond had a low level of contamination. The AEC said it did not know how it happened. A light dust, invisible to the naked eye, was found in the apartment shared with another plant employee, Sherry Ellis.

The AEC said it learned in its investigation of the Silkwood contamination that two of her urine samples contained plutonium added after they were taken from her. Jan Strasma, an AEC spokesman, said the addition of plutonium was deliberate, but the AEC did not know who did it.

Kerr-McGee closed the plant for about two weeks in December but before the temporary closing, officials said several small uranium pellets were found outside the plant. They said the pellets presented no danger to the public.

Steve Wodka, OCAW legislative liaison officer, said Miss Silkwood was terrified by plutonium and would not have contaminated herself. He said she was known to be unpopular with some employees because of her protests about plant safety.

When the plant reopened in January, Kerr-McGee ordered employees to take lie detector tests before returning to work. The union then complained to the National Labor Relations Board.

The union hired a private investigator, who said he found evidence indicating a vehicle hit Miss Silkwood's car.

OCAW's Wodka later said scientists found indications that the car was knocked off the road, probably by a late model auto with a rubber bumper.

Miss Silkwood's car crossed the oncoming lane of traffic and ran off the left side of the road, which the investigator said supported his theory. Normally, he said, on a road with a similar slope a driver would have run off the right side.

Miss Silkwood's blood at the time of death had a methaqualone content of .35 per cent, compared with .20 recommended for medication and .50 as a fatal amount. The state medical examiner also said there was a trace of alcohol in her blood.

When questions arose about the highway patrol's investigation of the accident, the patrol held a news conference. Diagrams, slides and photographs were shown. Public Safety Commissioner Roger Webb said there was no evidence of anything but an accident.

Webb said the dent in the left rear fender of Miss Silkwood's car was caused by a wrecker winching the car over a culvert wing wall. Lt. Larry Owen said it was impossible for the car to run off the left side of the road after being hit on its left side.

Owen also said a motorist usually slumps to the left against the door when falling asleep and runs off the right side of the road.

Pauline Stoehr, a grocer at Crescent for 29 years, thinks internal problems between workers provoked the controversy.

"These people are not going down there every day to commit suicide," says Mayor Milo Buddy Johnson. "I don't feel there's too much danger from talking to my friends. Anybody with common sense would know how to take care of themselves."

A man who worked at the plant until three months ago says Kerr-McGee provided the means for safety and "if you don't use it it's your own fault."

"We'll all fight for it as far as keeping it open," says Ted Sebring, the town's Ford dealer. "All my friends work out there.

"Anything that's government-controlled is government-controlled. I'm a member of the city council, too, and if it were dangerous we'd be out there worried about it."

One plant employee, Raymond Neal, whose wife defended the plant, Kerr-McGee and its chief officer, in a letter to the local newspaper, the Logan County News, would not comment on any aspect of the matter. He said Kerr-McGee does not allow employees to talk to reporters about their work.

Pat Petree, Kerr-McGee public relations director, says the firm's policy for years required clearance through his department before employees discussed with the news media any information about the company, work procedures and its business.

Janet Barber, wife of a plant guard, is not worried about an accident or contamination. It doesn't bother her husband, she says, so it doesn't bother her either.

But Miss Ellis, Miss Silkwood's roommate, was concerned enough to hire an attorney, D. C. Thomas, for a possible suit against Kerr-McGee and the AEC if necessary to force release of her health records. She claims she unsuccessfully asked several times for access to her health records following the contamination incident. Miss Ellis left her plant job Jan. 20 and has made no public comment since.

Opponents include an elderly woman who blames her health problems on the plant and a young shop employee says he watched a friend's Geiger counter on a window sill register a high radioactivity count when the wind blew from the plant.

The ruckus over Miss Silkwood's death, Kerr-McGee operations and the AEC investigations is blamed for a slow start of a new housing development along the highway between the plant and Crescent.

Known as Cimarron City, the development has only two houses. One resident says some people abandoned down payments on lots after the controversy developed.

Virginia Stout, copublisher with her husband, James, of the Logan County News, estimates it will take three to five years before the town recovers from the nationwide attention.

"The plain honest to goodness facts aren't what sell newspapers," she says. "The controversy at our nuclear plant reminds us of some of the controversy surrounding the opening of the atomic plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee."

Mrs. Stout grew up in that area of Tennessee and recalls "they had a blessing in disguise in those days - no TV, few people could afford a radio and the newspapers weren't so critical of every move."

For Mayor Johnson the plutonium plant has brought "good, family, down-to-earth people" to town. He says "you just don't complain about something like this."

FD-263 (7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
WASHINGTON FIELD	OKLAHOMA CITY	2/5/75	1/27-28/75

TITLE OF CASE

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

REPORT MADE BY: CARLTON V. BRODEN — TYPED BY: pja

CHARACTER OF CASE

LMRDA; OOJ

REFERENCE: Report of SA [redacted] dated 12/13/74 at Oklahoma City.

- P -

ENCLOSURES

OKLAHOMA

1) Tape of conversations furnished by [redacted] and referred to in this report.

2) One (1) copy of hearings before the Subcommittee on Research, Development, and Radiation of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy.

3) Copy of letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the OCAW Union at Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, from ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI and [redacted]

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☐ NONE						CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	ACQUIT-TALS	PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

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4- Oklahoma City (159-45(Enc. 3)
(2- USA, Oklahoma City)
1- WFO (159-369)

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Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

FEB 10 1975

COVER PAGE

159-45 109

WFO 159-369

ADMINISTRATIVE

An attempt was made to contact ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI and [redacted] on 1/27/75. b6 b7C

Oklahoma City airtel to the Director, dated 11/27/74, advised that [redacted] Executive Director, Staff of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (JCOAE), had contacted FBI Headquarters and stated that testimony taken from MAZZOCCHI in September, 1974 might be pertinent to this investigation. [redacted] has retired from the JCOAE. [redacted] Acting Director, JCOAE, was contacted and he advised he knew of no testimony by MAZZOCCHI before the JCOAE in September, 1974. He had a staff assistant, [redacted] make a check to determine if MAZZOCCHI had ever testified before the Committee and the only record that could be located was testimony of MAZZOCCHI on 6/8/67. A copy of MAZZOCCHI's testimony on 6/8/67 is enclosed for Oklahoma City. b6 b7C

As WFO does not know the extent of the investigation conducted by the Oklahoma City Division, no leads are being set forth to interview any of the individuals in attached report.

LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will maintain contact with [redacted], OCAW, to obtain copy of the report of ERNEST MARTIN pertaining to the rubber smudge on SILKWOOD's car. b6 b7C

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 2- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: CARLTON V. BRODEN Office: Washington, D.C.
Date: 2/5/75

Field Office File #: 159-369 Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis:

[redacted], OCAW, advised that on 11/7/74, SILKWOOD telephoned him reporting she was contaminated and requested his help. [redacted] flew to Oklahoma on 11/9/74 and met with SILKWOOD who told him her apartment was contaminated, especially her refrigerator and food. SILKWOOD stated she felt someone had tried to poison her. SILKWOOD stated she had also reported her suspicions to two AEC investigators. SILKWOOD also told [redacted] fellow member of the OCAW, of her belief while at union meeting evening of 11/13/74. [redacted] stated that [redacted] observed SILKWOOD in possession of a file containing documents which SILKWOOD stated would document the falsification of quality control data. WODKA stated this file is missing. WODKA stated that [redacted] who investigated SILKWOOD's accident for OCAW, felt that if her car's left rear fender had been damaged at time it was extracted from the culvert there would be concrete fragments in the dents so [redacted] with approval of the OCAW, engaged [redacted] Consultants, to examine the fender and bumper of SILKWOOD's car. Their reports are set forth.

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DETAILS

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1970 O - 408-840

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/4/75

1

[redacted], Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), 1126 16th Street, furnished the following information: b6 b7C

In September, 1974, KAREN SILKWOOD, together with other OCAW members employed at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma, were in Washington, D.C. (WDC) to inform the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) about the unsafe working standards at the facility.

While in WDC, SILKWOOD mentioned that documents were being falsified concerning quality control data at the facility. SILKWOOD was instructed by [redacted] to secure documentation concerning the allegations and to keep him apprised of her progress. SILKWOOD did as she was instructed and by late October or early November, 1974, it was decided she was ready for a meeting to discuss the documentation she had obtained. b6 b7C

It was first decided to meet SILKWOOD in Dallas, Texas, and he purchased an airline ticket on November 6, 1974 for SILKWOOD to fly to Dallas to meet with him on November 13, 1974. SILKWOOD decided she did not want to go to Dallas to meet him because of her contamination problem so the meeting was changed to Oklahoma City on November 13, 1974. On November 13, 1974, he and [redacted] a reporter for the "New York Times", were waiting for SILKWOOD at the Holiday Inn, Oklahoma City, when he learned of her death after he made some telephone calls to OCAW union officers employed at Kerr-McGee when she failed to appear for the meeting by 10:00 p.m. b6 b7C

On November 14, 1974, he talked to [redacted] Oklahoma Highway Patrol (OHP), who conducted the investigation of KAREN SILKWOOD's accident on November 13, 1974. He told FAGAN he suspected foul play and that it was not just a normal accident. FAGAN replied that he was going to proceed on the theory it was a normal accident unless the autopsy examination showed something to the contrary. WODKA's suspicions of foul play were based on information he had received as set forth below. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 1/28/75 at Washington, D.C. File # WFO 159-369

by SA CARLTON V. BRODEN:pjs Date dictated 2/3/75

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

On the evening of November 7, 1974, he received a telephone call from KAREN SILKWOOD who told him she had been contaminated and asked him to help her. On November 8, 1974, he flew to Oklahoma and met with SILKWOOD, who told him that she had been discovered to be contaminated on November 5, 1974, and that it had been discovered on November 7, 1974, that her apartment was contaminated, especially her refrigerator and food therein, which she had eaten. During their conversation, SILKWOOD said she felt someone had tried to poison her.

SILKWOOD also told him that she had been on a four day break from work from November 1 through November 4, 1974 and had not been at her apartment during this period until she returned on November 4, 1974. SILKWOOD told him that during this period SHERRI ELLIS, with whom she shared the apartment, had worked on grave-yard shifts at the plant. SILKWOOD also said that ELLIS often had difficulty locking the apartment door and left it unlocked. SILKWOOD had said she felt that during this period someone had entered her apartment and contaminated the food in the refrigerator. SILKWOOD also told him she had reported her suspicions to [redacted] and [redacted] investigators of the AEC, who were then conducting an investigation at the Kerr-McGee facility concerning the contamination incident. [redacted] work out of the AEC Glen Ellyn Office just outside Chicago, Illinois.

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On November 13, 1974, DREW STEPHENS, SILKWOOD's boy friend, told him that SILKWOOD had stayed with a friend, [redacted] in [redacted] Oklahoma, from November 1 to November 4, 1974. [redacted] who works at the Kerr-McGee facility, now resides at [redacted] Oklahoma.

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STEPHENS also told him after SILKWOOD's death that on the evening of November 7, 1974, the team from Kerr-McGee that were decontaminating SILKWOOD's apartment stopped working about 9:00 p.m. At the time they found the apartment to be contaminated they requested that all keys to the apartment be turned over to them; however, according to STEPHENS, one key to the apartment was kept by SILKWOOD and she went to the apartment after the Kerr-McGee men left to get something she did not want them to find. According to STEPHENS, the

Kerr-McGee men placed a slip of paper on top of the door when they left so they would know whether anyone had entered the apartment after they departed. On returning the next morning they observed that the paper was not on top of the door.

On November 14, 1974, after talking to [redacted] b6 b7C he, together with STEPHENS and [redacted] went to the Sebring Ford Agency, Crescent, Oklahoma, where STEPHENS picked up SILKWOOD's personal effects after her parents had authorized STEPHENS to take custody of them. STEPHENS was given a taped box which was still sealed when he received it. This box was opened in the presence of STEPHENS, [redacted] but no documents were located relating to quality control work.

Subsequently, he received information from [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] a Kerr-McGee employee and a member of the OCAW local at the facility, that on the evening of November 13, 1974, both SILKWOOD and [redacted] attended a union meeting at the Hub Cafe, Crescent, Oklahoma. According to [redacted], SILKWOOD had a legal size folder about one inch thick with her. According to [redacted] SILKWOOD was going through the documents at the meeting arranging them in some order. At the meeting, SILKWOOD told [redacted] that the documents pertained to the falsification of quality control documents and said she had it all there. According to [redacted] there were loose documents, a yellow tablet, and what appeared to be graph paper in the folder. During the meeting, SILKWOOD also told [redacted] that she did not know who had it in for her so bad that they would contaminate her apartment.

[redacted] stated that after receiving the above information from [redacted] he telephoned the Oklahoma City Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and related the information to a Special Agent. He said he has since been told by [redacted] that a Special Agent of the FBI had interviewed her. [redacted] stated that [redacted] another union member who attended the November 13, 1974 meeting at the Hub Cafe, had also told him that SILKWOOD had with her that night a folder as described by [redacted] stated that this file folder was not among the personal effects turned over to STEPHENS and he has not been able to learn if it was ever found. He also stated [redacted] had said that on the evening of November 13, 1974, SILKWOOD also had an 8" by 10" spiral notebook which is also missing.

[redacted] stated he has been told that a [redacted] b6 b7C
a trucker from Covington, Oklahoma, had discovered the wreck and notified the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Thereafter [redacted] Kerr-McGee employees, came upon the wreck and recognized SILKWOOD and telephoned Kerr-McGee. Thereafter [redacted] Kerr-McGee employees, were sent to the wreck scene to determine if there were any signs of contamination.

[redacted] stated that he had been talking with [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] the AEC investigators, on the evening of November 13, 1974, as they were also staying at the Holiday Inn, Oklahoma City. When he learned of the accident he went to their room to inform them of the accident but they had already left for the wreck site.

[redacted] stated he had gone to the wreck scene on the night b6 b7C
of November 13, 1974, and there found SILKWOOD's pay check but nothing else. He again went to the wreck scene on November 14, 1974, but found nothing.

[redacted] exhibited a green spiral stenographer type b6 b7C
notebook, captioned "Eye Tint 2000, Easel", stating that this notebook came from the personal effects of SILKWOOD received by STEPHENS on November 14, 1974. Two pages of the notebook contained handwriting. One page contained a notation of a phone call on October 22, 1974, and the other page appeared to be an inventory of clothes.

spiral

[redacted] exhibited an AEC report dated December 19, 1974, by [redacted] titled "Kerr-McGee - Nuclear Division, Cimarron Nuclear Facility-Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records." [redacted] stated that this report of investigation conducted by the AEC had developed that photographs of plutonium rods had been retouched and that analysts had unauthorized knowledge of sample data before they began their analysis of plutonium pellets. [redacted] stated that this investigation had developed information that several employees in the laboratory at the Kerr-McGee facility had said they knew that SILKWOOD had been staying after work going through files and that she had told fellow workers what she was doing, that is looking for documentation to support her charges of falsification of documents pertaining to quality control.

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Good P.V.

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see notes

[redacted] also exhibited another document captioned "RO Investigation Report No. 74-09, Directorate of Regulatory Operations, Region 3" regarding examination of SILKWOOD's contamination. This report set forth a record of the contamination found in SILKWOOD's urine and fecal submissions from the time she was employed. [redacted] stated that all samples set forth in the report contained a low level of contamination up to sample number 22. He then furnished the following information concerning samples 22 through 28 set forth in the report: b6 b7C

Sample	Type(*)	Date Taken	Sample Submitted	Where Taken	Contamination
22	U	10/15-22/74	10/22/74	Home	High
23	U	10/31/74	10/31/74	Home	High
24	U	10/31/74	11/8/74(**)	Work	Low
25	U	11/5/74	11/5/74	Home	High
26	F	11/6/74	11/7/74	Home	Very high
27	U	11/5-7/74	11/7/74	Home	Very high
28	U	11/7/74	11/8/74	Work	Low

(*) - U denotes urine, F denotes fecal

(**) - Sample was stored in a locker between October 31, 1974, and November 8, 1974, when submitted.

[redacted] stated that the AEC had concluded that something had been added to samples 22, 23, 25 and 27 between the time they were taken and the time they were analyzed to contaminate them. He said that he feels that somebody wanted to get SILKWOOD removed from the laboratory area, a hot area, to stop her from securing documentation to support her allegations concerning the falsification of quality control data. [redacted] stated he feels someone deliberately salted samples 22, 23, 25 and 27, in the attempt to get her removed from the laboratory knowing that if SILKWOOD's samples showed she was contaminated the company would remove her from the laboratory, a hot area, and place her in a cool section of the plant. By being removed from the laboratory, SILKWOOD b6 b7C

no longer would be in a position to obtain the documentation she needed, according to [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that Kerr-McGee ordinarily sends samples to be tested to the United States Testing Laboratory, Hanford, Washington, and there is usually about a 30 day delay before the results of the tests are made known to Kerr-McGee. According to [redacted] samples 22, 23 and 25 were sent to the United States Testing Laboratory and the results had not been returned to Kerr-McGee at the time of SILKWOOD's death. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that samples 24, 26 and 27 were analyzed by Kerr-McGee after SILKWOOD was found to be contaminated on November 5, 1974. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that he believes that someone, realizing that SILKWOOD had to be removed from the laboratory and due to the delay in the results of the analysis of samples 22, 23 and 25 not having been returned, decided to contaminate SILKWOOD's apartment and food. b6 b7C

[redacted] pointed out that fecal samples were taken from SILKWOOD and her roommate, SHERRI ELLIS, at Los Alamos, New Mexico, on November 11, 1974. He stated that SILKWOOD's sample showed a high rate of contamination while ELLIS' was fairly high, although both of them had been removed from their apartment on November 7, 1974. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that inasmuch as the OCAU suspected foul play in SILKWOOD's accident and death, it decided to hire [redacted] of Accident Reconstruction Lab, Dallas, Texas, to investigate the accident. [redacted] investigation concluded that SILKWOOD's car was struck from the rear by another vehicle, causing SILKWOOD's car to go out of control. [redacted] then engaged the services of [redacted] a former professor at the University of Oklahoma, and now a structural engineer in Dallas, Texas, who specializes in vehicle accident analysis. [redacted] stated that [redacted] findings supported the findings of [redacted]. He stated that on December 18, 1974, [redacted] submitted his and [redacted] report to the FBI office in Dallas, Texas, and also sent copies of the reports to the OHP. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that the OHP contends that the dents in the left rear fender of SILKWOOD's car were caused when it was being removed from the culvert. It was [redacted] feeling that if this was so there would be concrete fragments in the dents. Therefore, [redacted] with the approval of the OCAU, engaged the services of Dr. GERALD U. GREENE, Socorro, New Mexico, a former professor of metallurgy at Penn College and the New Mexico School of Mines. Dr. GREENE, retired since 1961, does consulting work as a metallurgist. Based on Dr. GREENE's report, [redacted] with the approval of the OCAU, engaged the services of ERNEST L. MARTIN, a consulting chemist with the firm of Martin and Carlisle Chemical Laboratory, Inc., 715 San Mateo Boulevard, N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico. Copies of GREENE's and MARTIN's reports are set forth below:

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Dr. Gerald U. Greene
CONSULTANT
P. O. Box 681 -:- Phone (505) 835-1288
SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO 87801

R E S U M E

D.O.B. June 19, 1896

B.S. New Mexico School of Mines 1923
General Science

M.S. University of Utah 1924
Metallurgical Engineering

D.S.C. (Doctor of Science), Harvard University 1934
Metallurgical Engineering

1936-1949 Taught at Fenn College
Cleveland, Ohio
Metallurgy and Chemical Enginerring

1949-1961 Taught at New Mexico school of Mines
Metallurgy

1961 to present - Retired and doing consultant work to Insurance Industry, legal profession and mining industry as a Metallurgist.

Dr. Gerald U. Greene
CONSULTANT
P. O. Box 681 -:- Phone (505) 835-1238
SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO 87801

January 20, 1975

[redacted] b6 b7C

Accident Reconstruction Lab
1710 Boll St.
Dallas, Texas - 75201

Re: Karen Silkwood
D/A: 11-13-74

Dear Sir:

On January 17, 1975 I made a metallurgical examination on the rear bumper and a portion of the left rear fender reported to have belonged to the 1973 Honda Civic automobile driven by Karen Silkwood.

The examination was megascopic and was conducted in your presence after having reviewed your report and photographs.

A small dent on the lower left-hand corner of the bumper was examined very carefully. It is my opinion that this dent was not made by the concrete wing wall during removal of the car by the wrecker. The force lines were from rear to front of the automobile. If concrete had made this dent there would have been particles embedded in the force lines or scratches.

The portion of the left rear fender contained a medium size concave dent. The force lines in this dent were also from rear to front. There was no concrete embedded in these lines or scratches. However there did appear to be rubber smudges in some of these force lines. A chemical analysis would confirm this. This dent could not have been made by the concrete wing wall during removal by the wrecker.

Very truly yours,

Gerald U. Greene

IC

ERNEST L. MARTIN

CONSULTING CHEMIST

Certificate No. 355

Martin and Carlisle Chemical Laboratory, Inc.
715 San Mateo Boulevard, N. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Telephone: (505) AM 8-5461

4238 North 31st Place
Phoenix, Arizona
Telephone: (602) 265-6184

B.S. New Mexico State Teachers' College 1928
M.A. Indiana University 1930
Ph.D. Indiana University 1946

Technical Societies — American Chemical Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, New Mexico Academy of Science, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Sigma Xi, Alpha Chi Sigma.

Listed in — American Men of Science, Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who in the West.

Previous Experience — Professor of Analytical Chemistry at the University of New Mexico and consultant chemist. Former consultant to the Director of Transportation, New Mexico State Department of Education. Director of the Northwest New Mexico Regional Science Fair. Research on analytical procedures; consultation on properties of gases and causes of gas explosions; analytical methods to determine product failure. Consultation with lawyers on problems involving science.

Publications and Patents — Over forty publications in science including Laboratory Manual and Problem book in Analytical Chemistry. Research and articles in electrochemistry. Analytical studies of vanadium, analytical procedures for the determination of various metals, analytical procedures for the determination of cystine and cysteine, narcotics and barbiturates. Studies of methods of detection of gases and movement of gases through soils, concrete and other materials.

Staff — Graduate chemical engineer as full time manager of the laboratory and graduate students.

Laboratory Facilities — Complete analytical laboratory with modern instruments. Program set up to handle research and consultation in the field of chemistry.

Scope of Activities — Specializing in gas explosions, arson, poisons, chemical research, consultation and court testimony, product failure.

MARTIN AND CARLISLE CHEMICAL LABORATORY, INC.
715 SAN MATEO BLVD. NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87108
PHONE 268-5461

January 18, 1975
L-7000.

EXAMINATION OF AUTOMOBILE
BUMPER

To: [redacted] b6 b7C
Accident Reconstruction Lab.
1710 Boll St.
Dallas, Texas 75201

EXAMINATION:

A rear bumper reported to be from the 1973 Honda Civic automobile belonging to Karen Silwood, was examined microscopic procedure to check a dent on the bumper. The indentdation was approxitmtely x3⅛ inches from the left end.

The microscopic examintaion of the marks on the bumper showed sharp striation marks in the lower chrome plate. The marks were at an angle and had been made by contact a metal object. As a result of the impact a slight indentation had been made in the center of the damaged area.

There was no evididence of any foreign material and the dent was result of contact between two metal surfaces.

By: E. L. Martin

E. L. Martin

[redacted] stated that Dr. MARTIN is presently analyzing the rubber smudges on the left rear fender and as soon as the results of the examination are furnished to the OCAW, they will be made available to the FBI. He said that copies of GREENE's and MARTIN's reports are also being furnished to the OHP. [redacted] stated that the assumption is, based on GREENE's and MARTIN's reports, that the bumper of the automobile which struck SILKWOOD's car had a protective rubber covering over its bumper. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that the bumper and left rear fender of SILKWOOD's car are in [redacted] possession and will be made available to the FBI or OHP for examination. He said the OHP has not once examined the bumper or fender after [redacted] and [redacted] reports were furnished to the Patrol, although they discredit the reports. He said that the press has reported the OHP could not find the automobile for re-examination, but to his knowledge they have never asked to see the automobile. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that [redacted] had told him that SILKWOOD appeared fatigued but alert at the union meeting on the night of November 13, 1974. [redacted] stated he is aware that methaqualone had been found in SILKWOOD's blood and that everyone assumed that SILKWOOD's accident was the result of drowsiness. He stated, however, that some pathologists feel the level of methaqualone in SILKWOOD's blood could have been the result of a pill she took the previous day and that the level of the drug in her blood was not even at a therapeutic level and was insufficient to cause drowsiness. [redacted] stated he feels it was highly unlikely that SILKWOOD would have taken any drug on November 13, 1974, knowing she had to attend union negotiating meetings all day and then meet him that evening which would keep her up late. b6 b7C

She was upset when I saw her

[redacted] stated that he also wanted to mention three threatening telephone calls that have been brought to his attention relating to the SILKWOOD matter. b6 b7C

The first call was received by [redacted] at her home in [redacted] on January 14, 1975. The caller asked [redacted] if she knew where her husband was and what she was wearing. This phone call was reported to the police who stated it fit a pattern of phone calls received by women recently in the [redacted] area. b6 b7C

The second call was received on January 18, 1975, by [redacted] employed by National Public Radio, WDC. [redacted] has been doing feature stories on the SILKWOOD case and was in Oklahoma in late December, 1974, gathering information. The caller is reported to have told [redacted] "to get off the Kerr-McGee case or else." b6 b7C

The third call was received on January 20, 1975, by [redacted] a Kerr-McGee employee. The caller threatened to kill [redacted] boy friend in New Jersey. [redacted] an OCAW member and who is mentioned elsewhere in this report, told [redacted] that very few people even know she has a boy friend in New Jersey, but the caller even knew his name. b6 b7C

[redacted] made available the tape recording and documents which ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI, Legislative Director, OCAW, offered to make available in his telegram dated November 19, 1974, to Attorney General [redacted] stated that all the material pertained to the matter of quality control at the Kerr-McGee facility and copies of the tape and documents had been made available on November 21, 1974, to [redacted] Division of Inspection, AEC, Germantown, Maryland. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated the tape had been compiled from a recorded conversation with [redacted] OCAW member, when he was in WDC in September, 1974, from a recorded telephone conversation with SILKWOOD and from recorded telephone conversations on November 17, 1974, with [redacted] OCAW members. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that the document, identified in the upper right corner as I-A, was received from [redacted] in September, 1974, and pertains to the plutonium rod photographs which had allegedly been retouched. The documents identified as II-A through II-F are copies of pages from several small notebooks which SILKWOOD gave him on November 8, 1974, while he was in Oklahoma. Copies of the documents identified as I-A and II-A through II-F are set forth below: b6 b7C

177 E 12 B1 ✓

182 E 22 B1 ✓

175 E 12 B2

197 E 34 F2

198 E 22 B2

198 E 12 B1

208 E 12 B1

206 E 22 B2

256 E 12 B2

259 E 12 B2

259 E 22 B1 Check Latins Pub

265 E 22 B2

265 E 22 B1

269 E 22 B2

Crom

[redacted] b6 b7C

Sub 17

II-A

Still passing all welds no matter what pictures look! Not lab qualifying new welders. Will equalify [redacted] + K Silkwood for a test starting from scratch. [redacted] said procedure says start over. [redacted] all say of reference & they will get verbal ok. No mention of NUMEC shut down. Production speed up blamed on furnace down: But either due to Dumac or strike fear. Telling every one of meeting.

b6
b7C

← NUMEC Shutdown??

Oct 1, 1974

I-B

While storing materials I overheard the other analysts, supervisors, + HP Sup ask why no one summoned help + where were all his techs. I told him!

399 E 22 (B.)
- 3 porosities visible in weld

-P
navyed

Oct 2, 1974

3 X 74

Union Meeting

① Rm 124 201 50kg Has frequent over today left 13-7kg barrels stacked on top of each other. 201 limits in wet end often extended. ~~X~~ Some fatal. Many employees told by Co - "Do not talk to AEC or Westinghouse Rep. or else. Pin down AP's on procedures Under staffed.

J-C

John Carver running from lab to lab OC of many orders to take care of.

For last week specifically, due to my shifts, I have noticed respirators being cleaned & routine nightly check of lab slot boxes & other violations of regulations being written up.

QC — Hallide on pellets rewithes FM by [redacted] & # for all 5 weld TO, 98, 68, 64, 63, not decreasing graft as should be. [redacted] said I will this into [redacted], he will change & make a graft to fit so they would pass. Analyst looked at me & said he had given up on getting good #s, No one would accept them.

T-D

b6
b7C

Oct 18, 1979

449E22 OC

2 VOIDS ON

WELD 100X

29 ~~X~~ 74

2822835

b6
b7C

Also talked to some more of the QA + QC inspectors tonite. Pellets that are being loaded now to ship in the past are put on the highest speed by the supervisor + the employee is told to look through a magnification lamp light + check them. The pellets are running past at a speed of about 1 per 5 secs on the roll mill. + they say there is no way that they can evaluate these pellets.

Nov 5, 1979

JF

Possibly this is the reason that so many of our pellets are being returned by Hartford for chips - bad pins - out of spec, etc.

Nov 5, 1979

KJS

Also J. Davis said we are not up to par in bathroom facilities. (Johns).

FD [illegible] REV. 11-27-70

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 2/5/75

ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI, Legislative Director, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), 1126 16th Street, N.W., furnished the following information:

The only time he has ever met KAREN SILKWOOD was on September 26, 1974, and again briefly on September 27, 1974, while she was in Washington, D.C. (WDC), to present a complaint to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) about the health and safety problems for employees of the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. All the information he has concerning SILKWOOD's death is based on information developed by and furnished to him by his assistant, [redacted] and from the reports of consultants the OCAW hired to investigate the accident. b6 b7C

At first he was very skeptical that SILKWOOD's death was anything other than an accident but now, based on information developed by [redacted] and the engineering reports of the consultants hired by the OCAW, he is convinced that she was killed. He is not alleging that someone set out to deliberately kill SILKWOOD but someone may have tried to "shake her up" and SILKWOOD's hitting the concrete culvert was unforseen. b6 b7C

The OCAW at Kerr-McGee's facility is a weak union and SILKWOOD undoubtedly was well aware that her efforts to report on the health and safety standards and the falsification of quality control data at the facility would incur the wrath of the company resulting in her dismissal at a future date. In talking about the health and safety standards and the falsification of records one was talking about a lot of money. He can even conceive of SILKWOOD contaminating her apartment with a minute amount of plutonium to help prove her point but he feels it is sheer "baloney" that SILKWOOD would contaminate her refrigerator and food therein with plutonium, which she knew was deadly toxic, and then eat the contaminated food.

The OCAW felt morally responsible to pursue SILKWOOD's allegations after she had reported the falsification of documents and after her death the union felt it had to hire consultants to make an independent study of the accident in view of the possibility of foul play.

Interviewed on 1/28/75 at Washington, D.C. File # WFO 159-369

by SA [redacted] rdn Date dictated 2/3/75 b6 b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) DATE: 2/10/75

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA; OOJ

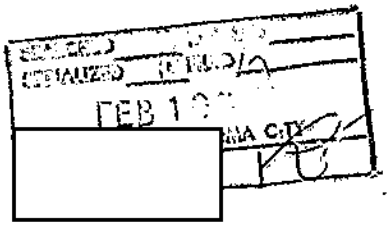
On 2/10/75, at approximately 2:49 pm, Supervisor [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] Legal Division, FBI Headquarters, telephonically advised that the Bureau is in receipt of a request from the Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice. He stated the Bureau has been requested to contact the **Coroner** or the former physician of SILKWOOD to determine what effect the drug found in her blood stream would have on a normal individual.

[redacted] stated the Department wants details as to the composition of the drug; the effects the drug would have on an individual (eg. drowsiness or dizzyness) and what recommendations, if any, a physician would give an individual after taking the drug. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated the Department has apparently decided that SILKWOOD's death was accidental; however, the above information is needed to complete their files. b6 b7C

Gene 2/10/75

2- Oklahoma City
WES/jr
(2)



[redacted] b6 b7C

159-45-110

FD-263 (Rev. 1-7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
OKLAHOMA CITY	OKLAHOMA CITY	2/12/75	1/23/75

b6
b7C

TITLE OF CASE

UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

REPORT MADE BY [redacted] TYPED BY abp

CHARACTER OF CASE

LMRDA; OOJ

REFERENCES:

Oklahoma City report of SA [redacted] 1/21/75. b6 b7C
Baltimore letter to Oklahoma City, 1/23/75.

- P -

ENCLOSURES:

TO BUREAU:

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are three (3) copies of Atomic Energy Commission Report dated 12/19/74 regarding the Kerr-McGee, Nuclear Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☒ NONE					ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

6 - Bureau (Enc. 3)(159-4005)
1 - USA, Oklahoma City (Enc. 1)
2 - WFO (Info) (159-369)
2 - Oklahoma City (159-45)

[redacted] b6 b7C

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

A 35

COVER PAGE

159-45-111

OC 159-45

ADMINISTRATIVE:

It is noted that the enclosed Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) report contains information relative to a separate criminal violation of the Atomic Energy Act (AEA). This possible violation has been mentioned in brief in previous reports and communications submitted by the Oklahoma City Division. The enclosure sets forth the first detailed information Oklahoma City has received in this regard.

Oklahoma City is conducting no active investigation relative to the allegation but is awaiting receipt of Bureau instructions concerning Department's attitude re this particular aspect of the SILKWOOD case.

Oklahoma City furnished the Bureau three copies of referenced report. Thereafter, Oklahoma City was informed by the Bureau to submit three additional copies of all future reports or communications prepared for dissemination. Accordingly, Oklahoma City is furnishing six copies of this report to the Bureau. Only three copies of enclosure being furnished to the Bureau inasmuch as the material was obtained from AEC, therefore, dissemination to the Energy Research and Development Administration and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is not warranted.

LEADS:

WFO

Information copy furnished to WFO in view of outstanding investigation in that division.

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, WDO upon receipt of outstanding investigation conducted at WFO.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: [redacted] Office: Oklahoma City b6 b7C
Date: 2/12/75

Field Office File #: 159-45 Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis:

[redacted] Inspection Division, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), made available a copy of AEC report dated 12/19/74 regarding Kerr-McGee Nuclear Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records. b6 b7C

- P -

ENCLOSURE:

To USA, Oklahoma City:

Enclosed one copy of Atomic Energy Commission Report dated December 19, 1974 regarding the Kerr-McGee, Nuclear Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records.

Details:

On January 23, 1975, the Baltimore Division of the FBI advised that [redacted] Inspection Division, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), Germantown, Maryland, made available a copy of an AEC Report dated December 19, 1974 regarding the Kerr-McGee, Nuclear Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma - Alleged Falsification of Quality Assurance Records. b6 b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1970 O - 406-640

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) DATE: 2/13/75

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (159-107) (RUC)

SUBJECT:

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LRMDA; OOJ

OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

Re Oklahoma City airtel to the Bureau dated 12/31/74.

Dallas indices negative regarding [redacted] b6 b7C and Associates Financial Services, 720 Lamon Drive, Dallas, Texas.

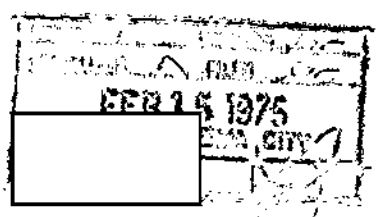
On 1/14/75, Operator Number 52, Credit Bureau Services, Dallas, Texas, advised her files contain no record or identifiable information on [redacted] b6 b7C

On 1/14/75, [redacted] Identification and Records Section, Dallas Police Department, and [redacted] Identification Section, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, advised their records contain no identifiable information concerning [redacted] b6 b7C

A check of the Dallas City Directory and Dallas area maps fail to reflect a street called Lamon Drive, which was the address given for Associates Financial Service, or [redacted] which was the address given for [redacted] b6 b7C

On 1/20/75, a pretext telephone call was made to the personnel department of Associates Financial Service Company, Incorporated, 4501 Lemmon, Dallas, Texas, telephone number

2 - Oklahoma City
1 - Dallas
DJW/ksn
(3)



[redacted] b6 b7C

112

521-1860 at which time they advised their records contained no information concerning [redacted] as a current employee or as a past employee. b6 b7C

On [redacted] (protect), [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

[redacted] telephone number [redacted] advised that the employment records of [redacted] fail to reflect any information concerning [redacted] as a current or past employee.

FD-265 (Rev. 1-7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
OKLAHOMA CITY	OKLAHOMA CITY	2/18/75	1/28 - 2/11/75

TITLE OF CASE

CHANGED
UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED), aka
Karen Gay Silkwood

REPORT MADE BY [redacted] TYPED BY jlw b6 b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE

LMRDA; OOJ

Title changed to include middle name of KAREN GAY SILKWOOD.

REFERENCES: Oklahoma City report of SA [redacted] b6 b7C
dated 1/21/75.
WFO report of SA CARLTON V. BORDEN, dated 2/5/75.
Bureau telephone call to Oklahoma City, 2/10/75.

- P -

ENCLOSURES

TO THE BUREAU

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies of letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the OCAW Union at the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation from ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI and [redacted] b6 b7C

ADMINISTRATIVE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☒ NONE					ACQUITTALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

6 - Bureau (159-4005) (Enc. - 6)
2 - USA, Oklahoma City (Enc. - 1)
2 - WFO (159-369)
2 - Oklahoma City (159-45)

[redacted] b6 b7C

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

34

159-45-113

COVER PAGE

OC 159-45

Referenced WFO report enclosed three items to Oklahoma City (none of which were furnished to the Bureau) as follows:

1) Tape of conversations furnished by [redacted] b6 b7C and referred to in WFO report;
2) One copy of hearings before the Subcommittee on Research, Development and Radiation of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy; and
3) One copy of letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the OCAW Union at Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation from ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI and [redacted]

Oklahoma City is disseminating only Item 3 enclosed by WFO in referenced WFO report. It is noted that the tape furnished by [redacted] had previously been made available by [redacted] on 11/21/74 to [redacted] Assistant Director, Division of Inspection, AEC, Germantown, Maryland. This tape is in germane to captioned case, but pertains to the quality control investigation conducted by AEC at the Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility. The FBI at present does not have an ongoing investigation relative to this particular aspect of the SILKWOOD case.

Item 2 enclosed by WFO pertains to a 1967 hearing in which MAZZOCCHI testified and his testimony has no relevance to captioned matter; therefore, it is not being disseminated.

This report contains, as requested by the Bureau, further details from the Chief Medical Examiner, [redacted] M.D., Oklahoma City, of the Board of Medicolegal Investigations regarding the effect of methaqualone on SILKWOOD at the time of her death.

WFO is maintaining captioned case in a pending status based on lead to maintain contact with [redacted] OCAW, to obtain a copy of the report of ERNEST MARTIN [redacted] pertaining to the rubber smudge on SILKWOOD's car. [redacted] also has indicated that he would make available to the FBI the rear bumper and fender portion of SILKWOOD's car, which have been examined by several experts retained by OCAW.

OC 159-45

The Bureau has previously instructed that six copies of all LHMs and reports in this matter be furnished to the Bureau.

LEADS

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Will, UACB, upon recontact with [redacted] in the event that he offers to the FBI the bumper and fender from SILKWOOD's car for FBI Laboratory examination, advise [redacted] the FBI will be unable to accept these items inasmuch as they had previously been examined by several non-FBI experts. b6 b7C

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, WDO, upon receipt of outstanding investigation from WFO.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 2 - USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: [redacted] Office: OKLAHOMA CITY b6 b7C
Date: 2/18/75

Field Office File #: 159-45 Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)

Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis:

A. J. CHAPMAN, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal Investigations, advised methaqualone is hypnotic, sleep inducing drug and the amount of this drug found in the system of KAREN G. SILKWOOD subsequent to her death would indicate that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death, and was drowsy or sleepy.

- P -

ENCLOSURE:

TO USA

Enclosed herewith is one copy of letter dated 1/20/75 to members of the OCAW Union at the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation from ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI and [redacted] b6 b7C

Details:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1970 O - 406-840

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 2/14/75

A. J. CHAPMAN, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Board of Medicolegal Investigations, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

In regard to the autopsy performed on KAREN GAY SILKWOOD, his office has previously furnished to the FBI and many other interested agencies or persons, an extensive report concerning the autopsy. As set out in this report, laboratory analysis of blood, gastric contents and etc., indicated that found within the blood of Miss SILKWOOD was methaqualone in the amount of 0.35 milligrams (mg.)/100 ml. The average therapeutic amount is considered to be 0.20 mg./100 ml. and the average toxic amount is considered to be 0.50 mg./100 ml.

The amounts given above are averages and there have been numerous instances of persons dying from an overdose with less than 0.50 ml./100 ml. methaqualone in their blood at the time of death. Variables such as the deceased's physical condition and constitution at the time of death are all factors that have to be considered.

The drug methaqualone is a hypnotic drug which is prescribed as a sleeping pill. SILKWOOD's doctor, [redacted] M.D., of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, did prescribe to Miss SILKWOOD methaqualone in the amount of 30 tablets of 300 ml. qualude (methaqualone). This drug was prescribed to SILKWOOD to assist her in sleeping with instructions that the drug be taken upon retiring. b6 b7C

The drug definitely is a sleeping pill and this fact should have been definitely understood by SILKWOOD inasmuch as it was prescribed to her by her physician. It is evident that one should not operate machinery, drive an automobile or etc., after ingesting the drug and such instructions are usually so stated when the drug is prescribed.

If SILKWOOD was using the sleeping pill as a "downer" this would most clearly be an abuse of the drug.

Interviewed on 2/11/75 at ~~Oklahoma City, Oklahoma~~ Oklahoma City File # ~~159-45~~

by ~~SA~~ [redacted] ~~jlw~~ Date dictated ~~2/12/75~~ b6 b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

It is noted that methaqualone was also found in her liver in the amount of 1.08 mg./100 gm. and in her gastric (stomach) contents, there was 49.53 mg. of methaqualone (undissolved) present in the total gastric specimen received. This would indicate that SILKWOOD had sometime shortly prior to her death ingested methaqualone which would have continued to have entered into her system had she not died.

The effect of the methaqualone on SILKWOOD would be to induce drowsiness and to make her sleep. From the distribution of methaqualone in her system, it would be evident that she was under the influence of the drug at the time of her death.

There was a trace of ethyl alcohol (less than 0.02% w/v) in SILKWOOD's blood at the time of her death. It is rather doubtful that this minor amount of alcohol in her system would have had any magnifying effect on the methaqualone influence.

In his opinion, based on the autopsy findings, SILKWOOD at the time of her death was under the influence of the drug methaqualone and that the drug was working on her system at that time in the desired fashion; that is, the drug was inducing sleep on the person of SILKWOOD.

OC 159-45

On January 28, 1975, [redacted] Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), Washington, D. C., made available a copy of a letter dated January 20, 1975, to the members of the OCAW Union at the Kerr McGee Nuclear Corporation in Crescent, Oklahoma, from ANTHONY MAZZOCCHI and [redacted]

b6
b7C

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bartlett Asks Probe Of Union In Events At Plutonium Plant

Attempt Seen To Discredit State Facility

Senator Suspects Connivance Aimed At Kerr-McGee

Wsahington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Dewey Bartlett said Thursday the Justice Department has "indicated" it will investigate his suspicion that a labor union and reporter for the New York Times connived to discredit the operation of Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant at Crescent.

In a Senate floor speech, the Oklahoma Republican reviewed an Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) investigation of irregularities involving the plant last November.

He said the plant "has been the subject of a nationwide hostile publicity campaign by some press and media, in which various allegations concerning the facility were reported in a very sensationalized manner."

Karen Contaminated

A plant worker, Karen Silkwood, was killed in a car accident Nov. 13. Prior to the accident, it was found she had been contaminated with radioactive material apparently taken from the plant.

The AEC found deficiencies in the plant's compliance with AEC safety regulations and also that one employee, without permission, altered photographic negatives of test materials to shorten his work. The AEC cleared Kerr-McGee of 37 other union complaints.

Bartlett said it appeared to him that plutonium was stolen from the plant.

Questions Posed

"I have requested the attorney general and the Department of Justice to further investigate this matter along these lines:

"Who stole the plutonium, and what or who motivated the theft? The Department of Justice has indicated their intention to proceed with this investigation," Bartlett told the Senate.

Justice officials could not be reached for comment.

Comment Withheld

James J. Kelly, president and chief operating officer for Kerr-McGee in Oklahoma City, said Thursday night he had heard nothing about Bartlett's remarks until informed of them by a reporter.

He said he would expect Kerr-McGee's Washington office to bring it to his attention Friday morning, but he declined to comment before then.

"If anybody had heard of this, I'm sure they would have told me about it," Kelly said. "But

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: February 21, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen Silkwood; Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
1975
OKLA CITY

159-45-104 43

b6
b7C

don't think it's proper to comment on something like this (a reporter's story concerning Bartlett's remarks) out of context."

Bartlett said the "series of unusual events" at the plant late last year "appear to be an improper effort to discredit both Kerr-McGee's operation in particular and nuclear operations in general."

He said that the charges of mismanagement "apparently originated from several local Kerr-McGee employees and appear to be fomented by legislative representatives of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Union."

He said, "The effort to capitalize on the death of Miss Silkwood may be part of a larger publicity campaign, orchestrated by the legislative representatives of OCAW with the aid of a reporter (David Burnham) of the New York Times.

"If their common purpose is to undermine the development of nuclear energy in this country, these actions have grave implications indeed."

Miss Silkwood reportedly was en route to a meeting with Burnham when the fatal accident occurred. Burnham could not be immediately reached for comment.

NR 011 OC PLAIN

954 PM NITEL FEB 27, 1975 DAF

TO DIRECTOR 159-4005

FROM OKLAHOMA CITY 159-45 P

UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED) AKA, LMRDA; OOJ; OO:
OKLAHOMA CITY.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, THE OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES, A DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT OKLAHOMA CITY, IN THE FEB 26, 1975, EDITION, PAGE 13, HAD AN ARTICLE INDICATING THAT THE REASONER REPORT HAD PREPARED A DOCUMENTARY ENTITLED "HOW DID KAREN SILKWOOD DIE?" AS A SEGMENT TO THE WEEKLY ABC PROGRAM, MARCH 1, 1975, AT 5:30 PM EDT. THE ARTICLE QUOTED A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY ABC NEWS WHICH INDICATES THAT ABC HAD UNCOVERED SEVERAL PREVIOUSLY UNDISCOVERED FLAWS IN THE OKLAHOMA HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATION OF SILKWOOD'S FATAL WRECK.

THE ARTICLE INDICATED THAT THE OKLAHOMA CITY ABC AFFILIATE, KOCO TV, CHANNEL 5, WILL NOT AIR THE PROGRAM. THE STATION DOES NOT REGULARLY BROADCAST THE REASONER REPORT.

OKLAHOMA CITY WILL CONTINUE TO FURNISH BUREAU PERTINENT INFORMATION REGARDING CAPTIONED CASE.

END

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

ACK FIVE PLS

159-45-116

FD-263 (Rev. 1-7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
WASHINGTON FIELD	OKLAHOMA CITY	2/28/75	2/11 - 18/75

TITLE OF CASE	REPORT MADE BY	TYPED BY
UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)	CARLTON V. BRODEN	vjf

CHARACTER OF CASE

LMRDA; OOJ

REFERENCE: Report of SA CARLTON V. BRODEN, dated 2/5/75, at Washington, D.C.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

An attempt was made to contact [redacted] on 2/11/75, but she was in Oklahoma. b6 b7C

LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will continue to maintain contact with [redacted] OCAW, to obtain a copy of the report of ERNEST MARTIN pertaining to the rubber smudge on SILKWOOD's car. b6 b7C

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED				XX NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

6- Bureau (159-4005)
3- Oklahoma City (159-45) 1cc sent 3/3/75
(1- USA, Oklahoma City)
1- WFO (159-369)

note for your also.

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

SEARCHED INDEXED
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MAR 3 1975
FBI - OKLAHOMA CITY

b3 b6 b7C b7E

- A -

COVER PAGE

159-45-117

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: CARSON W. COSBY
Date: 3/25/75

Office: Washington Field

Field Office File #: 153-359

Bureau File #: 157-4609

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
WILLIE O. WILKES (DECEASED)

Character: MISC - HARASSING PHONE CALLS AND SPECIFICS
AOT OF 1968; CONTEMPT OF JUSTICE

Synopsis: [redacted], National Public Radio, received a telephone call at her home on 3/25/75, in which the caller stated, "If you continue covering the SWAT MC CEE please you will be in trouble". [redacted] does not know if it was a local or long distance call, but is inclined to think the call was made by someone in her office.

b6
b7C

- P -

[redacted]

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1970 O - 406-840

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/25/75

1

[redacted] National Public Radio, 2025 M Street, N.W., was interviewed at her office and she furnished the following information: b6 b7C

On Saturday, January 25, 1975, she received a telephone call at her home, [redacted] telephone number [redacted]. When she answered the phone call the caller, a man, stated, "If you continue covering the KERR MC GEE piece you will be in trouble." She immediately asked for the identity of the caller whereupon he hung up. The entire conversation did not last over 20 seconds. b6 b7C

[redacted] had been in Oklahoma a week or two prior to the call gathering information on the KAREN SILKWOOD accident. In Oklahoma she had talked to several KERR MC GEE employees, members of the union at the company, and to reporters for the "Daily Oklahoman". b6 b7C

She did not recognize the voice and has no idea whether the call was a local or long distance call. She does not place any significance on the fact the call was made to her home because she has instructed her office to furnish her home phone number to individuals who call her office.

[redacted] is inclined to think the call was made by someone from her office although everyone she has asked if they made the call has denied making it. The reason she believes it may have been a co-worker is because several of them have made remarks, such as "watch out or you will be in an accident", or "you will be killed", since she has been working on the SILKWOOD story. b6 b7C

[redacted] was again in Oklahoma from February 9 through February 13, 1975. While in Oklahoma she was not threatened in any manner but she has noticed antagonism displayed on the part of KERR MC GEE employees toward her as they feel the news media is trying to close the plant with resulting job losses to them. b6 b7C

She does not feel that the KERR MC GEE Corporation would be involved in any threat against her although officials

Interviewed on 2/18/75 at Washington, D.C. File # WFO 159-369

by SA CARLTON V. BRODEN:vjf Date dictated 2/19/75

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of the company have not been cooperative with her and on her recent trip to Oklahoma she feels she was under surveillance because several individuals she interviewed told her that company investigators contacted them shortly after her interviews.

[redacted] attempted to solicit information concerning the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation but the interviewing agent was noncommittal. She was then asked what her own inquiry had developed. [redacted] replied that she had been surprised to learn from interviews with SILKWOOD's friends and her psychiatrist that she was a very mixed up individual, no saint and had signed away her three children with no visiting rights. [redacted] also said that she had learned that SILKWOOD had told many KERR MC GEE employees that she was gathering information to be used against the company. [redacted] stated that the attitude of many KERR MC GEE employees was that SILKWOOD was a "bitch" who was going to cost them their jobs. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol the dents on the left rear fender of SILKWOOD's car were caused at the time the car was removed from the culvert. She stated she had interviewed the operator of the wrecker who removed the car from the culvert and he denied he could have caused the dents. b6 b7C

Permission — NO, Kohn

[redacted] stated that she had been told by another reporter, name undisclosed, that two current employees and a former employee of KERR MC GEE had been involved in smuggling plutonium out of the KERR MC GEE facility. She stated that various employees she had interviewed had stated it would be easy to smuggle plutonium out of the plant. b6 b7C

3* 1

Airtel

To: SAC, Oklahoma City (Enclosure) 2/27/75

From: Director, FBI

UNSUBS; UNAUTHORIZED POSSESSION OF
PLUTONIUM RESULTING IN THE CONTAMINATION
OF KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED), SHERRI ELLIS,
AND DREW STEPHENS; KERR-MC GEE CORPORATION
(KMC), NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION, CIMARRON
FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA
AEA

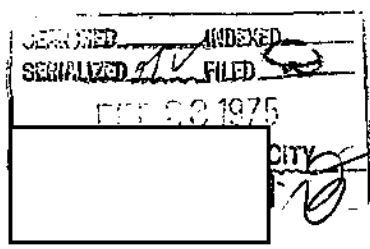
Enclosed herewith is a copy of self-explanatory letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General dated 2/21/75.

According to the Department, if it can be established that one or more persons involved in the contamination of captioned individuals during November, 1974, had unauthorized possession of plutonium, a Special Nuclear Material, a violation of Section 2077, Title 42, U. S. Code could have occurred. In this regard, the Department requests that the Bureau conduct an investigation to determine whether such a violation has occurred.

Oklahoma City should immediately institute an Atomic Energy Act (AEA) investigation in line with Departmental instructions and closely coordinate any inquiries with your investigation captioned "Unsub; Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased); LMRDA; OOJ;" Oklahoma City file 159-45, Bureau file 159-4005.

Surep promptly.

(1) - Oklahoma City (159-45)



b3
b6
b7C
b7E

159-45-11838

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

K-M Probe Urged

Sen. Bartlett Makes Request

BY TERRY M. WADE
Leader Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Attorney General has been asked to investigate "an attempt to discredit the Kerr-McGee nuclear facility" at Crescent, and the circumstances surrounding the contamination of a plant employee.

Senator Dewey Bartlett, R-Okla., announced on the Senate floor Thursday that he had made the request, and claimed the Crescent facility and Kerr-McGee have been the subject of a nationwide hostile publicity campaign by some press and media.

Last November an employee of the Crescent plant was killed in an auto accident while enroute to a meeting with a union official and a New York Times reporter to discuss alleged safety violations at the plant.

The death of Karen Silkwood and the violations have been investigated by both the Atomic Energy Commission and the attorney general's office, and, according to Bartlett, the investigations revealed that the death of Miss Silkwood was accidental and there were only minor deficiencies in Kerr-McGee's compliance with health and safety standards.

Prior to her death Miss Silkwood, who was active in the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, was contaminated several times and tests made at the time of her contamination indicated that the source of contamination was not in the plant. An AEC investigation claimed the plutonium was added to test samples after they were taken.

Bartlett requested the investigation to find out how and why the young lab technician was contaminated by plutonium from outside the plant.

Bartlett pointed out it is a federal crime to steal plutonium and added, "Clearly, if the AEC's conclusion that some plutonium was added to the test sample is correct, the plutonium must have been stolen."

"I have requested the attorney general and the Department of Justice to further investigate this matter. First, who stole the plutonium, and secondly, what or who motivated the theft? Did Miss Silkwood contaminate herself? If so, why?" he added.

Bartlett said the Department of Justice has indicated it intends to proceed with the investigation but the attoney general's office has no comment on the request Friday morning.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Guthrie Daily Leader
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Date: February 21, 1975
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: Dale Himes
Title: Karen Silkwood; Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
FEB 24 1975
FBI — OKLA CITY

159-45-119 37

b6
b7C

On or about 11/5/74, KAREN G. SILKWOOD, a member of Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Union, Local 5283, was involved in a contamination incident at her place of employment, Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. Her apartment in Edmond, Oklahoma, was contaminated. SILKWOOD, her boy friend, DREW STEPHENS, and her roommate, SHERRI ELLIS, were sent to the AEC Facility at Los Alamos, for examination 11/10-12/74. On 11/13/74, SILKWOOD was involved in union - company contract negotiations and later attended union meeting at Crescent. She left union meeting at 7:00 P.M. and was involved in a fatal one car accident 7.3 miles south of Crescent.

Accident investigated by OHP who found no indication of foul play in accident. Autopsy indicated cause of death was multiple injuries and that SILKWOOD was under the influence of hypnotic drug Methaqualone at time of death. Allegations were made by OCAW indicating independent accident investigator theorized SILKWOOD's car was hit from behind causing fatal accident. On 11/21/74, Bureau advised Department requested LMRDA; OOJ case be instituted for possible impairment of SILKWOOD's rights as union member. Detailed report dated 12/13/74, submitted by Oklahoma City Office, and several subsequent reports and LHMs also submitted. No information developed to substantiate OCAW accident foul play allegation.

On 12/30/74, Oklahoma City radio station KOMA received anomyous letter regarding SILKWOOD which indicated she received stock valued at $122,000 on reportedly KMC controlled company from [redacted] b6 b7C
It was also alleged [redacted] stayed at Oklahoma City motels at same time as Israeli and Indian nationals. Letter apparently crank or hoax type. LHM dated 12/31/74, submitted in this regard.

Allegations rose out of SILKWOOD case indicating that KMC thought SILKWOOD's contamination and related incidents were contrived. AEC has conducted extensive investigation regarding contamination, falsification of quality control records, and other related matters.

By airtels 2/26 and 2/27/75, Bureau instructed investigation to be instituted regarding criminal violations of AEA for scattering of uranium fuel pellets at Cimarron facility and unauthorized possession of plutonium regarding SILKWOOD contamination. Related cases listed separately.

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

36

(1)- 159-45
LJO:pwo (1)

185-1

Contingency Plans
Act for the Protection of
Foreign Officials and
Official Guests of the United States

(Bureau instructions required that liaison be established with any critical AEC licensed facilities and that facilities be included in office contingency plan in the event of terrorist assault or takeover. Crescent facility is by definition included in plan.)

- - - - - - -

[redacted] b3 b7E

[redacted]

- - - - - - -

[redacted] b3 b7E

[redacted]

- - - - - - -

159-45

Unsub;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ

(Principal file in which SILKWOOD investigation conducted until receipt of recent Bureau instructions regarding ongoing AEA investigation.)

- - - - - - -

[redacted] b3 b7E

[redacted]

[redacted] b3 b7E

[redacted]

- - - - - - -

It is also anticipated that instructions will be forthcoming from the Bureau to institute investigation in regard to falsification of KMC fuel rod quality control records, noting that [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] has made admissions to AEC and KMC in this regard.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

March 11, 1975

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION
OF JUSTICE

The Volume 4, Number 4 edition of the New Times, February 21, 1975, on Pages 26-31, contained an article entitled, "The Nuclear Martyr." The article is as follows:

Searched ....
Serialized ....
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6-Bureau
2-USA, OC
1-Oklahoma City
LJO/sal (159-45)(8)
(9)

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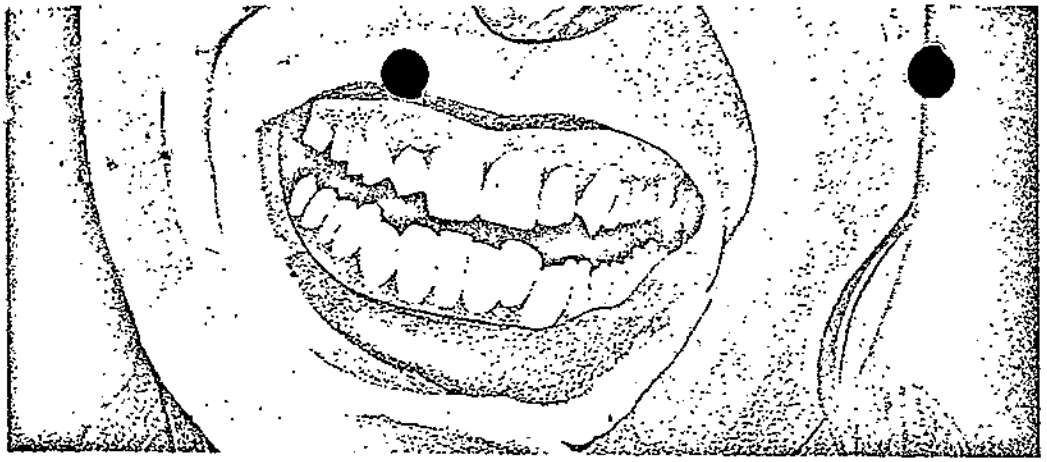
159-45-12135



NEW TIMES, February 21, 1975, Volume 4, Number 4

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The new hustlers *Votes have always been sold—for influence and patronage. But black politicians have added a new twist: they sell their endorsements and backing for cash, and to the highest bidder* **By Robert Sam Anson** 18

The nuclear martyr *(and the strange case of the purloined plutonium papers) The publicity surrounding the death of Karen Silkwood seems destined to elevate the young plutonium worker to virtual sainthood—and to sink the nuclear industry still further into disrepute* **By Roger Rapoport** 26

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Marina del Oz *It's a huge playpen filled with tenants who can call it a "lifestyle" without cracking a smile. Is it a blast or a total turnoff?* **By Annette Duffy** 42

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY STEVE COOPER

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page 68

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Nixon Records

31-Illustration of Faces/Richard Egielski;Photo of Hands/Steve Cooper; Wide World(1). 32-Illustration of Lady Justice/Alan Henderson; UPI(2); Wide World(2).

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LETTERS

Beware the hazards

I am amazed that Amanda Spake was able to complete and file her report about "South Carolina's Silent Death Factory" in the January 24 issue. Drive carefully, Amanda.

I am sure that with the high unemployment of the work force today, this is the psychologically right time to push construction on hazardous and possibly disastrous facilities like the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant. Politicians of the Solomon Blatt and Edgar Brown type know that people welcome money—even if it's dirty. What is most frightening is that it will take a million or more people dying, billions of dollars damage and untold genetic damage to children yet to be born before such madness will be stopped.

Until that occurs, all I'm able to say is, "Thank God I live in Montana!"

Chuck Peters
Superior, Montana

Acquitted

Lizzie Borden took an axe
And gave her parents forty whacks.
For Ms. Kole's wrist, a tiny tap:
Lizzie Borden beat the rap.
("Women Who Murder," January 24)

Dorothy G. Weatherby
Columbia, Maryland

Editor's Note: Thanks for making the point for us. A full confession was in the works.

With great interest I read your January 24 article pertaining to the preferential treatment women may receive in a court of law.

Something similar was mentioned in the 1813 copy of the *Constable's Guide*. A section of Chapter 5 deals with those "privileged from arrest." Married women were immune to the law, as were congressmen's servants and servicemen's companions. Any arrests made on Sunday were null and void. Of course, this was in New York State, prior to the pressure of urban sprawl.

Mark Goldfarb
Memphis, Tennessee

Our etherized state

Re: James S. Kunen's January 24 Slow Down ("What will '75 be like?") about the etherized state of the world at present. He pats himself on the back for not even giving "a damn who won the Super Bowl." A mean feat. I don't know when it was played, where it was played or who played in it. And I don't give a damn either!

Charles Martin
New London, Connecticut

An enlightening morning

This began as any other uneventful Wednesday. I arose, dressed and drove to the bus stop. Somehow, the "Limited" had left without me and I was forced to take the "Express," which, unfortunately, gets me to work too soon and is usually filled with the kinds of people who upset me at 7 a.m. My worst fears were realized. I found myself surrounded by business types reading 1974 federal income tax forms, business publications and, for variety, *Reader's Digest*.

Having resigned myself to a day of anger and depression, I rebelliously pulled out my January 10 edition of *New Times* and read Janet Maslin's article on Randy Newman. Many smiles and stifled chuckles later, I felt much better. I may even begin writing music again. And its only 7:30 a.m.!

Thank you *New Times*. Thank you Ms. Maslin. God love you, Randy Newman.

Sam R. Culotta
Glendora, California

Zeroing in

It's a damn shame for all the creative, talented, struggling females everywhere, particularly in the motion picture industry, that the only bankable female star is the Lucille Ball of the '70s, Barbra Streisand ("Collision on Rainbow Road," January 24). She has zero social consciousness, zero creativity, zero acting talent. Now with the onset of Jon the Ego leading her around by the tail, she appears to have zero intelligence.

Jan Drexler
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Who gives a damn about Barbra Streisand and her hairdresser?

B. Menninger
Franconia, New Hampshire

Right on!

Florence King's Final Tribute just has to be the best thing you've published to date. Thanks.

F. Hap Kimma
Holmes, New York

The nuclear martyr

(and the strange case of the purloined plutonium papers)

By Roger Rapoport

When cars spin off the road in Logan County, Oklahoma, people usually think of George Martin's wrecker service first. Be it a tourist who has flipped on Interstate 35 or a farmer who has gone into a ditch along Highway 77, it's Martin who can be counted on to tow them out long after the competition has turned in for the night. So it was no accident when Guthrie police dispatched Martin to the scene of a possible fatal accident on Highway 74, a mile south of the Kerr-McGee Cimarron nuclear plant, about 7:30 on the night of October 13, 1974. George fell in behind the Guthrie Fire Department ambulance as other cars pulled onto the shoulder, opening a path for the emergency vehicles roaring past.

But about five and a half miles out of town a strange thing happened to Martin, something that had never occurred during any of the 1,200 accident calls he has handled over the past four years. Guthrie police radioed him to turn around and head home. Another wrecker would be taking the call. "I was closer to the accident than anyone else," says Martin. "It just didn't make any sense to turn me around when there was a report that someone was pinned in a car, particularly when I was running right with the ambulance. You just don't pull someone off a Code Two alert like that. I still can't figure out what was going on that night."

The victim was Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old laboratory technician and union leader at Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant. Investigators hired by her union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW), have since found dents indicating that her Honda Civic auto was forced off the road. Kerr-McGee and Oklahoma authorities insist that Silkwood, who was contesting the company's iron rule on several fronts last fall, drove to her own death. But many people with firsthand knowledge of the wreck scene and other events surrounding the plutonium worker's last days are dubious about these and other official contentions.

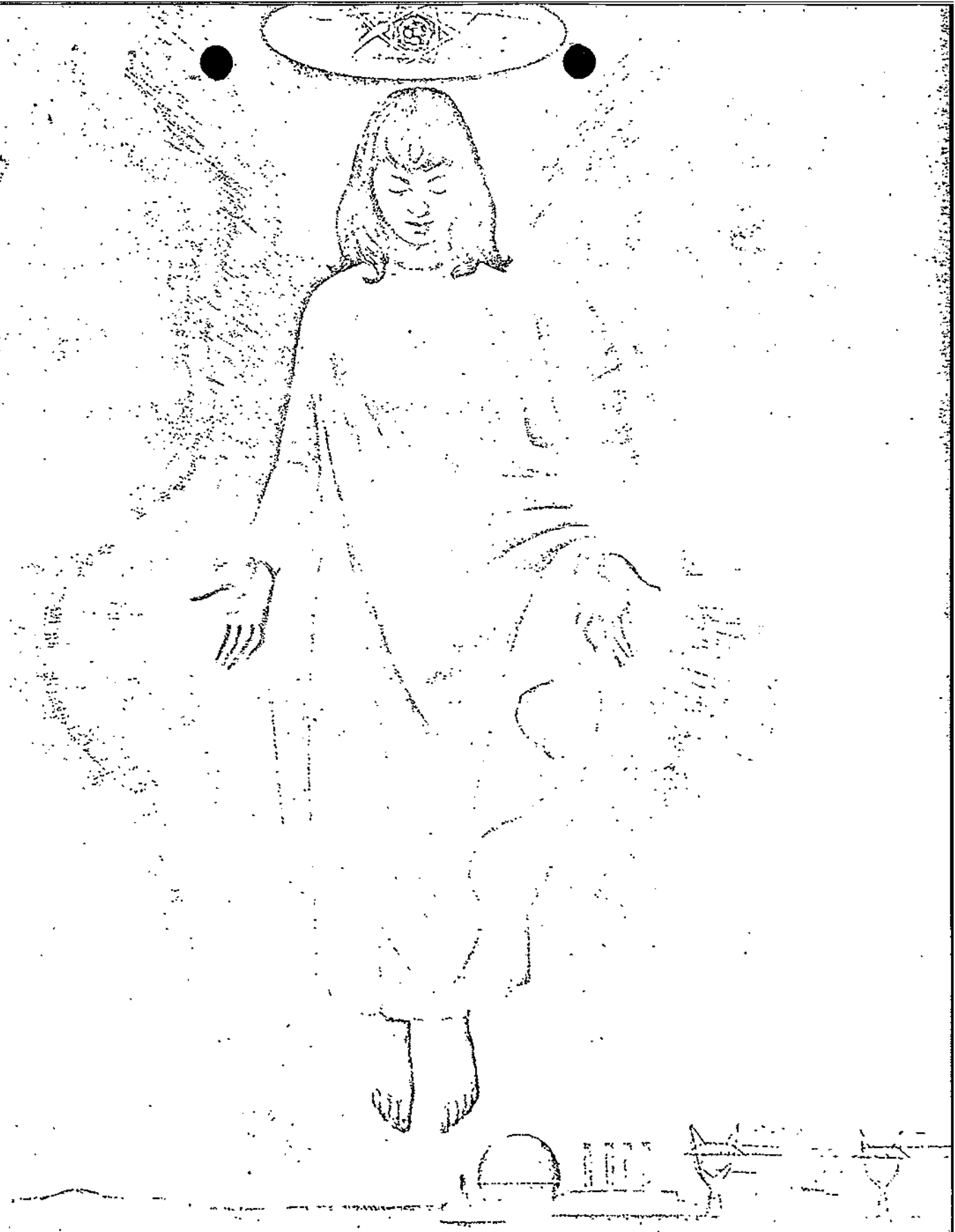
What makes them suspicious—besides the unexplained dents in the rear of her car—is the fact that Karen Silkwood, at the time of her death, was on her way to meet New York *Times* reporter David Burnham, bearing documents that not only could have shut down the Kerr-McGee facility but could also have precipitated investigations of nuclear plants across the country. As it turned out, the rendezvous was never kept and the documents all disappeared. The country was spared—for the time being—its first full-dress nuclear scandal, but was left instead with smouldering circumstantial evidence of a cover-up, a cover-up that has at the very least created the anti-nuclear forces' first martyr. The civil rights movement had its Goodmans, Schwerners and Chaneys, the anti-war protesters had their Kent State victims and now the environmentalists have their Karen Silkwood.

The publicity surrounding the death of Karen Silkwood seems destined to elevate the young plutonium worker to virtual sainthood—and to sink the nuclear industry still further into disrepute.

Though circumstantial, the evidence of foul play is almost overwhelming: wreckers turned back halfway, accident times fudged, incriminating documents disposed of, post-mortem materials tampered with. At least a week before her fatal accident, it seemed clear that someone was out to get the outspoken plutonium worker. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the new agency that has taken over regulatory functions of the Atomic Energy Commission) data indicates that sometime in early November Karen Silkwood's apartment in Edmond, a suburb of Oklahoma City, was entered by an individual who contaminated her kitchen, bedroom and bathroom with plutonium, the most carcinogenic substance known. Just one-millionth of a gram is sufficient to cause cancer in experimental animals, a fact that was apparently understood by the intruder who spread plutonium on her bologna, cheese, chicken, bed sheets, bathmat, makeup and toilet seat. This effort to poison Karen Silkwood involved roughly 300 micrograms of plutonium, which is sufficient to cause 300 human lung cancers if evenly distributed. The question of how someone managed to smuggle this plutonium out of the Kerr-McGee plant raises two frightening possibilities: that either security precautions designed to prevent the theft of plutonium—which is, after all, the stuff of nuclear bombs—are incredibly lax, or the radioactive material was taken from the plant, to be deposited in Silkwood's apartment, with the compliance of Kerr-McGee higher-ups. Judging from its performance to date, both are conceivable.

With its mines, mills and processing facilities spread across the West, Kerr-McGee, a major integrated fuels company, controls about 20 percent of America's uranium market. Determined to retain its leadership in the nuclear fuel industry, the company opened its Cimar-

ILLUSTRATION BY CARLOS OCHAGAVIA



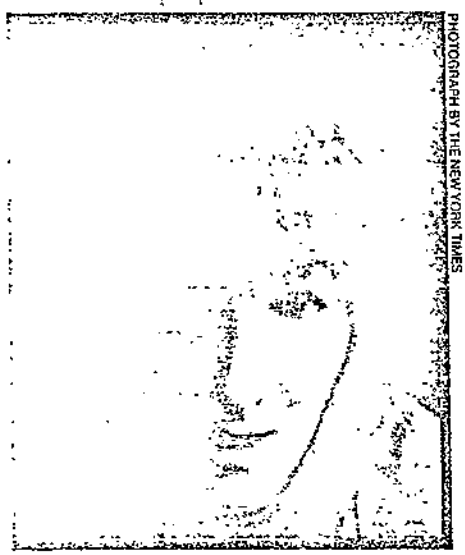
other plant already making uranium fuel for light water reactors operating around the country. The facility, located 35 miles north of Oklahoma City near Crescent (pop. 1500), was Kerr-McGee's early entry into the fuel market for a second generation of plutonium "breeder" reactors that produce more fuel than they consume. Work at the new facility began with a contract to produce fuel for the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) breeder test reactor at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

But from the start, Kerr-McGee management discovered that running a plutonium facility brings with it some very special problems. To begin with, the company ran into complex licensing restrictions because of its unfortunate decision to locate its new plant in the midst of a tornado alley. Since 1959, there have been 260 tornadoes in counties within a 50-mile radius of the plant, including eight in Logan County itself. A statistical analysis shows there is a one-in-ten chance of the plant being flattened by a tornado during a 65-year time span. The situation is so serious that operations must be restricted on days of severe weather forecasts to minimize plutonium dispersal in the event the plant is knocked down.

When actual tornado alerts are forecast, employees must hustle as much plutonium as possible into a weatherproof vault. Even if everything goes perfectly under the optimum four-hour warning system, there would still be enough plutonium particles left in the facility—if dispersed by a tornado—to force the evacuation and possible condemnation of roughly 100 square miles of central Oklahoma because plutonium has a half-life of 24,000 years.

Generally, the young production employees hired to start up the new facility failed to appreciate these and other plutonium risks. "During our on-the-job training, we were told a fraction of a microgram of plutonium was toxic to the human body," says Drew Stephens, who went to work as a lab analyst in 1969. "But no one said anything about cancer." Workers like Stephens saw themselves leading the way to what AEC Chairman Glenn T. Seaborg described as a "plutonium economy," in which this synthetic element would fuel half of America's energy needs, and breeders would generate 80,000 kilograms of plutonium annually. Confident of their industry's future, an easy camaraderie developed among the plutonium people, who looked forward to time, they joined in parking lot Frisbee games, and during coffee breaks groups would slip out behind an adjacent uranium building to share a joint.

Their belief in the future of Seaborg's plutonium economy was renewed in 1971, when President Nixon announced a $3-billion breeder program that would "move this nation into an era of plentiful, clean and safe atomic power." Some of the Kerr-McGee personnel were aware that environmental groups disagreed with Nixon's program. It was, after all, a fact that the nation's only existing commercial breeder, the Enrico Fermi reactor at Monroe, Michigan, had cost $120 million, produced only $303,000 worth of electricity and failed to generate any fuel. In 1966 the reactor core melted down and nearly blew up in an accident that University of Michigan scientists later estimated would have killed 133,000 people.



PHOTOGRAPH BY THE NEW YORK TIMES

Karen Silkwood: 1946-1974

But this kind of nit-picking made little impact at Kerr-McGee, as the company bid successfully to supply 18,500 plutonium fuel pins for the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF), the latest experimental unit in the AEC's breeder program. By August 1972, when Karen Silkwood was hired to work in the plutonium plant's metallography lab, work on the Hanford, Washington, FFTF contract was getting under way. Supervisors were impressed with the way this energetic new employee took to her analytical work. Karen had come to Kerr-McGee from Duncan, Oklahoma, after divorcing her husband, Bill Meadows, a Mobil Oil pipeline supervisor, whom she had married at the age of 19 after one semester of college in Texas. Because Meadows had a better income and was remarrying, Silkwood reluctantly chose to give him custody of their three children, a decision that still troubled her as she began a new life at $3.25 an hour

Almost from the start, Karen began to have misgivings about her employers and colleagues. "Although she did a very good job," says one of her former supervisors, "Karen was upset when people took shortcuts that compromised the quality of our product." At the end of 1972, the union local went out on a ten-week strike, during which Karen's insight into Kerr-McGee was sharpened by Drew Stephens, by now a union militant. "Even then, as we walked the picket line, we didn't understand what we were up against," says Stephens. "One of the union leaders told us that plutonium caused cancer. I just laughed at him."

Because the company was successfully running scabs through the picket line, union members finally ratified a substandard contract that gave Kerr-McGee the right to regulate everything down to the OCAW bulletin board. When Karen returned to work, conditions seemed to have deteriorated inside the plant. Her worst fears were confirmed on March 5, 1973, when a bag filled with plutonium-contaminated waste caught fire, exposing seven workers to 400 times the weekly permissible limit for insoluble airborne plutonium. Decontamination of the two affected rooms took two weeks. In a follow-up report the AEC criticized the company for delays in obtaining and analyzing urine and fecal samples from the contaminated individuals as well as for failing to notify the company medical consultant until the day after the accident. It also pointed out that evaluation of radioactivity in the affected areas had been hampered by the fact that the continuous room-air monitor chart had been allowed to run out the day before the fire.

Infuriated by the AEC's criticism, Kerr-McGee executive W.J. Shelley wrote back to bawl out the government agency: "'We believe that the attitude that a commercial operation must be equipped to completely research the cause and effect of any such incident is beyond the requirements of the regulations and sound business judgment."

While executives like Shelley continued making their sound business judgments at Kerr-McGee headquarters in Oklahoma City, Karen Silkwood watched helplessly as nine more of her fellow employees were contaminated in three other accidents that year. She worried about the high turnover that was putting relatively inexperienced young workers in dangerous working situations. Low morale and boredom helped spur several young employees to engage in a morbid race to see who could get the "hottest" the fastest. Unaware that plutonium causes cancer,

Roger Rapoport's last piece for New Times *was Bates Street Craziness.*

-6-

the workers deliberately built up their exposure levels. By talking to her fellow employees, Karen learned there were [redacted] problems in the uranium plant. There, resident rednecks harassed a black employee into quitting by putting uranium powder on his stocking cap. And another employee brought a pellet gun to work so that he could shoot uranium dioxide fuel pellets at his colleagues whenever he got bored.

In addition, Kerr-McGee management was troubled by rumors that many of its employees were smoking grass and that some were into popping downers like methaquaalone. The prospect of stoned workers being required to stash plutonium in the vault during a tornado alert was hardly reassuring to management. Equally troubling to the officials was talk of bisexual, homosexual and lesbian employees populating the work force. The fear was that they might be especially vulnerable to blackmail by nuclear saboteurs hunting for fresh plutonium.

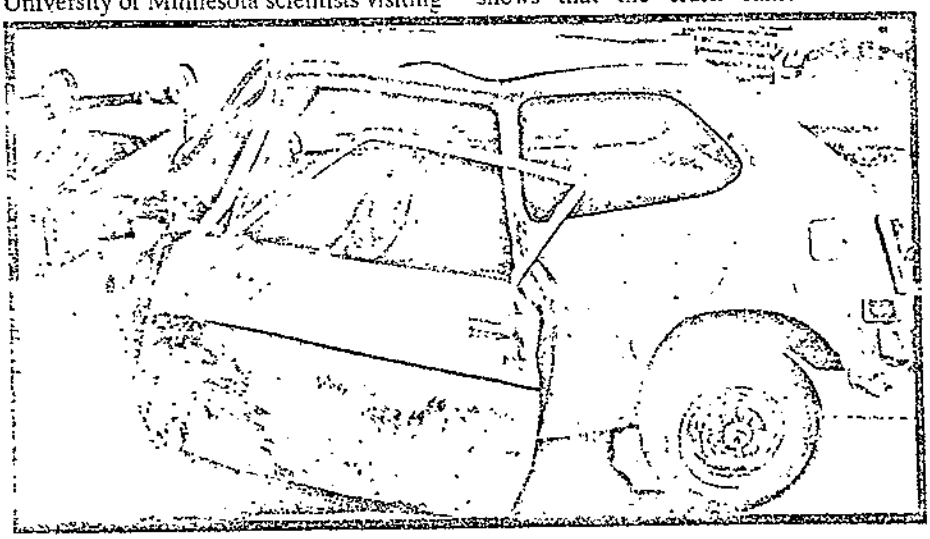
Plant security also troubled the AEC, particularly after March 1974, when a routine inventory showed more than 1.8 kilograms of plutonium unaccounted for. Since this exceeded the agency's limit of error, the plant was shut down for a week while employees resurveyed for this missing nuclear material—an amount sufficient to provide 36 billion lung cancer doses if dispersed and inhaled. In April, after Kerr-McGee succeeded in reducing its quantity of missing plutonium below the 1.8 kilogram standard, the company asked the AEC for a licensing amendment that would increase their allowable limit of error. The AEC agreed to some minor changes and promised to reconsider a higher limit in 1975 if the company could demonstrate that it had "made reasonable efforts and cannot meet the limits of error" specified by its license.

By now Karen Silkwood was openly challenging company production pressures that she felt were directly responsible for the missing plutonium, the contamination of her fellow employees and the deficient quality control standards. She watched nervously as one of her colleagues took a felt-point pen and deliberately touched up defects in photo negatives of fuel-pin weld-test samples. Karen pointed out these quality control problems to supervisory personnel, but management took no action.

One of her former coworkers recalls, "They started hassling Karen over trivial matters, but she refused to stand for it. For example, when it was cold, Karen and some of the other employees took to wearing street clothes under their work clothes. One day supervision insisted that they limit themselves to wearing only underwear beneath the coveralls. So Karen struck back the next day by showing up [redacted] with nothing on beneath her work clothes. You could see everything right down to her nipples and pubic hair."

After Karen herself was accidentally exposed to airborne plutonium on July 31, she decided to take her case directly to the AEC. With the help of OCAW officials, Tony Mazzocchi and Steve Wodka, she was able to present a long list of alleged safety violations to agency officials at a Washington meeting in late September. The AEC promptly agreed to investigate Silkwood's charges, and Karen returned home to begin documenting her case for another meeting Wodka was setting up with New York *Times* reporter David Burnham. Silkwood's determination to get the story out was redoubled on October 10, when two University of Minnesota scientists visiting with rhesus monkeys and beagles who were also being monitored on the sophisticated radiation-counting equipment. When the three arrived home the following day, Karen was badly shaken. "She was convinced someone had poisoned her and that she was going to die," says Drew Stephens.

Shortly after seven the next night, Karen left a union session in Crescent and headed for an 8 p.m. Oklahoma City meeting with *Times* reporter, Burnham. According to an affidavit from one union member at the Crescent meeting, Silkwood walked out with a brown folder full of documents. These papers, which she had been taking from the plant, gave Karen the backup she needed to substantiate her allegations. At approximately 7:15 p.m., Karen's car went off the road and struck a cement culvert wingwall, killing her instantly. An OCAW accident analysis shows that the crash came after her



The death car. The license plate read "OKLAHOMA IS O.K."

the union corroborated rumors that plutonium was the most potent cancer-causing agent known. In between assembling documents for the New York *Times*, Karen, who was now a union committeewoman, worked overtime preparing for an upcoming round of contract talks with the company.

Plans for Silkwood's meeting with the New York *Times* were upset in early November after contamination was discovered in her apartment. Kerr-McGee decontamination crews, clad in space suits, began dumping Karen's belongings into 55-gallon drums that were carted off for disposal. Karen, her roommate Sherry Ellis (another Kerr-McGee employee) and boyfriend, Drew Stephens (who by now had quit the company), displayed enough plutonium exposure to qualify for an all-expense-paid trip to the AEC-funded Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. They arrived on November 11, and scientists promptly fit them into the schedule

Honda's rear bumper had been struck by a late-model car.

The wreck was discovered shortly before 7:30 p.m. by a trucker and two Kerr-McGee employees, Fred Sullivan and Law Godwin. While Godwin stayed with the wreck, Sullivan went to a nearby farmhouse where a call was made to the Guthrie police about 7:30 p.m. When the call came in, tow truck driver George Martin happened to be at the Guthrie police station; he was dispatched to the wreck immediately. Not until he was well on his way did the authorities turn Martin around and ask Ted Sebring, a Crescent Ford dealer, to tow the wreck instead.

When Sebring arrived at the accident scene, the Guthrie Fire Department ambulance crew was already prying Karen out of her Honda. According to Guthrie Police Patrolman William Clay, who reached the scene a little later: "There were papers scattered all around the wreck." For reasons still unclear, Sebring

the wreckage. His explanation for the delay seems thin indeed: "Her car was in a muddy creek," he says, "and I didn't want to get my hundred-dollar suit and fifty-dollar shoes dirty. So I asked the trooper to radio my sales manager, Harold Smith, to come out so he could get in the creek and get her out." Smith says: "I arrived shortly after 8:00 p.m., about a half-hour after Ted. By that time they had gotten her out of the car and gone (to the hospital). We spent about 45 minutes digging out the car, towing it and locking it up in the garage."

After Karen was pronounced dead on arrival at a Guthrie hospital, authorities notified her parents in Nederland, Texas. Karen's father, Bill Silkwood, immediately phoned the Highway Patrol for details. "They kept asking me what was going on out there," says Mr. Silkwood. "They wanted to know what all the Kerr-McGee officials were doing out there around the wreck."

Late that night Drew Stephens and the OCAW's Steve Wodka (who had been in Oklahoma City with the *Times*' Burnham) learned of the crash, drove to Crescent and found the wrecked Honda out of reach in Sebring's garage. Peering through the locked door, all they could make out was the license plate on the rear of Karen's wrecked car, declaring "OKLAHOMA IS O.K." About 1 a.m. AEC officials got Ted Sebring out of bed, made him open his garage and found, after a careful survey, no radiation on the squashed vehicle.

The next morning, Stephens and Wodka picked up a boxful of Karen's belongings at Sebring's garage. Neither the brown folder nor any of the secret documents were inside.

The authorities, notified of the wreck by about 7:30 p.m., are claiming that they didn't learn about it until after 8:00—apparently to maintain a cover-up surrounding the disposal of Silkwood's documents. The fact that they turned around George Martin, the area's leading 24-hour wrecker, for a part-time wrecker driver who wasn't even willing to get his feet wet (thereby slowing down the towing process) makes sense only if someone didn't want Martin pulling out the wreck faster than the secret papers could be cleaned up.

Local police agencies, whose personnel include former Kerr-McGee employees, have done almost everything possible to shield the company from OCAW allegations of foul play. After the wreck, the spokesman for the local Highway Patrol, Kenneth Vanhoy, told the media that Karen might have crashed because she was tired from her recent "drive" to Los

sense until Vanhoy was reminded that Silkwood had *flown* to Los Alamos. The Highway Patrol also maintains that Martin's wrecker was turned around because Sebring was next up on a local wrecker rotation schedule. But Harold Smith, who helped Sebring tow the wreck, says: "We're not on the local wrecker rotation schedule. Sure we'll take occasional wrecks if it's in our neighborhood. But after 5:00 p.m. they are more apt to call Martin because we're home and he tows 24 hours." People in Logan County like George Martin and Harold Smith also suspect the official story that Silkwood's wreck lay undiscovered at the side of Highway 74 for roughly 45 minutes. Says Smith: "I know these roads pretty well, and I can't imagine someone going off Highway 74 at that point and remaining undiscovered for more than five minutes at the outside."

One employee had a pellet gun so he could shoot uranium dioxide fuel pellets when he got bored

Almost immediately after the accident, state, federal and union investigators moved in to conduct an exhaustive investigation of what was left of Karen Silkwood and her Honda. Following Karen's autopsy on November 14, the state medical examiner shipped her viscera to Los Alamos for further radiological counting and returned the rest of the young woman's remains to her parents in Texas. Answers to crucial questions about Silkwood's contamination were contained in urine and fecal samples she had left behind. But this data was getting fouled up. Two of Karen's most seriously contaminated urine samples were undated. And one high sample was part of a mid-November shipment that was accidentally turned upside down. When this leaky urine cargo was discovered at the San Francisco airport (en route to a testing laboratory in Hanford), AEC officials were required to come out and supervise repacking of the leaking containers.

Union charges that Karen had been driven off the road immediately put the plant into the national media. The company security office began administering lie detector tests to determine which employees were talking with reporters. Nine suspect employees, including the

to warehouse duty, where even a trip to the bathroom required a security escort. In January, six of these people were fired for smoking marijuana and such other offenses as disloyalty to Kerr-McGee. Also canned was Karen's former roommate, Sherry Ellis, who had been caught doodling on employee time cards.

By this time AEC data was in, showing that Karen had definitely ingested some plutonium and that someone had deliberately contaminated her urine samples to make them read abnormally high. Although the identity of the person who contaminated Karen Silkwood's bologna and the rest of her apartment remains unknown, it is not difficult to fathom a motive for the act; a number of Kerr-McGee employees as well as company officials took a dim view of Karen's determination to turn them in. It is far from implausible that the contamination of her apartment was the work of someone trying to scare her out of talking to the New York *Times*. As a matter of fact, her exposure to plutonium did succeed in frightening Karen, disrupting her life and messing up her original plans for a meeting with the *Times*. And, regardless of whether the fatal car crash was, in fact, a case of murder, it is clear that people at Kerr-McGee were sufficiently knowledgeable about her activities to be on the scene and cleaning up the vital documents within minutes of her death.

Some officials have floated the theory that Karen poisoned herself in order to strengthen her case against the company. But people who knew her disagree. The OCAW's Steve Wodka says: "After she found out she had been contaminated, she saved everything right down to her Kleenex for fear that disposing of it might inadvertently contaminate someone else. She was having her period at the time and even went so far as asking officials if she should save her tampons for appropriate radioactive disposal. No one in that plant was more afraid of plutonium than Karen Silkwood. She would have never contaminated herself. Never."

Although multiple federal investigations have begun into the case, there is no telling when the public will learn who contaminated her bologna, why police officials have obscured the time they responded to her wreck and who disposed of the secret documents she was carrying that night. But even if the truth of this case is never fully established, Karen Silkwood's place as the patron saint of the anti-nuclear movement seems assured. As one of her closest friends observed, "Karen could end up being to the nuclear industry what John Dean was to Watergate."

3/11/75

A I R T E L

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

RE: UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LERDA; COJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau 6 copies of a LHM dated and captioned as above. Two copies LHM being furnished to USA, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Enclosed LHM sets forth self-explanatory article appearing in the 2/21/75 edition of New Times relative to the captioned case. LHM being submitted for completion of Buffiles.

2-Bureau (Enc. 6)
2-Oklahoma City
LJO/sal
(4)

Searched ____
Serialized ____
Indexed ____
Filed ____

159-45-122-34

FD-263 (Rev. 1-7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
WASHINGTON FIELD	OKLAHOMA CITY	3/6/75	2/28/75

TITLE OF CASE

UNSUBS;
Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased)

REPORT MADE BY: CARLTON V. BRODEN — TYPED BY: lej

CHARACTER OF CASE

LMRDA;OOJ

REFERENCE: Report of SA CARLTON V. BRODEN dated 2/28/75, at Washington, D. C.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

[redacted] was advised that inasmuch as the fender and bumper from SILKWOOD's automobile has been examined by four examiners hired by the OCAW, it was highly unlikely the FBI Laboratory would at this time be interested in conducting an examination of the bumper and fender as there was no guarantee they had not been contaminated or altered in some fashion and they could not be considered as evidence, as of the time of the accident, at this time. [redacted] stated he realized this, but felt that such an examination might provide the FBI with a clue. b6 b7C

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED				☒ NONE	ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

CASE HAS BEEN:
PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO
PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED — SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

6- Bureau (159-4005)
3- Oklahoma City (159-45)
(1- USA, Oklahoma City)
1- WFO (159-369)

1 cy USA sent 3/11/75 RV

b6 b7C

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___

MAR 10 1975

[redacted] OMA CITY

- A* -
COVER PAGE

159-45-123

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: CARLTON V. BRODEN Office: Washington, D. C.
Date: 3/6/75

Field Office File #: 159-369 Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
Karen G. Silkwood (Deceased)

Character: LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis: Report of [redacted] regarding his examination of a section of the fender from SILKWOOD's automobile obtained and set forth. b6 b7C

- RUC -

DETAILS: WASHINGTON, D. C.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1970 O - 406-840

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/6/75

1

[redacted] Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), 1126 16th Street, N.W., made available a copy of the report of E. L. MARTIN, Martin and Carlisle Chemical Laboratory, Incorporated, concerning an examination of a section of an automobile fender from SILKWOOD's automobile. MARTIN's report is set forth below. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that the fender and bumper from SILKWOOD's automobile were still in the custody of [redacted] Accident Reconstruction Laboratory, Dallas, Texas, and would be made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for examination if requested. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 2/25/75 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 159-369

by SA CARLTON V. BRODEUR:lel Date dictated 2/28/75

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3/13/75

A I R T E L

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, [redacted] (RUC) b3 b7E

RE: THREAT TO BOMB PHILADEPHIA,
PENNSYLVANIA
3/6/75
BOMB THREATS
OO: Philadephia

Re WFO airtel to Bureau, 3/7/75.

For information of Bureau and receiving offices, the KAREN G. SILKWOOD mentioned in enclosure to referenced airtel is identical with the victim in case entitled, "UNSUB; KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased), LMRDA; COJ, OO: Oklahoma City," Bufile 159-4005, Oklahoma City file 159-45.

SILKWOOD, an active member of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, was employed by the Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Nuclear Products Division, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Okla., which facility is involved in the production of both plutonium and uranium products. SILKWOOD was killed in a one car accident, 11/13/74, and since that time considerable controversy has arisen concerning the circumstances of her death. Controversy and wide-spread publicity has also arisen concerning various allegations made by SILKWOOD and other union members concerning health safety standards and contamination incidents at the Cimarron facility, in one of which SILKWOOD herself was contaminated. Numerous magazine articles, nationally syndicated newspaper articles, and national television shows have recently been devoted to SILKWOOD's death and related matters.

4-Bureau
2-Las Vegas
2-Philadelphia
1-WFO (Info.)
2-[redacted] (1-159-45)
LJO/sal
(11)

[redacted] b3 b6 b7C b7E

159-45 124

[redacted] b3 b7E

It is noted that SILKWOOD is deceased and she died prior to receipt of above captioned threat.

The Oklahoma City Division is in possession of no information which would indicate SILKWOOD had been in contact with any radical or subversive groups prior to death.

Oklahoma City indices negative re project Fireball.

On 3/11/75, [redacted] Security Chief, Kerr Mc Gee Corporation, advised that his company is in possession of no information relative to captioned threat. His company has developed no information indicating SILKWOOD, prior to her dimise, was in contact with any radical groups. b6 b7C

In the event Oklahoma City receives any information that would seem to pertain to captioned matter, the Bureau and appropriate offices will be expeditiously advised.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 159-45

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125
March 17, 1975

Unknown Subjects;
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORT AND DISCLOSURE ACT
OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Set forth below are the results of interview with [redacted] b6 b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Searched .....
Serialized .....
Indexed .....
[redacted] b6 b7C

6 - Bureau
2 - USA, Oklahoma City
2 - Oklahoma City (159-45)
LJO:dah
(10)

159-45-125

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/14/75

[redacted] Rural Route, Crescent, Oklahoma, b6 b7C furnished the following information:

[redacted] b6 b7C located at [redacted] of the Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility (CF).

Some four or five weeks ago, CF employee started coming into the station. Many CF employees do business with him but he cannot recall having had this particular individual as a previous customer. He learned that this individual was a widow woman by the name of [redacted] who apparently lives somewhere between [redacted] b6 b7C On her initial visit, [redacted] and he talked about the fatal car accident in which KAREN SILKWOOD, a CF employee died. He had no personal knowledge about this SILKWOOD accident but had read a lot about it in the newspaper and seen a lot about the accident on television. He also heard various CF employees who were customers of his talk about the accident. The accident site was [redacted] The accident and the related publicity were the biggest thing to happen in the area in quite some time and were naturally the topic of much conversation.

As he said he had no personal knowledge of the SILKWOOD accident but the understanding that he did have of the accident led him to think that there were some rather peculiar aspects concerning the accident. As he recalls, he discussed his opinions concerning the peculiar aspects with [redacted] when she first appeared b6 b7C at the station. His opinions seemed to excite [redacted] and she came back several times thereafter ostensibly to buy gas but apparently to talk about the accident. Shortly after the accident had occurred, he recalls hearing some Kerr McGee employees commenting that a fellow by the name [redacted] who worked with KAREN, was the first person to discover the accident. As he understood the story, [redacted] was with KAREN either at

Interviewed on 3/11/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :dah Date dictated 3/14/75 b6 b7C

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CF or at a Union meeting immediately prior to the accident. For some reason [redacted] was going to take KAREN home but did not do so. [redacted] was suppose to have followed along after KAREN to see her home safely and apparently came upon the accident just after it occurred. It is his understanding that [redacted] did not actually witness the accident. This is what he thinks is so very peculiar as there would have been several places between the accident and Crescent where [redacted] could have used the phone to report the accident without going clear back to Crescent. There is a residence ¼ mile south of where he is located with a phone. There is a public pay station located on a post out in front of the gas pumps at his station. Everyone in the entire country site is well acquainted with the location of this telephone and it is heavily used. The Kerr McGee plant is also just north of his station and they have phones there.

b6
b7C

Just which CF employee it was who related this story to him he cannot recall nor can he recall when he first heard the story. He cannot recall having discussed this story in any detail with anyone other than [redacted]. As he recalls, he was unaware of the fact that the accident had taken place until approximately two or three days after the accident had occurred and then he started reading about it in the newspaper and hearing people talk about it. He is aware that the interest in this accident has continued because there have been a lot of strange things going on in the area which appear to relate to the accident. Recently he saw helicopters and airplanes flying around for considerable periods of time. Apparently aerial photographs were being taken of the accident scene and the CF itself. He also understands that some television company was conducting a series of driving tests where the accident occurred.

b6
b7C

Earlier on March 11, 1975, something very strange occurred. A white male in his 40s, who was slightly balding, dressed in a blue work shirt and blue jeans appeared at his station and started asking him detailed questions about the SILKWOOD accident. This individual was driving a new Plymouth with 1975 Oklahoma plates ZR 8106. This individual

first asked him to put gas in the car. He has not had the occasion to service many new Plymouths and so he was not familiar with where the gas cap was on the car. The thing that first aroused his suspicion about this person was the fact that the driver himself did not know where gas went in the car. However, he later found out that this apparently was a rental car. This individual never did identify himself by name or display any kind of credentials or identification. The individual did indicate he was a reporter but did not say who he worked for. The reporter said he was from Washington, D.C. They were talking about the SILKWOOD wreck when all of a sudden the reporter asked what he knew about [redacted]. This made him very suspicious of the reporter because the only person with whom he recalled talking with about [redacted] was [redacted]. He did not tell the reported hardly anything at all about [redacted] because at this point he became very suspicious of the reporter. He does not know for a fact that this person was really a reporter and for all he knows the reporter may have actually beem some type of Communist. b6 b7C

The reporter made some mention of the fact that some television company had made road tests at the SILKWOOD accident site. The reporter also took great notice of the fact that the Highway had been resurfaced in the vicinity of the accident after the accident occurred. The reporter indicated he thought this was most unusual.

He told the reporter that this was not at all unusual because Highway 74 about a year ago had been repaved from the Oklahoma - Logan County Line north to a point four miles south of the station. He told the reporter that this past fall an additional contract had been let to continue the paving project and the highway was repaved now to a point two miles north of the station. He considered his contact with the reporter so unusual that he felt he should report this contact to the FBI. He assumes that [redacted] in some way "put the reporter on him". As he has previously indicated, he does not really know anything about the accident and does not even know just who [redacted] is. b6 b7C

He still cannot recall who it was that first told him the story about [redacted]. He does not know who the first person was on the scene of the SILKWOOD accident and does not know who reported the accident to the police. He does not recall anything which occurred on the evening of November 13, 1974, which would seem to relate to the SILKWOOD accident. b6 b7C

OC 159-45

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)

In regard to the [redacted] mentioned in above [redacted] interview, this individual is more than likely identical with [redacted] a former Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility employee who is a former committeeman of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW). Investigation has determined that [redacted] was closely associated with Silkwood in regard to some of the allegations made by Silkwood against the Kerr McGee Corporation. b6 b7C

Results of interview with [redacted] conducted December 3, 1974, have been set forth in report previously submitted under above captioned report of SA [redacted], December 13, 1974. It is noted that no information has been developed indicating that [redacted] was on the scene of the Silkwood fatal accident, November 13, 1974, as believed by [redacted]. In regard to the [redacted] mentioned in the [redacted] interview, she had previously been interviewed in reference to this case on January 9, 1975, as reported in Oklahoma City report of [redacted] January 21, 1975. b6 b7C

3/17/75

AIRTEL

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (150-4005)

FROM SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (150-45) (P) b6 b7C

SUBJECT UNSUBS;
Karen Kay Silkwood (Deceased)
LMRDA;COJ
OO: Oklahoma City

[redacted] call to Dept

Re Bureau telephone call to Oklahoma City, 3/13/75.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. Two copies of LHM being furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

Attached LHM sets forth results of interview with [redacted] who resides [redacted] b6 b7C of Kerr McGee Cimarron Facility. It would appear that the unknown reporter with whom [redacted] had contact with is likely identical with New York Times reporter [redacted]. It is noted that the [redacted] referred to in [redacted] interview is identical with [redacted] who was interviewed 1/9/75 in referenced captioned matter, results of which interview are set forth in Oklahoma City report by SA [redacted] dated 1/21/75.

Oklahoma City has previously been in contact with USA [redacted] WDO, in reference to captioned case. b6 b7C BURNETT has just completed a lengthy trial at Oklahoma City in which he successfully prosecuted [redacted]. Inquiry with [redacted] office determined that he is out of town the week of 3/17 - 21/75 and will not return to work until 3/24/75. [redacted] has previously expressed a personal interest in regard to captioned case and requested he be kept informed.

2 - Bureau (Enc. - 6) b6 b7C
2 - Oklahoma City
LJO:jdc
(4)

[redacted]

159-45-126

OC 159-45

LEAD:

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will recontact USA, [redacted] and discuss prosecutive aspects of captioned case.

b6
b7C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No. 159-45

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125
March 17, 1975

Unknown Subjects;
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

The March 27, 1975, issue, number 183, of the Rolling Stone, a by-weekly newspaper published at San Francisco, California, contained an article entitled "The Nuclear Industry's Terrible Power and How It Silenced Karen Silkwood," author Howard Kohn. The article is as follows:

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6 - Bureau
1 - USA, Oklahoma City
2 - Oklahoma City (159-45)
LJO:dah
(9)

Searched [redacted]
Serialized [redacted]
Indexed [redacted]
Filed [redacted]

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159-45-127

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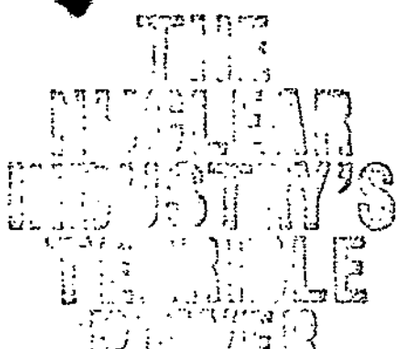


She was 28, a slight woman, dark hair pushing past slender shoulders, haunting beauty nurtured in a small-child look. She was alone that chilly autumn night, driving her tiny three-door Honda through long stretches of prairie. The Oklahoma fields lay flattened under the crude bushwerks of the wind, the grass unable to snap back to attention. Every few miles a big-boned rabbit, mangled and broken, littered the roadside. A couple years back she had fired off a round of angry letters when sheep ranchers staged rabbit roundups, stalking to death the furry army that had sprung up on the prairie. She was like that, poking her opinions where they weren't welcome.

In the early evening darkness of Wednesday, November 13th, 1974, Karen Silkwood was on an environmental mission of another sort. On the seat beside her lay a manila folder with apparent proof that records were being falsified at the plutonium plant where she worked. Waiting at a Holiday Inn 30 miles away were a union official and a *New York Times* reporter who had just flown from Washington D.C. to Oklahoma City to meet with her.

They waited nearly an hour. Then they picked up the phone.

Karen Silkwood's body had already been found in a small rivulet along Highway 74 where rabbits often come to drink. Her car had swerved left across the highway, skittered about 120 feet along an embankment, smashed head-on into a culvert wingwall, lurched through the air and caromed off another culvert wall, coming to rest in the muddy stream.

Her death was ruled an accident: the police decided she was asleep at the wheel. But the union official was not satisfied. The manila folder was missing. And a private investigator discovered two fresh dents in the rear of her car: telltale marks of a hit-and-run.

[illegible]

Even in the dead of winter it can be a steamy 80° in Nederland, Texas, a bottom-line speck on the map best known as the hometown of the late Tex ("Hillbilly Heaven") Ritter. Nederland is tucked in the southeastern crook of the Longhorn State, a half-hour's drive from the Gulf of Mexico but within mosquito-flying distance of the bogs and bayous. It is a small town with a limited sense of local color. Its most exotic avenues are driveways paved with seashells from the Gulf. Lowing Herefords munch and ruminate in back yards until ready for the oven. A windmill-shaped museum pays tribute to turn-of-the-century Dutch ancestors.

But the most eye-watering landmarks of Nederland are the giant oil refineries obscuring the horizon, coughing out a gray, sinister fog. This corner of Texas produces 10% of the nation's oil supply; it is Texaco-Mobil-Gulf country, where there are seldom discouraging words about an energy crisis. When the wind is right, which is often, a thick, fetid odor settles over Nederland, clinging to food and clothes, gagging unwary strangers. The smell might explain why Tex Ritter skipped Nederland's golden anniversary shivaree or why young families leave good-paying jobs to go elsewhere. But the air also reeks of big money. As state Representative Billy Williamson remarked last year when someone suggested shutting down the stinking refineries: "I think we are all willing to have a little bit of crud in our lungs... I don't need some bunch of do-gooders telling me what's good to breathe."

Karen Silkwood never forget the dirty air and sweet stench. When her teachers talked of a new technology that would eliminate the stink and mess of oil, she was captivated. The clean purr of nuclear power: That was the hope of the future. On her own time Karen enrolled in a six-week course on radiation. In her senior year she was accepted into her high school's advanced chemistry class, and her father, the town's premier housepainter, dreamed of his daughter as a scientist. But when her mother, a gentle-faced housewife who moonlighted as a bank clerk, discovered Karen was the only girl in her chemistry class, there was a confrontation. "I thought she should be in something like home economics, and I told the chemistry teacher I wanted her out," she says. "But he finally made me change my mind. He said she was a better student than the boys."

Karen was an intense, serious girl who shunned the local teenage hotspots for library reading and volunteer work at a hospital. Her acquaintances remember only one irritating characteristic: She talked back to her teachers, correcting them with an uncanny firmness when they slipped up, say, on the atomic weight of tritium. "She was," says one old friend, "a very nice person who always wanted to be right about everything."

She graduated in 1964 with a college scholarship and best wishes from everyone. At nearby Lamar College Karen pursued her science interests, settling on a career as a laboratory analyst, perhaps in nuclear physics.

But before her sophomore year ended, she was whisked away from her studies by a good-looking guy with a promising future as a pipeline supervisor at Mobil Oil. It was seven years, three kids, one bankruptcy and a divorce later before she returned to her earlier ambitions. In August 1972 she left her husband and children, resumed her maiden name and took a job away from the smokestacks of Texas as a laboratory technician for one of the nuclear fuels fabricators of Kerr-McGee Corporation of Oklahoma.

Howard Kohn, a freelance writer, was raised on a farm outside of Auburn, Michigan and was a reporter for the Detroit Free Press.

The Texas State Police had Robert Pomeroy under investigation. He was a suspected subversive. A dossier was being compiled.

Pomeroy had formed a 40-member citizens' group early in 1974 to protest the building of a nuclear plant near his home outside Dallas. An undercover agent who had been tailing him reported back that Pomeroy might be using the group as a front, "possibly for a Ralph Nader action."

What that meant was not clear. But the undercover agent gave the dossier to Continental Airlines, where Pomeroy had worked as a pilot for seven years. When Pomeroy, an ex-Marine with no police record and an impeccable civil image, found out about the dossier, he went to court, suing for libel, slander and a trampling of his civil rights. A state senator looked into the case and guessed that the Texas police had been put up to the job by the forces Pomeroy had opposed, the nuclear industry.

The police, while refusing to say who asked for the investigation, now claim they have destroyed their files on Pomeroy and all other nuclear critics.

Living with the memory of bombs over Japan and the threat of war with Russia, Americans in the late Forties and Fifties distrusted the malevolent caprice of nuclear power. So when the U.S. energy moguls decided to invest their future in nuclear reactors, they had to educate the public to the "peaceful" side of atom splitting. An industry forum crafted a 160-page guide for promoting nuclear energy; typical advertisements glamorized its development as "one of the most revolutionary events of the 20th century." General Electric handed eight million school children like Karen Silkwood a free comic book entitled "Inside the Atom." By the Sixties, the sales job seemed a success. Oil and coal would someday be replaced by the bold and bright promise of uranium.

It was uranium, an unpretentious metal buried mostly in isolated pockets under western deserts, that was going to fuel tomorrow's generators—and the oil companies were in on the ground floor. Kerr-McGee Corporation, for instance, which flies its K-M trademark topmast at hundreds of service stations in the Southwest, grabbed up all the uranium fields it could sink a shaft in. On a Navajo reservation near Shiprock, New Mexico, Kerr-McGee discovered a cache of uranium under the parched turf. The Navajos were paid as little as $1.60 an hour to exhume the metal, hauling it out in wheelbarrows from the stifling, scratchy air below.

After 16 years of plunder, the Navajo mines were exhausted in 1969. Only then did the miners learn that uranium dust had infected many of them with a rare lung cancer that resists early diagnosis. By June of last year the cancer had killed 18 of the 100 Navajo miners, and 21 more were feared dying. But Kerr-McGee refused to take responsibility or pay medical expenses. "I couldn't possibly tell you what happened at some small mines on an Indian reservation," Kerr-McGee spokesman Bill Phillips told a Washington reporter. "We have uranium interests all over the world."

By the Seventies, Kerr-McGee had mined and milled tons of yellow-cake uranium and had acquired 840,000 acres of uranium leases and a corner on the market. With assets approaching a billion dollars, it is the nation's largest uranium producer.

In downtown Oklahoma City, where Kerr-McGee's square-block headquarters towers 30 stories above the modest skyline, the Kerr-McGee name is as imposing as its building. The late Robert Kerr, the company's cofounder, claimed to have been born in a log cabin and to have worked his way through college selling magazines. As company president he prided himself on staying at cheap motels and eating baked beans in self-service cafeterias—while fighting to keep unions at bay and workers at minimum wage. As Oklahoma governor in the Forties he ran the state with the same frugality and didn't relax his tight fist until moving to the U.S. Senate in 1948. There Kerr became the most powerful man in the Senate, next to Lyndon Johnson; with Kerr's unflagging zeal, the energy industry won millions of dollars in tax subsidies. And nuclear research profited from fat bags of public dollars, to the exclusion of solar and geothermal research, in which Kerr-McGee had no interest.

Dean McGee, Kerr's successor as company board chairman, holds office and influence in such diverse interests as banks, power companies and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. McGee has yet to run for public office, but few doubt he could fit comfortably in the governor's chair. "People in Oklahoma look at Dean McGee the same way people in New York look at Nelson Rockefeller—they look up," one local politician has observed. When Richard Nixon came to Oklahoma State University last spring in one of his final public appearances, he had to share the podium with McGee, who received an honorary doctorate.

Recently McGee was named to a federal commission studying America's long-range energy needs, and he presumably will push for nuclear power. But McGee is already looking ahead to the day when nuclear reactors will no longer use uranium. Future reactors will feed on a far more potent fuel, plutonium.

Uranium, like fossil fuels, is limited in supply; in 40 or 50 years we will be able to run out. But plutonium is the love child of an ultimate alchemist. It can reproduce itself. An industry brochure puts it like this: "Question—How many pounds of plutonium will you have left after you use three pounds in a nuclear reactor? Answer—Four pounds!"

Plutonium barely exists in nature; our present supply is entirely manmade. It was first discovered in the Forties among the waste products of fissioned uranium. Plutonium can take several forms—but it is usually a gray, soft metal, a slushy liquid nitrate, or a fluffy yellow-green oxide powder fine enough to be inhaled. In any form it is "fiendishly toxic," according to one of its discoverers, Dr. Glenn Seaborg.

Plutonium is much more dangerous than uranium. It is incredibly combustible, readily convertible into nuclear weapons and, once let loose in the atmosphere, it stays deadly for a quarter-million years; it cannot be recaptured or destroyed. Swallowing it in a quantity that can be seen would scar the digestive tract, killing quickly and painfully. Plutonium is also a carcinogen 10 times better but, because only a few hundred people have ever had it in their systems, scientists disagree as to what amount can cause cancer. As little as a hundredth of a gram has induced cancer in

lab animals and some experts say that a softball-sized bag of plutonium, if properly dispersed, could visit cancer on every home on earth.

For years plutonium was used exclusively for bombs. The nonmilitary inventory wasn't enough to fill a pair of size ten shoes. But at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in Washington D.C., visionaries saw an incipient benanza. So the AEC, encouraged by money and kind words from Capitol Hill, set out to make plutonium practical and profitable. A special nuclear reactor to breed plutonium, nicknamed the "fast-breeder," was built in Michigan. It proved a $135-million flop. In 1972, after dozens of false starts, it was abandoned, a vast leprous hulk on the outskirts of Detroit. (Early last year the Soviet Union's only fast-breeder closed down after a serious explosion.)

The AEC was undeterred. It decided more tests were needed. Near Richland, Washington, construction was begun on a facility to test "fuel rods," the plutonium-filled tubes used in a fast-breeder. The Richland facility won't be ready for tests until 1978 and a new fast-breeder, scheduled for Tennessee, won't be finished until the Eighties. But for the past four years fuel rods have been trucked into Richland to await the tests.

Most of the fuel rods come from Kerr-McGee's prized plutonium plant 20 miles outside Oklahoma City. It was Kerr-McGee, on good terms with the AEC since Robert Kerr's congressional days, which was awarded a $1.4-million AEC contract to process the plutonium into pellets and pour them into the fuel rods.

Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant, built next to one of its uranium plants (and within five miles of 92 gas and oil wells, two popular resort lakes and the churning Cimarron River), opened in 1970 shortly before 8583 fish turned belly-up in the river following a big ammonia spill at the facility. Raised against the flat harshness of rural Oklahoma, the barnlike plant is unimposing; only a chain-link fence and armed guards hint at the devil's brew within.

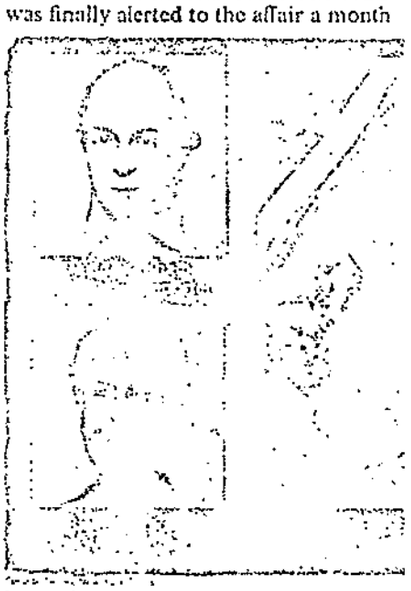
Kerr-McGee had assured the AEC it could deal safely and circumspectly with the plutonium. But the AEC, a government agency in the curious role of both promoting and policing the nuclear industry, soon received numerous reports of irregularities and accidents at the Kerr-McGee plant. In a situation that left no margin for error, things kept getting bungled.

In October 1970, soon after the plant opened, two workers were contaminated when a radioactive storage container was left in the open for three days. Twenty-two more workers were exposed to plutonium in January 1971 when defective equipment allowed plutonium oxide to escape into the air. Less serious incidents were common. The protective "glove boxes" the workers used often had holes. Sometimes the "Super Tiger" and "Poly Panther" drums, specially designed to store the volatile liquid, unaccountably leaked. Improperly designed pipes once sent plutonium sloshing to wrong parts of the plant.

One day a worker bent to adjust a compressor unit; it exploded, tipping through his hand and tearing off the top of his face, spitting tissue over the ceiling. He died instantly. "When I got there," remembers a former lab technician, "they were washing the goo down the drain." Kerr-McGee, he feels, "didn't give a damn about the people who worked there—it didn't care whether its safety program was effective or not."

In April 1972 two maintenance men repairing a pump at the plant were splashed with a rain of plutonium particles, which settled on their hands, faces, hair and clothes. At noon they left the plant for lunch in a nearby town, not discovering their contamination until they returned. They were scrubbed clean, along with their car. But Kerr-McGee neglected to check out the restaurant where the men had eaten.

Nor did Kerr-McGee inform the AEC of the incident, a clear violation of the federal nuclear code. The AEC was finally alerted to the affair a month



later, tipped off by an environmentalist who had learned of it from a plant worker. By then there was nothing to be done for the restaurant patrons, short of an all-out search for any who might have gulped down plutonium with their egg salad.

Beyond adding another bulge to the file of violations already logged against Kerr-McGee, the matter was forgotten.

When Karen Silkwood arrived at the Kerr-McGee plant in late summer 1972, she was just divorced and eager to begin a career as a nuclear laboratory technician. But after only three months testing the plutonium fuel rods, Silkwood was outside the chain-link fence, marching with an on-strike placard.

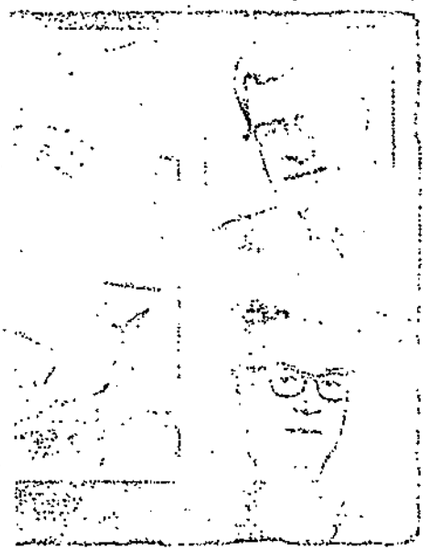
The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union (OCAW), representing the plutonium workers, was at loggerheads with Kerr-McGee. The company, a veteran of the wildcat oil rig, had managed to keep the unions out until 1966, three years after Senator Kerr's death. Now the OCAW was demanding a new contract with higher wages, safer conditions and better training. Kerr-McGee had replied with an offer worse than the old contract. Then, as soon as workers went on strike, the company rushed scabs onto the job, barely missing a beat in fuel-rod production.

Even Kerr-McGee officials later conceded, in a letter to the Sierra Club, that thrusting untrained, strikebreakers into the plant led to more plutonium spills and leaks. ("Some scabs got only four hours of training when they should have gotten five days," fumed one striker.) Among the inexperienced substitutes hired during the strike was the plant's safety officer.

On the picket lines, meanwhile, 26-year-old Karen Silkwood was spending a lot of time with 22-year-old Drew

Stephens, a short-haired, brainy lab analyst with an easy smile. When he first came to work three years before, Stephens had expected to earn his 40-year gold watch from Kerr-McGee. But he had grown disenchanted after the rash of accidents and now lived for weekends when he turned sports-car racer, a hotdog kid on the local auto-cross circuit.

The strike lasted ten weeks. Those picketers whose jobs had not been lost to scabs returned to work in January 1973, reluctantly signing a new contract that stripped away many of their previous rights, including certain protections against arbitrary firings and reassignments. A few weeks later a plant employe was emptying a bag of plutonium wastes when a fire spontaneously



erupted, shooting radioactive dust into the air. Seven workers sucked in the junk. But Kerr-McGee supervisors waited a day before calling in a physician. Four days later the seven workers still had not been tested for contamination in their lungs.

Silkwood and Stephens shared in the outrage building in the plant. But they were now deeply in love, Stephens divorcing his wife of four years to live with Silkwood. They were enjoying the good times, tooling around in Stephens's tomato red Austin-Healy Sprite, country-rock blaring on the radio.

Then, in July 1974, Karen Silkwood became contaminated with plutonium.

Actor Jack Lemmon, serving as narrator, introduced the documentary: "One thing is certain. The nuclear power plants . . . have everybody connected just a trifle jumpy."

Entitled 'Powers that Be,' the television film was produced in 1971 by Don Widener, an Emmy winner then working for the NBC-owned station in Los Angeles. The film, a powerful critique of nuclear dangers, was shown once in Los Angeles but never repeated nationally.

NBC decided to let it die after Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E), the nation's second largest private power company and a heavy nuclear investor, raised a fuss on Capitol Hill about Widener's credibility. No charges were ever substantiated (although some are still in litigation). But, in an internal memo later subpoenaed in a lawsuit, a PG&E official confided: "The fact that NBC is upset at our aggressive approach [with Congress] is just what we wanted."

Award-winner Widener, who is suing PG&E for libel, was let go by the network soon after the documentary and has found little television work since.

Oklahoma City still listens to Rosemary Clooney, votes Republican and plays host to all the cowboy conventions it can corral. Adolescents favor mail-order miniskirts and the Burt Reynolds look. A popular radio station provides "full-time Christian broadcasting." Okie country is not the kind of place that fathers worry their daughters will run off to.

But for Karen Silkwood, Oklahoma City was full of bright lights and good-time chances to catch up on what she missed as a teenager. She hung out at bars and rock concerts and learned how to get gently stoned. She was happy. Coming home one night she told Stephens: "I feel like I'm in love with the whole world."

But after several months she moved out, jealous for her freedom, unwilling to risk another marriage. She wanted her own place and, after a money-poor marriage, indulged in a color TV, a $600 stereo, a Suzuki cycle and a Honda Civic Hatchback. Silkwood and Stephens remained friends and part-time lovers, but her career was her first love. She retreated from the night scene to work overtime. And she got involved in the union, OCAW Local 5-283.

Silkwood looked to the union as the only outlet for her growing frustration with management. When suddenly exposed to a swirl of airborne plutonium in July 1974, she was not wearing a respirator. For over a year she had been bugging the company to buy a special respirator to fit over her tiny, narrow face; it hadn't arrived.

When union elections came up the next month, Silkwood ran and won one of the three seats on the Local 5-283 steering committee. Fellow workers knew her as the spunky chick who talked back to her bosses. "Goddamnit, I am right and you are wrong," she once raged at a supervisor. "If you want to tell me what to do, you oughta learn how to do the job right."

Despite growing anticompany jabber at the plant, most workers did not want a fight. Many simply quit; the annual turnover rate among the 115 hourly workers, according to the union, hovered around 60%. Some complained of being harassed out of their jobs; three workers who griped to AEC officials about safety conditions early in 1974 were reportedly tracked down and transferred to "shit details" in the chilly warehouse.

Other plutonium workers took their feelings outside the plant, anonymously phoning tips to environmental groups like the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth. Several calls also went to Ilene Younghein, an Oklahoma City housewife, mother of two grown kids, a hefty woman with a wonderful rococo laugh who had read about the dangers of plutonium in *Intellectual Digest* and had written to a local newspaper about it. "You can imagine how stunned I was when some workers called to tell me there was a plutonium plant under our very noses," she recalls. "It was a short drive upwind from my house and I hadn't known it. What would happen if there was a big explosion at the plant? We'd have dead people all over the place." In addition, Younghein learned, the plant had been built on a flood plain and in the center of a tornado alley, a situation that required stowing all plutonium in a vault whenever there was a flood or tornado alert. And there was no guarantee the vault would not crack. All 900,000 people within 50 miles of

the plant, she figured, were living in the shadow of Armageddon. "I felt betrayed by Kerr-McGee. They built that plant without telling anyone—I guess they thought no one would find out."

A few short notices had appeared in the local papers in 1970 when Kerr-McGee first began hotfooting with plutonium—quotes of welcome for the plant from then governor Dewey Bartlett. But there was no mention of the menace in plutonium.

In the fall of 1973 Younghein had begun a one-woman campaign to shut the plant down. Angry workers simply wanted the company to improve training procedures and apply safety precautions rather than lock its doors. But they supplied inside scuttlebutt to Younghein and other environmentalists, hoping the outside pressure would prod Kerr-McGee to clean up its act. Younghein did her best, collecting 500 signatures on a petition for stricter federal controls and penciling two lengthy doomsday articles for the Oklahoma *Observer*, a maverick semiweekly unintimidated by Kerr-McGee.

Meanwhile, Kerr-McGee was preoccupied with a breakwater federal court ruling in New Jersey that ordered all nuclear companies to submit statements describing the dangers of nuclear plants. Among other things, Kerr-McGee was required to show the AEC that neighbors of the plutonium plant understood the risks and were willing to live with them. Kerr-McGee balked; Executive Vice President George B. Parks argued in a letter to the AEC that such questions were not "proper subjects of inquiry in a [public] environmental study."

Then Kerr-McGee relented. In August 1974 the AEC received three letters, one each from the city councils of Guthrie and Crescent and one from the commissioners of Logan County, representing the citizenries closest to the plant. The letter from the Guthrie City Council reported that it had surveyed the populace and found that "in general, their reaction has shown no animosity and . . . that the presence of the Kerr-McGee facility is welcome due to its favorable benefit." The letter from the Crescent City Council said the same thing—exactly the same thing, word for word. So did the letter from the Logan County Commission. In the finest tradition of spoon-fed corporate blurp, all three letters were identical. Confronted later with this embarrassment, Guthrie City Manager R. E. Anderson mumbled, "The company did give us a letter to look at so we knew what they had in mind. I didn't realize we'd sent it off without changing a few words."

The same month that Kerr-McGee was trying to impress the AEC with letters in triplicate, Karen Silkwood and the other two Local 5-283 steering committee members were preparing a declaration of war against the company. New contract negotiations were due in a few months, and for the first time Local 5-283 was going to confront Kerr-McGee squarely on the issue of safety. The chronicle of accidents, safety abuses and other allegations was to be compiled into a formal list of grievances.

Silkwood helped interview workers in the dangerous production areas of the plant. Most were young, average age about 25, coming from nearby farms and small towns and, Silkwood learned, several had no idea plutonium could cause cancer.

They spun out a grim tale of corporate callousness: New employes often were sent directly into production without safety training (one such worker had been badly contaminated and had quit the next day before receiving medical attention); production schedules sometimes forced workers to stay on the job even when the air wasn't safe to breathe—supervisors ordering them to wear respirators rather than hunting the source of contamination; and plutonium was sometimes stored in such casual containers as desk drawers.

With their grievances in hand, and with the quickening hopes of the union membership, Silkwood and her fellow committee members, Gerald Brewer and Jack Tice, flew to Washington D.C. for a meeting with the OCAW International. They arrived on September 26th and met Steve Wodka, an OCAW legislative assistant, a hard-nosed, stiff-talking man given to curt skepticism and impatient waves of the hand. Though only 25, he is among the OCAW's best troubleshooters. Wodka and his boss, Tony Mazzocchi, had devoted much of the previous year to hassling do-nothing regulatory agencies and exposing health hazards in the asbestos industry, a crusade that had won them praise from Senator Walter Mondale on the floor of Congress.

Wodka and Mazzocchi pumped Silkwood and the others for details, then the next day marched them over to the only place in town that could put the clamps on Kerr-McGee—the AEC. The AEC copied it all down and promised an investigation.

But Wodka was already considering another investigation. Silkwood had confided to him that for months she had suspected that tests on the plutonium fuel rods destined for Richland, Washington, were being fudged. And, she said, she had recently heard about records being doctored, X-ray photos being black-penciled and other tests being manipulated. Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant might be defrauding the AEC, she had concluded, shipping inadequate or unsafe fuel rods to Richland.

"Both Tony Mazzocchi and I felt this was a very serious situation," Wodka says. "But we felt it was premature to bring it to the attention of the AEC. We had to have proof before we could make any accusations. So we asked Karen to go back to the plant, to find out who was falsifying the records, who was ordering it and to document everything in specific detail."

Silkwood agreed to go undercover.

Back in Oklahoma she revealed her new role to Stephens. She stood in his living room, crouching over the radiator vent to shake off the autumn chill, and jabbed a delicate brown finger into the air: "We're really gonna get those *motherfuckers* this time."

"I told her to calm down, to forget about it," Stephens remembers.

Six days before Silkwood's Washington trip, Stephens had abruptly quit, riled by a sudden transfer. "When I first went to work there I wanted to be the world's greatest laboratory technician. Now I never wanted to see the place again.

"But Karen felt differently. She wanted to reform the place. She had tried to go through channels and she'd gotten very frustrated. But when she came back from Washington she was really excited. This was her chance to do something. She figured things were really going to change."

On October 10th, two of the nation's leading plutonium experts arrived in Oklahoma City from the University of Minnesota, summoned by the OCAW International to conduct crash courses for Kerr-McGee's plutonium workers. Their credentials were impressive: Dr. Donald Geesaman, a top AEC scientist for 13 years, had crusaded for stiffer plutonium standards until he was fired; Dr. Dean Abrahamson was both a physicist and a physician.

The two professors were told that 73 workers had been internally contaminated by plutonium during the previous four years. (Dozens more workers had accidentally brushed plutonium or been sprinkled with it, but had washed it off their skin.) The 73 had been exposed to airborne plutonium; any inhaled into their lungs could not be washed out. The probability of cancer in such cases, Dr. Abrahamson warned, "is disturbingly high." Because it takes 10 or 15 years after exposure to detect cancer, no cases have yet been reported at Kerr-McGee. But those workers with internal contamination must live with the threat of cancer for years to come.

Karen Silkwood was one of those 73, and she was shocked by Abrahamson's news. She had assumed she would stay clear of cancer if she did not breathe in more plutonium than allowed under AEC guidelines. But Abrahamson was saying, "If you can measure plutonium in the air at all, it's too high." The AEC guidelines, he said, were meaningless.

Silkwood grew moody and restless, working nights and unable to sleep during the days. She got a prescription for some sleeping pills. And she began to hunt for another job.

But first, she vowed to Stephens, she was going to get proof that Kerr-McGee was sustaining its plutonium plant through false and perjurious records. She had already collected some evidence, she said, and was certain she could get more.

At one point Silkwood reported to Wodka that she had obtained photographs proving the welding on some fuel rods was too weak. "They [company supervisors] are still passing bad welds no matter what the pictures look like," she said in a telephone conversation that Wodka taped. "I have a weld I would love for you to see, just how far they ground it down to relax the weld trying to get rid of the voids, the occlusions and the cracks." (Unsafe fuel rods, according to MIT physicist Dr. Henry Kendall, could lead to "an accident that would result in the release of huge amounts of radioactivity.")

Silkwood spent the weeks of October staying after hours, poring over files recording every questionable procedure, building a dossier in a dog-eared manila folder. She did not know then that other employes had noticed her spying, and that the plant rumormill was abuzz with suspicions about what she was up to.

"I have guilt feelings about those weeks," Stephens says. "I should have talked to her more, been with her more, helped her out. ... But I just wanted to forget about the place."

On Tuesday, November 5th, 1974, Silkwood discovered she had been contaminated with plutonium again.

Sometimes Robert Rowen found the radiation levels so high that the radioactive film in his dosimeter was extremely overexposed. Then one day, he says, a superior asked him to falsify test records. After six years of trying to help PG&E's Northern California nuclear plant run safely, Rowen went to the AEC, charging PG&E with repeatedly violating federal rules on the handling of radioactive material.

Shortly thereafter, in the spring of 1970, Rowen was fired. But when he went job hunting, he discovered he was considered a dangerous radical. The local police even had a file accusing Rowen of living in a commune with Eldridge Cleaver and advocated revolutionary violence. The police chief said he had received this information, unsolicited, from a PG&E security official. (The official admits talking to the police about Rowen but denies making any accusations.)

A state labor referee looked into Rowen's firing and found "the principal cause was his extreme safety consciousness." The AEC investigated PG&E, corroborated some of Rowen's charges and scolded the company for "discouraging" at least one employe from talking to the AEC about safety at the plant.

Rowen, a former Pathfinder in the Marine Corps, has filed a huge damage suit against PG&E and finally landed a job as a high-school civics teacher and football coach near Eureka, California.

Rapidly, as if no time were left on the clock, Silkwood jammed the dime in its slot and dialed long distance. Washington. Steve Wodka. "Hello." An uncertain trickle started down her face. Her voice tottered. "Please come to Oklahoma," she said. "Something very weird is happening here."

Three times in the past three days Karen Silkwood had been contaminated with plutonium, and no one knew where it was coming from. A monitoring device had first discovered flecks of plutonium on her skin and clothing shortly after she reported for work November 5th. She had quickly stepped under a brisk shower. But the next day the monitor flashed on again. More plutonium on her skin. Another shower.

On the third day the mystery repeated itself—and a nasal smear indicated she also was contaminated internally.

How much plutonium, she wanted to know, could a person ingest before it burned out her insides?

Wodka tried to reassure her and promised to fly in. Silkwood hung up and sought out her old lover. "She was damn near incoherent," says Stephens. "She was crying and shaking like a leaf; she kept saying she was going to die."

Again she picked up the phone and called long distance. Minneapolis. Dr. Dean Abrahamson. She wanted medical advice from a physician. She told him that somehow, somewhere, she had gotten plutonium all over her, inside and out. "She knew what the medical implications were," recalls Dr. Abrahamson, "and she was worried."

A team of Kerr-McGee inspectors, armed with alpha counters, full-face respirators, special galoshes, taped up gloves and white coveralls, were meanwhile hunting the source of the plutonium. There had been no recent accident at the plant to account for her contamination. So, at Silkwood's request, they had trekked to her apartment. There the alpha counters commenced eerie gibberings. Plutonium, in small quantities, was everywhere. Outside on the lawn the inspectors filled a 55-gallon drum with alarm clocks, cosmetics, record albums, drapes, pots and pans, shampoo, bedsheets. Alongside they stacked chairs, bed, stove, refrigerator, television, items to be trucked to the Kerr-McGee plant for later burial in an AEC-approved site.

The plutonium trail turned hottest in the kitchen, inside the refrigerator. A package of bologna and a package of cheese were the two most contaminated items in the apartment. Apparently, the plutonium had been tracked around the apartment from the refrigerator. But no one could explain how two sandwich foods had become the source of contamination.

The apartment was sealed off and the AEC called in.

Silkwood, however, was more worried about the plutonium inside her than on the cheese and bologna. She kept popping the Quaaludes that had been prescribed a few weeks before. "The Quaaludes were just supposed to be taken for sleeping at nights," Stephens says. "But she was using them during the day, just to calm down. I'd never seen her so scared."

Wodka had jetted in from Washington and, after talking to Kerr-McGee and AEC officials, had helped arrange for Silkwood to fly to an AEC laboratory in New Mexico to be checked out for poisoning. On Sunday November 10th, five days after her first contamination, she boarded a Braniff airliner.

That same morning a front-page *New York Times* story reported that, according to the AEC's own internal documents, the AEC had "repeatedly sought to suppress studies by its own scientists that found nuclear reactors were more dangerous than officially acknowledged or that raised questions about reactor safety devices." One AEC study, kept confidential for seven years, predicted that a major nuclear accident could kill up to 45,000 persons and pollute an area the size of Pennsylvania. *Times* reporter David Burnham, who in 1970 interviewed Frank Serpico and broke open the New York police corruption scandal, had sifted through hundreds of memos and letters and learned the AEC had a ten-year record of blue-penciling alarming data, soft-soaping test failures and glad-handing an industry that increasingly appeared not to know what it was doing.

The report gave scant comfort to Silkwood as she flew to Los Alamos, New Mexico, site of the world's first plutonium explosion during the A-bomb tests of World War II. With her were Stephens and Sherri "Dusty" Ellis, her roommate of the past few months, a blonde, rawboned, 21-year-old rodeo champ. Ellis also worked at the plant but had refused to get involved in Silkwood's efforts to unmask the company.

Now the three shared the same fears; all had been contaminated in the apartment.

For two days they underwent a "whole body count," a meticulous probing of skin, orifices, intestines and lungs, urinating at intervals into plastic bottles and defecating into Freezette box containers.

After the first day, the three had cause for relief. Dr. George Voelz, the health division leader, assured them they had suffered no immediate damage. Even Silkwood, by far the most infected, was told she was in no danger of dying from plutonium poisoning.

On Tuesday November 12th, Silkwood called her mother to announce the good news about the tests, but added, "I'm still a little scared. I still don't know how I got contaminated. I feel like someone's using me for a guinea pig."

"I told her to come home," her mother recalled. "And she said she would. She said she was ready for a vacation . . . she just had to do a couple things first."

After more body-prying tests at Los Alamos, the three travelers flew back to Oklahoma City, landing about 10:30 Tuesday night. Because the women's apartment had been gutted of furniture, they checked in at Stephens's bungalow, now a bachelor's pad papered with four-color profiles of racing cars clipped from hotrod magazines. Silkwood wandered over to her favorite radiator vent, squatting and rubbing to warm up, then went to bed early. She had a busy day ahead. She had told Wodka she would give him the evidence she was collecting as soon as she returned from Los Alamos, and Wodka had set up a meeting with her and David Burnham, the *Times* reporter, who was winging in from the East Coast. The meeting was scheduled for Wednesday night at the Holiday Inn Northwest in Oklahoma City.

Wednesday morning Silkwood drove to work. Contract negotiations between Local 5-283 and Kerr-McGee had begun the week before and, as a committeewoman, she was supposed to take part in the bargaining. She spent the morning in negotiations, arguing the union demands for better safety training and higher injury benefits. In the afternoon she met for several hours with AEC inspectors, who were trying to unravel the mystery of her contamination.

At 5:15 p.m. she drove to Crescent, about five miles from the plant, and stopped at the Hub Cafe for a supper meeting, sans supper, to discuss negotiations strategy with Local 5-283. Jack Tice, who headed the negotiating team, told the assembled union members that, as expected, Kerr-McGee was not budging off its hard line.

Silkwood excused herself about 6 p.m. to telephone Stephens, reminding

him to pick up Wodka and Burnham at the airport and to expect her at the motor hotel about 8 p.m. She sounded normal, Stephens remembers, perhaps a bit excited about having an audience with the *New York Times*. At 7:15 p.m. Silkwood left the Hub Cafe and headed for Highway 74 and the Holiday Inn Northwest. A fellow union member would later swear in an affidavit that Silkwood, minutes before she left the restaurant, was carrying a manila folder an inch thick with papers. The folder, Silkwood told the union member, contained proof that quality-control records were being falsified.

Thirty miles away, Wodka, Burnham and Stephens waited for that proof until 8:45. Then they picked up the phone; but for some reason the Holiday Inn lines were out of order, and another hour passed before the three could get through.

Meanwhile, at 8:05 p.m., a truck-driver, sitting high up in his cab and rolling along the two-lane highway, spotted the white Honda, almost hidden in the muddy culvert. Silkwood had traveled about seven miles from the Hub Cafe, a ten-minute drive.

By the time Stephens, Wodka and Burnham learned the news from a local union member, the 1638-pound Civic Hatchback already had been towed to Ted Sebring's garage in Crescent. And Silkwood had been pronounced dead on arrival at the Guthrie Hospital, the victim of multiple and compound fractures.

The three men raced to the culvert, only a mile from the plutonium plant, and prowled about, stepping gingerly through the mud, which in Oklahoma is the color of dry blood. All they could find were shards of aluminum trim, the orange roadside reflectors that had been trampled by the bouncing car and Silkwood's uncashed paycheck.

Later they found the wreck locked up in Sebring's garage and peered at it through the window. They stopped at the home of union committeeman Jack Tice, one of the last to see Silkwood alive; Stephens called Silkwood's parents. Then they returned to the culvert, searching for an explanation in the tire tracks and the scraps of metal.

The explanation the State Highway Patrol offered was that Karen Silkwood, exhausted after driving 600 miles from Los Alamos to Oklahoma City, had fallen asleep and drifted off the road to an accidental death. Almost immediately the police had to alter their official version when they were told Silkwood had flown from Los Alamos and had gotten a full night's sleep only 12 hours before the crash.

The second official version was somewhat more convincing. Sometime during the afternoon of November 13th Silkwood had gulped down at least one of the pasty white Quaaludes from the vial in her coat pocket. Oklahoma City's chief forensic toxicologist, Richard W. Prouty, discovered .35 milligrams of methaqualone in her bloodstream, conceivably enough to lull her to sleep on the highway.

But that was not sufficient for Steve Wodka.

Silkwood had swallowed several Quaaludes in the past week without nodding out. Why would she fall into a trance on her way to an extremely crucial meeting? And the proof of fraud she was supposedly carrying had disappeared. Her personal effects, listed by the medical examiner, included an ID badge, an electronic security key (for the plant), two marijuana cigarettes, a Kotex pad, two used Kleenexes, a Bradley Mickey Mouse pocket watch, a small notebook, her clothes, $7 in bills and $1.69 in change. But there was no manila folder heavy with Kerr-McGee documents.

Trooper Rick Fagan, however, had mentioned finding dozens of loose papers blowing about the accident scene when he first arrived. Fagan had plucked up the papers, he told his superiors, and shoved them into the Honda. According to the highway patrol's information officer, Lieutenant Kenneth Vanhoy, the papers were in the Honda when Ted Sebring hauled the car away.

Presumably they were still there at 12:30 a.m.—five hours after the accident—when Sebring unlocked his garage for a group of Kerr-McGee and AEC representatives who said they wanted to check out Silkwood's car for plutonium contamination.

But by the next afternoon when Stephens, Wodka and Burnham claimed Silkwood's car from Sebring, no papers were inside.

Wodka called Tony Mazzocchi at OCAW International. Mazzocchi agreed: An outside expert was needed to investigate the crash.

Three days after Silkwood's death an auto-crash expert arrived in Oklahoma City from the Accident Reconstruction Lab of Dallas. A.O. Pipkin, an ex-cop, is a veteran of 2000 accidents and 300 court trials, a no-nonsense pro considered the best man around for piecing together an accident scenario.

Dressed in a Day-Glo orange jumpsuit, Pipkin examined the Honda and found two curious dents, one in the rear bumper, another in the rear fender. They were fresh; there was no road dirt in them. And they appeared to have been made by a car bumper.

At the scene Pipkin noted that the Honda had crossed over the yellow lines and hit the culvert on the left side of the highway. If Silkwood had nodded into a stupor, he reasoned, she would have drifted to the right. In the red clay, Pipkin found something else the police apparently disregarded: tire tracks indicating the car had been out of control before it left the highway.

Pipkin's disconcerting conclusion: Karen Silkwood's Honda had been hit from the rear by another vehicle.

Larry Bogart's last job was special assistant to the chairman of the board at Allied Chemical. But in 1966 he decided to take time off to oppose the construction of a nuclear plant near his home in Allendale, New Jersey. He has been fighting nuclear companies ever since; he is now coordinator of a 40-state coalition of antinuclear groups.

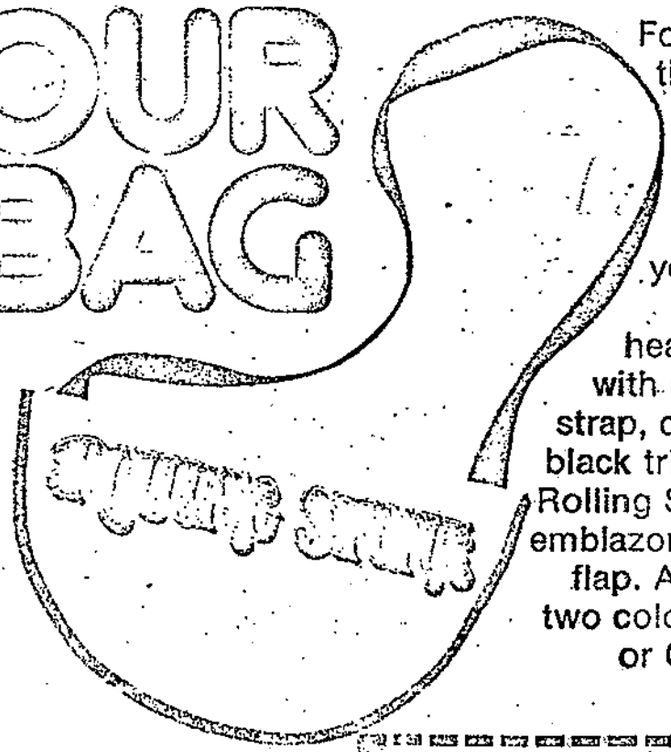
On a wintry evening in 1971 Bogart was driving his Volkswagen on the New Jersey Turnpike, heading for a meeting where he was scheduled to speak against nuclear power. Another car, he says, zoomed up alongside and forced him off the highway. His Volkswagen bounced off a guardrail, skidded wildly but did not roll over. He was shook up but unhurt.

On two other occasions, Bogart says, his car has been tampered with; once the accelerator rod had been sawed through. Visitors to his office, he says, run the risk of being photographed by lurking private eyes.

"Environmentalists tend to be naive," Bogart says. "They think that if they prove nuclear power is dangerous it will automatically follow that change will come. They don't realize that big money is controlling the business."

[Continued on 58]

OUR BAG



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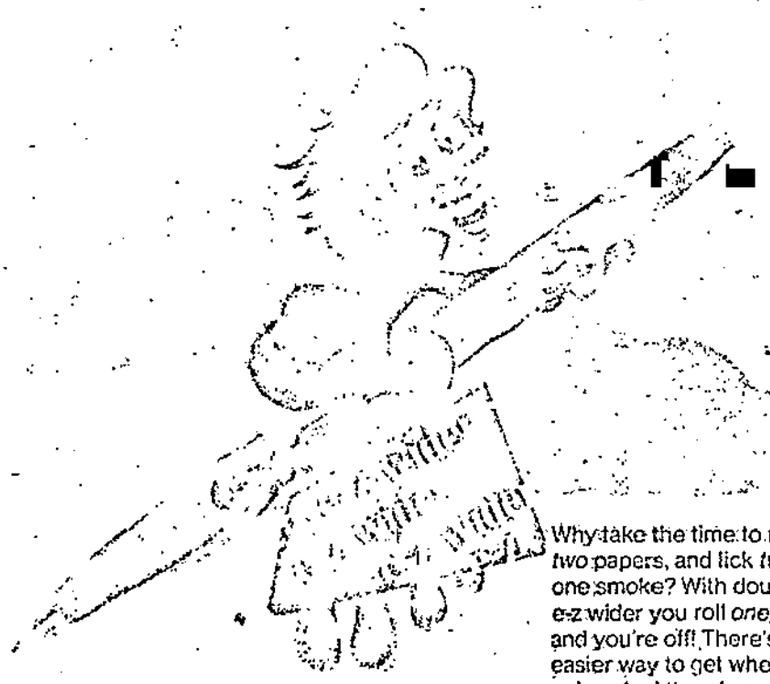

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SILKWOOD

[Continued from 46]

"If the public knew what the facts are and if they had to choose between nuclear reactors and candles, they would choose candles."

—Ralph Nader

"When we think of having several thousand reactors as we are talking about having, [we could] have a serious accident once every three years, losing a city for example."

—Dr. John Gofman,
former AEC associate
lab director

"In the nuclear industry . . . no acts of God can be permitted."

—Dr. Hannes Alfven,
Nobel laureate
in physics

"In spite of soothing reassurances the AEC gives to the uninformed, misled public, unresolved questions about nuclear power safety are so grave that the U.S. should consider a complete halt to nuclear power plant construction while we see if these serious questions can be resolved."

—Carl H. Hocevar,
former AEC
safety expert

On December 20th, five weeks after Karen Silkwood's death, Kerr-McGee temporarily closed its plutonium plant. These were trying days for the company. Supporters of Kerr-McGee found it necessary to print ads reminding Oklahomans that Dun & Bradstreet had recently named it among the five best-managed corporations in the country. But headlines kept popping up all over, thanks to the *New York Times* wire service, telling of a mysterious death, falsified records and ill-trained workers sent in to handle one of the world's most dangerous poisons.

Nuclear proponents were worried, especially those of the nuclear elite like Dean McGee, who had been helping babysit plans for a multibillion-dollar "nuclear park" near flag-waving Muskogee in northeastern Oklahoma — it would be a carnie midway of over 20 facilities, the boldest assortment of nuclear props ever assembled. Even Muskogee's proud-to-be-Okies were beginning to flinch. "The bad publicity," complained Senator Henry Bellmon, a big McGee booster, "is making it more difficult to get what we want in the Muskogee area."

But the controversy around Kerr-McGee would not quit. Hints of strange goings-on salted the news. Robert G. Bathe, a plutonium worker, reported to police that a motorist had "harassed" him as he drove home from the plant a few nights after Silkwood's death; when Bathe's statement leaked to the press, he and the police suddenly refused to discuss the incident. Shortly afterwards, however, *Times*man David Burnham reported that security at the plant was so atrophied that 60 pounds of plutonium — enough for five Nagasaki bombs—were unaccounted for and possibly missing, an allegation Kerr-McGee heatedly denied.

The most prickly burr in the wind, though, was the AEC investigation, which promised a full report on Kerr-McGee.

On December 17th, at the height of the AEC investigation, Kerr-McGee was forced to announce that five more employes had been contaminated at its plutonium plant. The company claimed it had evidence the accidents were contrived, a modest slander suggesting that workers sniffed poison to embarrass their bosses. Though Kerr-McGee said it had given its evidence to the FBI, the FBI denied receiving it. Nonetheless, three days later, Kerr-McGee handed out lay-off slips, announcing the plant would not reopen until the payroll was checked for security.

Closing the plant five days before Christmas effectively reminded the workers how close they were, in hard times, to standing in line for unemployment checks; some feared talking to AEC investigators might further jeopardize their jobs. (Earlier in December, rather than risk losing their jobs to a gang of strikebreakers, the workers of Local 5-283 had ratified a new contract that again fell far short of their demands.)

Predictably, the plant shutdown ruptured the tentative alliance between the plutonium workers and local environmentalists. To Ilene Younghein, the shutdown was a first step to victory; to Frank March, a middle-aged man with seven years invested in Kerr-McGee, it was a slap in the pocketbook: "You're damn right I'm bitter about this. I'm bitter at the environmentalists. It's a hell of a thing, putting this many people out of work." Some took to blaming the dead — one worker who earlier had talked about honoring Karen Silkwood with a special grave marker now spat at the mention of her name.

"Attitudes changed," says Gerald Brewer. "People started to blame Karen for getting thrown out of work right before the holidays." Brewer was one of the two union committee members who accompanied Silkwood to Washington in September. He had worked at the plant three years.

In early January, after plutonium production resumed, Brewer was demoted from his job and transferred to an isolated warehouse. Two weeks later he was fired. There was no official explanation; a company spokesman was still denying the firing five days later.

Brewer's apparent sin, besides his role in compiling the grievances, was his refusal to submit to a polygraph test that

asked questions like: "Have you ever talked to the media?" Although of questionable legality, the polygraphs were required of most plutonium workers as a "security precaution" before they could return to their jobs. A Kerr-McGee official described company strategy in a conversation with Jack Taylor, ace reporter for the *Daily Oklahoman*: "We're going to tool back up slowly and hire people who are trustworthy and are not involved [in the union]." As for undesirables—"You don't have to tell them [anything]. You can just say, 'You didn't clear security.'"

Along with Brewer, five other workers who snubbed or failed the polygraphs were handed pink slips. Jack Tice, the third union committeeman to make the trip to Washington, has been transferred to the most isolated part of the plant. "This action was taken in retaliation for union activities," the OCAW International has charged in a formal complaint to the National Labor Relations Board, "and to prevent [Tice] from discussing grievances or other union business with other employees." The OCAW also is challenging the six firings.

Among the six was Dusty Ellis, the cowgirl who shared the contaminated apartment with Silkwood. After her roommate's death Ellis initially cooperated with Kerr-McGee, refusing to talk to either the OCAW or the media. At one point she was seen, red-eyed and distraught, being escorted by two company detectives away from the Edmond Broadway Motor Inn where she had been staying, compliments of Kerr-McGee. Then Ellis—without explanation—aired a suggestion that Silkwood may have been pilfering plutonium from the plant. Shortly thereafter Kerr-McGee reportedly offered Ellis $1000 as payment for any claims she might have against the company.

But Ellis turned down the offer. She began worrying that she had been more seriously contaminated than she had been told; her gums bothered her and she had trouble sleeping. In late December she hired a lawyer and threatened to sue the company for copies of all her health records. Three weeks later she was fired. (Two weeks after that, in early February, Ellis told friends that twice someone had tried, and failed, to break into her new apartment.)

During the month between the plant shutdown and the firings, the AEC had published the results of its investigation. (According to a *Daily Oklahoman* story, Kerr-McGee officials received a copy of the report well ahead of its official release, apparently in violation of AEC rules.) Company officials, who had been refusing comment since Karen Silkwood's death except to say, "We will let the AEC speak for us," pronounced themselves pleased with the findings.

On the question of falsified records the AEC did locate one former worker who admitted using a felt-tip pen to touch up photo negatives that measured the welding on plutonium fuel rods. The worker, however, said he acted only to make his job easier and not under orders from Kerr-McGee. Without Silkwood's documents, the AEC reported, it could find no other hard proof. But the OCAW questioned whether the AEC was really looking. According to the OCAW, the AEC lied when it claimed to have interviewed a worker who disputed Silkwood's allegations of fraud. This worker, the OCAW says, has given the union a sworn affidavit that the AEC never interviewed him — and that he believes quality controls are not adequate.

Whether Kerr-McGee's plutonium fuel rods are safe and adequate for use is still unknown; they have yet to be tested at the AEC facility in Richland.

On the question of plant safety, the AEC reported that 20 of the 39 grievances it examined were true or partially true: Plutonium had been stored in a desk drawer instead of a prescribed vault; in various incidents, employes had been forced to work in areas not tested for contamination or where leaks remained; in another, the company failed to report a serious leak that had forced it to close the plant in May 1974; generally, respirators had not been checked regularly for deficiencies; few workers had been properly trained.

Such disregard for safety, the AEC decided, merited no censure beyond adding these new citations to the trove already in the Kerr-McGee files. Kerr-McGee was free to resume its role in the AEC's fast-breeder program, a program that might have been seriously compromised had Kerr-McGee been forced to close up shop permanently.

Younghein and other environmentalists professed no surprise at the AEC's lack of action. The AEC had never summoned the courage to penalize Kerr-McGee in the past. The AEC had managed to levy only eight penalties during a 12-month period in 1973-74, even though its inspectors had found 3333 violations. In 1972 during a hearing on nuclear safety, the AEC had given its scientists written instructions to "never disagree with established policy." And at a nuclear waste dumping grounds in Washington, the AEC has been in charge while half a million gallons of "hot" effluent, enough to fill four railroad cars, have been spilled onto the ground in numerous acci- *[Cont. on 61]*

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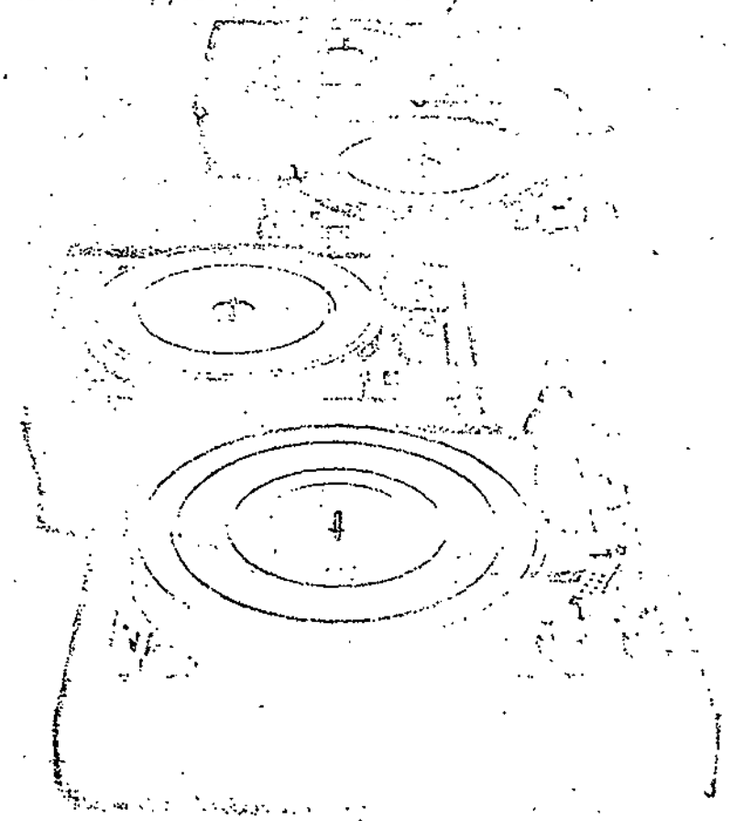

From front to rear, multi-play models Dual 1229Q, $259.95; Dual 1228, $189.95; Dual 1226, $159.95; Dual 1225, $129.95. All less base and dust cover. Not shown, single play automatics: Dual 601, $270; and the electronic direct-drive Dual 701, $400. Both include base and dust cover.

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[Cont. from 59] dents since the 1940s — including one leak that dribbled 115,000 gallons out of a tank unnoticed for 51 days.

Over the years the AEC had shrugged at multiple warnings that should have sounded sirens:

- A study by two AEC scientists in 1969 that predicted 32,000 more annual deaths from cancer if every American were exposed to the allowable radiation doses set by the AEC;
- An AEC laboratory test in 1970 in which the key emergency safety system for conventional nuclear reactors failed to work in six of six attempts;
- A 1974 AEC investigation that showed radiation levels in the lunchroom at a Tennessee nuclear plant were eight times too high;
- A *Science* magazine report revealing that a plant in Buffalo, New York, was recruiting beer-garden drones because conditions were too "hot" for regular employes;
- Accidents that spilled 1000 gallons of radioactive water into the Illinois River, leaked plutonium into Ohio's Erie Canal, sent radioactive dust out a chimney in a New York plant and increased the chances of cancer in hundreds of workers at dozens of plants;
- The 271 fires and 410 contamination cases at the AEC's only facility for mass production of plutonium parts used in atom bombs, eight miles upwind from Denver, Colorado. (In May 1969 this plant harbored the most expensive fire in industrial history: improperly stored cans of plutonium ignited and destroyed $50 million of delicate equipment. Over a year later, General E.B. Giller, director of the AEC's division of military applications, admitted the fire had been a "near catastrophe." Had it burned through the roof—and it nearly did—"hundreds of square miles could [have been] involved in radiation exposure." The *Denver Post* has since reported that workers at the plant have a cancer rate seven times higher than the national average.)

In some cases the AEC has released data only after environmentalists filed lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act.

But the nuclear coverup seems to be coming unglued. And there is a new crisis of confidence in the nuclear industry. In January the *New York Times* reported that because of recent criticism the industry is nearly doubling its funds for lobbying with politicians, reporters and labor officials.

There is even a question now whether nuclear power at its best can be efficient. During January 1974, the worst period of the energy crisis, 22 of the nation's 31 commercial nuclear reactors were closed down for all or part of the month. Even when they are operating they provide less than 10% of the country's energy needs. By contrast, science writer Isaac Asimov estimates that solar cells, say in the Mojave Desert, could supply the present energy needs of the entire world.

More crucial is the issue of safety. Several nuclear plants have actually piled up more AEC violations than Kerr-McGee's. And the Environmental Protection Agency has recently joined the growing queue of leading scientists and authorities who contend the AEC has greatly underestimated nuclear risks. It is not simply the past record that frightens them; it is the potential for future disaster. No fail-safe systems have been devised to meet problems like these:

TRANSPORTATION. In 1970 a shipping mixup sent a drum of uranium to Tijuana, Mexico, an error the AEC labeled "Inadvertent export of special nuclear materials." Even if such mistakes aren't repeated, what about plutonium-loaded trucks or trains that crack up?

WASTE. Eventually the fast-breeders will produce tons of plutonium that must be disposed of. Because burying it is risky experts have suggested firing it into space. But what about rocket-pad explosions or "short shots" that fall back to earth?

IGNORANCE. Last fall sailors aboard Japan's first nuclear-powered ship tried to plug a radioactive leak with boiled rice and old socks.

TERRORISM. Only 4.4 pounds of plutonium is needed for a bomb capable of flattening downtown Peoria. What about such grandiose leaders as the shah of Iran, who fancies himself another Alexander the Great and who just bought five nuclear reactors from France? Or just some stray kook who gets his hands on plutonium?

THEFT. In 1972 the General Accounting Office ran a security check and found that one man, equipped with an adjustable pocket wrench and a strong arm, could break into a nuclear plant and obtain fissionable material within minutes. What about saboteurs who infiltrate a plant's working force? What kind of police state tactics will become necessary to protect our nuclear industry?

ACTS OF GOD. A Virginia nuclear plant was unknowingly built on a geological fault. Can nuclear plants survive earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural catastrophes?

No one knows for certain—including the AEC, which, nevertheless, has always been willing to risk finding out.

Congress, apparently fearing the AEC's doting optimism, has now replaced it with two agencies: the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Com-

mission (NRC). The change went into effect January 1st of this year.

Most ERDA officials are old AEC officials who are not likely to repudiate the AEC's longstanding commitment to nuclear power. But, charged with developing all varieties of energy, ERDA will take a new look at solar power, which the AEC virtually ignored. And it will reexamine the AEC's plans for 1000 nuclear reactors (including 150 fast-breeders) by the end of the century.

NRC officials, on the other hand, promise a new tenacity for stopping nuclear abuses. By the middle of February the NRC had ordered the temporary closing of 23 plants to look for cracks in the pipes of their emergency systems. If the NRC hangs tough, say environmentalists, the industry will either have to change radically—or there will be no industry at all.

The more Peter Faulkner found out, the more convinced he became that nuclear plants need a new set of rules to assure quality control. In the five plants where he'd worked as a field engineer he had seen the same mistakes and the same sloppiness repeated over and over.

So Faulkner took his proposal to his employer, Nuclear Services Corporation of California, a top consulting firm that deals with nuclear plants before and after they are built. It was turned down.

But Faulkner, an ex-captain in the Strategic Air Command, an author, a 20-year engineer and at Yale a member of the same secret society as Senator John Tunney, decided to take his proposal to Congress. On March 12th, 1974, Faulkner told a congressional committee it needed to get tough with the nuclear industry. Three weeks later he was fired.

Now Faulkner is forming a society of nuclear critics who have lost their jobs. Among those eligible for the society are several former AEC scientists. "The industry already has several organizations that promote it," Faulkner says. "People need a professional group telling what is really going on."

All her old clothes were under quarantine, suspected of plutonium contamination, so Karen Silkwood was buried in a new dress. No Kerr-McGee officials made the journey to Texas for the funeral, nor any AEC officials.

Afterwards Karen's parents returned to the green frame house where she grew up. An old high-school friend of Karen's came over to comfort the Silkwoods and spent the evening weeping in anger. Karen's youngest sister, a high-school junior, said that what happened to Karen had inspired her to become a career woman who would call her own shots. [Cont. on 62]

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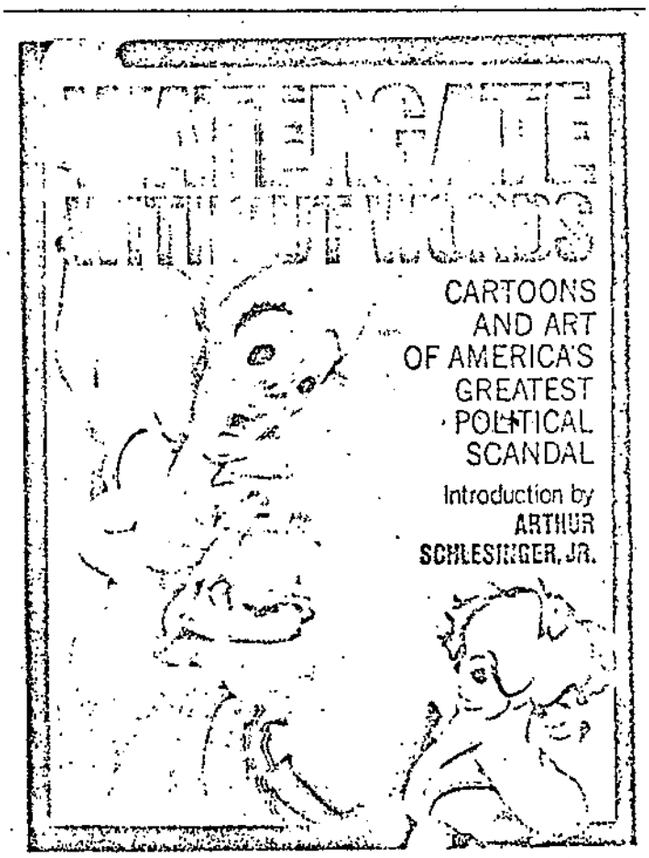

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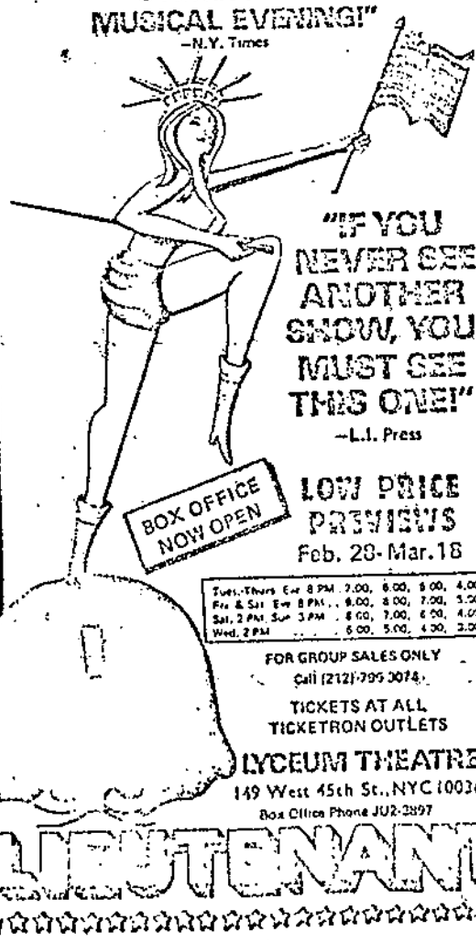

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LIEUTENANT

[*Continued from 61*]

Now, a month later, Christmas was at hand. In the Silkwood house a make-believe pine tree had been stuck in a dark corner; the most conspicuous spot in the living room was reserved for a photo collage of their three daughters: Linda, Rosemary and Karen.

"Karen was fixing to come home." Her mother dabbed softly at her eyes. "She wanted to get away. She was so scared. I wish now I had made her come home when she called that day."

Her expression turned steely. "We never did appreciate Karen as much as we should have. I don't think anyone did. Even now they don't. Look what she did. She gave her life to save others."

The Silkwoods were still trying to sort out what had happened, to find answers to ease their minds. They kept pondering the central mystery — how was Karen killed? Had the Quaalude rendered her in an "unconscious or hypnotic state," or had someone stolen out of the darkness, a mugger armed with power-drive, to dead-end her into the culvert? "I know that working for that company is what killed her," her father said. "But I would still like to know if it was an accident or if it was murder."

The Silkwoods are now considering filing a civil suit against the company. It may be one way, they have been advised, to flush out some answers. Kerr-McGee, according to one source, is already preparing for a suit.

So far the investigation is a stalemate.

In January the Oklahoma Highway Patrol reopened the case for six days, reexamining the evidence and reaching the same conclusion. Actually, it didn't reexamine all the evidence. It couldn't.

Along Highway 74 the Honda's tire tracks had been sloughed away by a tractor-grader—reportedly less than 24 hours after A.O. Pipkin had inspected the scene in his Day-Glo orange jumpsuit. The stretch of highway had then been repaved on one side, making it difficult to tell in which direction a sleepy driver might drift.

The Honda was still available. But the State Highway Patrol regarded it as unreliable evidence since it had been out of its possession.

At the request of OCAW International, however, three other auto-crash experts have now scrutinized the car. All three agree with Pipkin that the dents could not have been caused by the concrete culvert. Dr. E.L. Martin of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who put the Honda bumper under a microscope, said the bumper dent resulted from "contact between two metal surfaces." It is highly probable, according to these experts, that another car slammed into the Honda as Silkwood drove toward the Holiday Inn Northwest.

Was the other driver a hired killer? Or a loose drunk? No investigator knows.

The three men who waited for Silkwood that night think someone was trying a scare tactic that got out of hand.

If Silkwood did have apodictic proof of fraud, then several people conceivably had motives for intimidating her: a plant supervisor afraid of going to prison for falsifying records; a company higher-up who feared a fraud scandal would mean multimillion-dollar losses; a plant worker who felt that Silkwood, in effect, was threatening his livelihood; or an AEC official who worried she would jeopardize the entire fast-breeder program.

*Times*man David Burnham has spent several weeks dogging the Highway Patrol for answers; he is now hopeful that the Justice Department, which has now entered the case at the request of the OCAW, will pursue a more thorough investigation.

Drew Stephens, who now works in a Volkswagen bodyshop, bought a holster, a box of cartridges and a .38 revolver shortly after the crash. He suspected he was being followed and that his phone was tapped. He has stopped leaving his front door unlocked. In an 8"x 11" notebook, he keeps a diary of every clue, any skittish rumor that might turn into a case cracker, then turns these over to the OCAW International. By spring, he says, he will be packing his van and heading cross-country. "There's nothing left for me here." His voice is muted. "Not unless they find who killed Karen."

At OCAW headquarters Steve Wodka has found it difficult to return to other chores. The Silkwood case keeps nagging him. There are too many unanswered questions. For instance, how did Silkwood become contaminated a week before her death? For weeks afterwards Wodka kept the results of her Los Alamos tests scribbled on an OCAW blackboard, trying to puzzle out the mystery. The most logical explanation, he decided, was that Silkwood had been contaminated at the plant and unknowingly carried the plutonium home with her. But then the AEC reported that this would have been virtually impossible, given her duties at the plant during the time immediately preceding her contamination.

So now Wodka has come reluctantly to believe she was poisoned. "Someone must have entered her apartment and placed the plutonium in her refrigerator. That's the only way it could have gotten on the cheese and bologna. We've heard from several sources, including the AEC, that Karen had been seen going through the files, looking for records. Someone apparently figured out what she was up to. One sure way of preventing her from gathering any more evidence would have been to poison her, maybe scare her into leaving."

Wodka also cites another AEC finding: Extra plutonium apparently had been added to four of the urine samples Silkwood gave to Kerr-McGee for analysis in late October and early November. "I think someone tampered with these samples, hoping to get her out of the plant or at least confuse the issue."

Kerr-McGee officials have advanced a different conspiracy theory, passed along in off-the-record conversations with local reporters. Kerr-McGee suggests that Silkwood contaminated herself to embarrass the company. According to this theory, Silkwood smuggled a plutonium capsule out of the plant, either by swallowing it or slipping it up her vagina or anus—all suicidal maneuvers. Cited as evidence is the coincidence that Silkwood was first contaminated November 5th, the day before the company was to begin new contract negotiations with the OCAW. But, even assuming that Silkwood had become a frenzied zealot, this theory does not explain why she thought getting contaminated in her apartment would embarrass the company, or why the company would get red faced over *any* contamination after 73 cases in four years.

Nonetheless, Oklahoma City media has popularized this theory. One state representative, a liberal, shakes his head. "I can't understand that dame, shoving plutonium up her ass like that." And some townspeople have added their own twist, announcing with a wink that "I hear she was a drug-crazy hippie who put this plutonium junk in her mary jew anna."

The OCAW International has pledged not to give up until the case is solved.

"Karen was a very unusual person," Wodka says. "She stood up to the company. She was outspoken. She was very brave, now that we look back on it: in many ways she was a lone voice. She was willing to go ahead when other people were afraid."

"She died for a cause," agrees Ilene Younghein. "She will be remembered as a martyr."

At NRC, the regulatory division of the new AEC, she will be remembered, too. The commission has begun a file on her. It reads: "Silkwood, Karen . . . Former employe, Kerr-McGee."

3/17/75

AIRTEL

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

SUBJECT UNSUBS;
Karen Coy Silkwood (Deceased)
LLANDA; COJ
CO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau, 3/11/75.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy LHM is being furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

USA, Oklahoma City, only being furnished one copy of enclosed LHM inasmuch as contents of LHM are limited to reproduction of newspaper article.

Enclosed LHM sets forth self-explanatory article appearing in 3/27/75 edition of the Rolling Stone relative to captioned case. LHM being submitted for completion of Bureau files.

Searched ...
Indexed ...
Filed ...

[redacted]

b6
b7C

2 - Bureau (Enc. - 6)
(2) - Oklahoma City
LJO:dch
(4)

159-45-128

March 12, 1975

[redacted] Ohio 44128

b6
b7C

Dear [redacted]:

Your letter of March 6th has been received. The FBI has conducted an intensive investigation regarding the death of Karen Silkwood and the results of our inquiries have been furnished to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice, for a determination as to what further action may be warranted.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

1 - Cleveland - Enclosure
(1) - Oklahoma City - Enclosure

[redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

159-45-129

[redacted]

March 6, 19

b6
b7C

Ohio 44128

Dear Mr. Director,

Is the FBI investigating the death of
KAREN Silkwood, who died November 13, 197
in Oklahoma?

Please reply at your earliest convenience.

Thankyou.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

b6
b7C

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
March 25, 1975

159-45

Unknown Subjects;
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION
OF JUSTICE

The April, 1975 edition of Ms. , a monthly magazine, contained an article entitled "The Case of Karen Silkwood", authored by Ms. B. J. Phillips. The article is as follows:

6 - Bureau (159-4005)
1 - US., Oklahoma City
2 - Okla. City
LJP:[illegible] (9)

159-45-131

EXCLUSIVE!

THE CASE OF KAREN SILKWOOD
DEAD BECAUSE SHE KNEW TOO MUCH?

HOW TO ESSAY
VERYDAY
FE IN
SMALL TOWN
MAS GREAT
REASTFEEDING
APER

MS.

HOW TO USE
VIDEO FOR ART,
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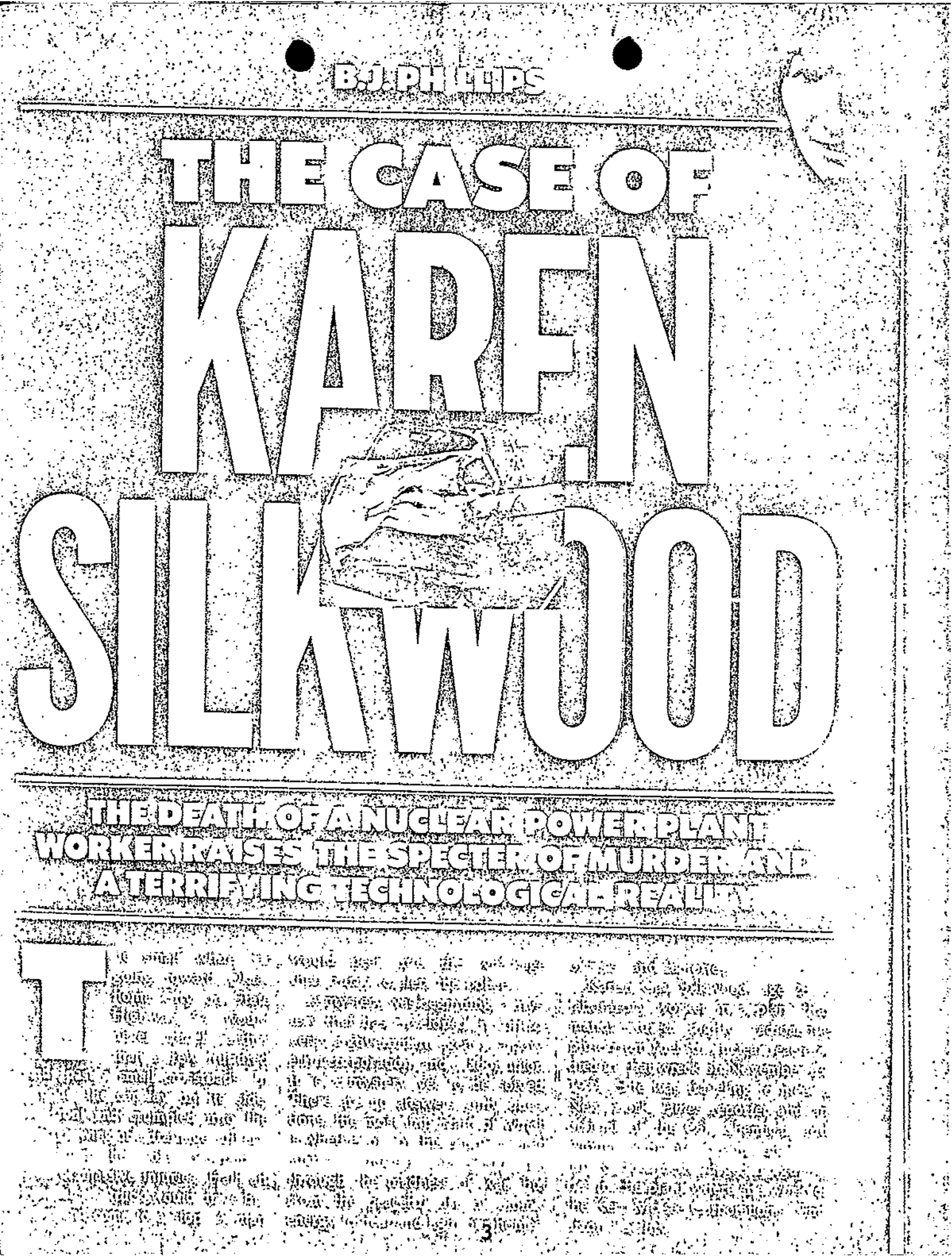
B.J. PHILLIPS

THE CASE OF KAREN SILKWOOD

THE DEATH OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WORKER RAISES THE SPECTER OF MURDER AND A TERRIFYING TECHNOLOGICAL REALITY



A six-months-long chain of events brought her to her journey. But in a real sense, it began before she was born with the detonation of atomic bombs over two Japanese cities. What Tacitus had said of the ancient Roman legions, "They make a desert and call it peace," had taken on a terrifying technological reality. Mankind had unleashed a power from which it could only recoil in horror. Or turn to benefit. So the dream of "harnessing the atom for peaceful purposes"—a catchphrase of the pre-energy-crisis fifties when Arab oil was still cheap—started to take shape.

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) was created in 1946 to oversee the development of these goals, principally the building of reactors to generate electricity. A multibillion-dollar industry sprang up: uranium mining and processing, reactor manufacturing with its myriad of components ranging from special wiring to 750-ton containment vessels. At the forefront in the fledgling industry was an Oklahoma-based company, Kerr-McGee. Founded in 1929 to drill for oil, the company was a perfect blend of two gifted men, the late Senator Robert S. Kerr, "the uncrowned king of the Senate," and Dean A. McGee, often acknowledged to be one of the most technically brilliant and visionary men in the energy industry. Political clout and the long view. Kerr-McGee began to explore for, mine, and process uranium—first for the nuclear weapons program, then for reactors. When planning began in the late sixties on the Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor—the ultimate dream, a power source that creates, "breeds," more fuel than it consumes—the company contracted to produce plutonium fuel pins for the test version of the LMFBRs.* In 1970, a plutonium-processing plant went up alongside a uranium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, thirty miles north of Oklahoma City. The plant took its name, Cimarron Facility, from the nearby river.

It is doubtful that Karen Silkwood knew more about the background of the nuclear power industry than the average American—which is to say very little—when she went to work for Kerr-McGee in the summer of 1972. It was a job certain to attract her, for it involved laboratory work, her forte since her high school days. Born on February 19, 1946, in Longview, Texas, she had grown up in Nederland, a town halfway between Port Arthur and Beaumont. Nederland is in the heart of the Texas petrochemical region and, as in its larger neighboring cities, the night sky is lit by the floodlights and tall torches of oil refinery stacks burning off gaseous waste. A maze of pipes and storage tanks stretches across the flat terrain. Her grandfather worked in one of the refineries and was the family's first member of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union.

Her father, a paint contractor, and her mother, a bank teller, recount the ordinary childhood of their eldest daughter. She rode her bike, played tennis, and was very much a big sister to Rosemary, six years younger, and Linda, born 12 years after Karen. As a small child, she had an asthmatic condition, so perhaps she naturally turned to playing nurse with her dolls. Shortly before her death, she was to tell a union official that her early illness had instilled in her an interest in health.

In high school, she played flute in the band, played on the volleyball team, belonged to the Future Homemakers of America. She turned down a place in the majorette corps, however. "Her band teacher," her mother remembers, "told her it was much more important for her to stay in the band than get out there and kick her legs up, so she took his advice." It was as a student that she left her mark. She was a member of the National Honor Society, and one of 22 honor graduates in the Class of 1964. She excelled in science, especially chemistry, and when she went to Lamar College in Beaumont to study medical technology, she paid her expenses with a scholarship from the Business and Professional Women's Club.

Her best friend throughout childhood recalled that Karen was a good person to ask for notes when someone had missed class. "She took clear, concise, and well-organized notes," Karen Miller Patterson says. "In school she was precise and meticulous." A decade later, notes she had taken would trigger an AEC investigation.

But she was best remembered, her friend said, for other qualities. "As I remember Karen, she was the kind of person who, if something was wrong, was not going to stand by and ignore it. She was not afraid to stick her neck out. When she went into anything, she put everything into it and she stayed with it. It was like that in the band, in sports—even down to batting a volleyball around in my driveway at night. She was intensely loyal. She'd stick up for her friends. And she had a great capacity for having a good time, for laughing. I think that's the one thing most people from school would remember about her."

After her first year in college, Karen went to Kilgore, Texas, to spend the summer with her grandmother. There she met Bill Meadows, and they eloped. They had three children. Meadows worked for one of the oil companies, and the young family moved from one town to another across Texas and Oklahoma oil fields. There were financial difficulties leading to bankruptcy, and marital problems that led to separation. Their marriage broke down after six years, and Karen left with the children to begin life on her own, working in hospitals. When her husband decided to remarry, he filed for divorce, citing incompatibility. She gave him custody of the children while retaining visiting privileges, telling her parents and friends that she felt it was better for the children to grow up in the more stable

*Fuel pins are eight-foot-long, pencil-thin metal rods containing small pellets of concentrated plutonium. Inserted into the reactor core, they provide fuel for a continuous fission reaction. The rods manufactured by Kerr-McGee were for use in the Fast Flux Test Facility near Richland, Washington. The FFTF is the experimental forerunner of the LMFBR.

atmosphere of her former husband's new marriage. She was alone now. She moved to Oklahoma City and went to work for Kerr-McGee.

Compared to the final months of her life, the first 20 months or so at Kerr-McGee were rather uneventful for Karen. Unlike the majority of workers, she joined the union, perhaps out of memory of her grandfather's stories about the early organizing days of the OCAW. When the union went out on strike in the fall of 1972, she walked the picket lines. The strike was brief, nine weeks, and, from the union's viewpoint at least, difficult. The picket lines were crossed; production wasn't stopped; and, in the end, the union was forced to accept Kerr-McGee's original offer, the one they had struck against. Around that time, she met Drew Stephens, a fellow laboratory analyst who was among the plant's original employees. Stephens was married when they met, but was sued for divorce a few months later. His relationship with Karen was a factor in the end of his marriage.

The couple began to draw one another into their respective enthusiasms. Stephens was a sports-car freak. He taught Karen to drive in competitions and rallies; she went on to earn trophies. She was an excellent driver. They collected records—rock, and Country and Western. And they shared an ardent interest in union activities. In the late spring of 1974, Karen was elected one of three governing committee members of the OCAW local. It was at this point that Karen's life began to change sharply. As would the plutonium fuel she helped to manufacture, Karen Silkwood began to implode, to turn inward a concentrated power, a power intense enough to set off a chain reaction.

What held Karen's concentration was the health and safety of herself and her co-workers who handled plutonium at Kerr-McGee. There is no substance which more deserves concern, for plutonium is the most toxic substance known. It is 20,000 times more lethal than cobra venom, and in very small amounts—a single particle the size of a grain of pollen—it has been shown to cause cancer in laboratory test animals. Furthermore, plutonium retains its radioactivity for 250,000 years. Exposure to high levels of radiation can sicken and kill; in small doses, radioactive particles can lie latent for years with the possibility of triggering cancer.

The connection between radiation and cancer has been known for 100 years. As early as the 16th century, miners of pitchblende (a form of uranium ore) in German and Czechoslovakian mines were known to develop fatal diseases of the lung. The miners called it *Bergkrankheit*, mountain sickness, the disease that gave them an average life expectancy of less than 20 years from the day they entered the mines. Pitchblende contains little plutonium, since plutonium's presence in the natural state is very rare. (Plutonium, a transuranic element, is transmuted from uranium during fission reaction. It must then be extracted from reactor waste to produce significant quantities.) Our experience with plutonium has been limited to the past 35 years, not enough time to firmly establish its carcinogenic (cancer-causing) effects in humans. Still, the toxicity of plutonium is known, and laboratory tests indicate that, like other radioactive materials, it is carcinogenic.

SINCE 1970: SEVENTEEN PLUTONIUM ACCIDENTS

In the four years that Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant had been in operation, there had been 17 contamination incidents, involving 77 employees. In one instance, two men left the plant "hot" and went into a restaurant in Crescent. In another, seven workers received more than the AEC-defined permissible levels of airborne plutonium (and a heated controversy is under way about whether or not those levels are, indeed, low enough to protect human health). During the first week in January, 1974, an employee had, in the words of a report to the AEC, "a small portion of skin excised to remove plutonium in a wound."

Twice Kerr-McGee shipped radioactive wastes in improper containers. In another incident, some drums of waste being stored on a flatbed truck leaked. The truckbed, axle, and tires had to be cut up, the ground underneath it dug up, and everything put into barrels for burial in a nuclear dump. So there was already an alarming history with an extremely hazardous substance when Karen Silkwood assumed her union duties.

As the summer of 1974 opened, Karen and some of her co-workers started to notice what they considered to be a production speedup and a concomitant decline in standards and safety. Additionally, there was a rapid personnel turnover, certainly attributable in part to long work shifts (often 12 hours) and changes from day- to night-work on short notice. Whatever the cause for the high turnover (99 of 287 workers left between January 1 and October 31, 1974, 35 percent of the payroll), it seems axiomatic that such a turnover would cause the experience and skill levels of the work force to decline. Karen began to take notes on occurrences inside the plant. She started to become obsessed with the Cimarron Facility.

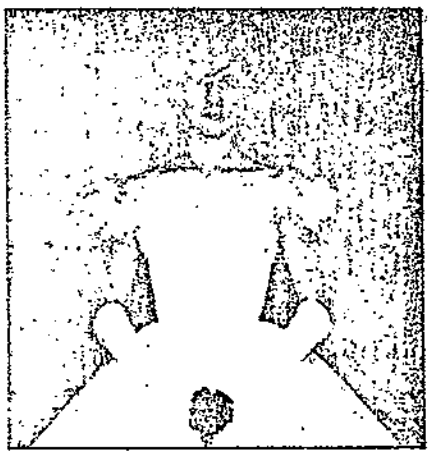
On the night of July 31/August 1, 1974, Karen was working a 4 P.M. to 4 A.M. shift in the Emission Spectrography Laboratory. When the two air sample filter papers from the room in which she worked were analyzed on August 1, they indicated that radioactive material had

escaped into the room between 4 P.M. and midnight. When urine samples collected from Karen during the following week were analyzed, they showed that she had received some contamination. A full awareness of the implications had not yet come to Karen.

By the end of September, the ramifications were quite real, and Karen had fallen into the spiral of events that led to her death. With two other union committee members, she flew to Washington, D.C., on September 26 to meet with national officials of the OCAW. A contract was coming up for renewal on December 1, and the union local was locked into a struggle for survival. A campaign to decertify the OCAW at Cimarron had begun; an election to determine whether or not the union would continue to represent workers was scheduled for October 16. There was no love lost on either side. Kerr-McGee had a hard-line history on unionization. A strike of OCAW miners at its major uranium mines in New Mexico the previous year had lasted six long, bitter months. But the three union officials from Cimarron came with other worries as well: a series of allegations about health and safety conditions and falsification of quality-control information. The allegations were based largely on notes taken by Karen Silkwood. The OCAW has a record of vigorous concern for occupational safety, and officials in Washington viewed the charges with alarm. Steve Wodka, a member of the Washington staff, recalled their reaction. He feared that if the charges were true, "the consequences here were very deep and very grave, not only for the people in the plant, but for the entire atomic industry and the welfare of the country. If badly made pins were placed into the reactor without deficiencies being caught, there could be an incident exposing thousands of people to radiation."

The following day, the delegation from Cimarron Facility, accompanied by Wodka, recounted their charges to AEC officials. Wodka then asked them to return and attempt to further document their allegations. Almost parenthetically, Wodka told them that plutonium was thought to cause cancer. It was the first time any of the Oklahomans had been specifically told this important information.

Karen took the role of record-keeper upon herself. She began to carry a notebook around constantly. At the same time, Stephens had quit working at Kerr-McGee. His interest in issues there had worn thin,



AT 16— A FUTURE HOMEMAKER OF AMERICA

and he was bewildered by Karen's single-minded dedication to the happenings at the Cimarron Facility. "I felt it was consuming everything she had, mentally and physically," Stephens said. "She just lived it, couldn't let it go and relax, particularly in the last month she was alive." He speaks now with regret for not offering her more help and support in her project, but people live their lives as they happen and without the benefit of hindsight. "I never accepted it," he said. "The good times that we'd had together before were being lost to what happened at the plant. I didn't think it was good for either of us, especially for Karen on the basis of the physical considerations. I told her this. She said, 'They need me.'"

Stephens had reason to worry about Karen's physical condition. She started to lose weight; in approximately four months, she would drop from 112 pounds to 94. She had never slept well. "She'd always stay up late with her daddy watching the 'Late Show,'" her mother recalls. "She just couldn't seem to go to sleep before midnight or one o'clock." This, coupled with shift work and growing tension at the plant perhaps led to a series of doctor-prescribed sleeping pills. She was progressively given Placidyl, a hypnotic used for insomnia that carries lengthy warnings of possible psychological and physical dependence in standard medical reference books; followed by prescriptions for Parest and Quaalude, both brand names for the generic drug methaqualone, another sedative and hypnotic that has occasionally been known to produce psychological dependence and, more rarely, physical dependence. It is a sequence of prescriptions that is unwise, if not baffling. It is, unfortunately, within the regrettable, but all-too-common, propensity of American medicine to overprescribe such drugs, and the special tendency to dispense tranquilizers to women. In any event, how much of the drugs she took, how often, and how far back the prescription history goes is impossible to gauge in the absence of confidential medical records. Stephens maintains that she had begun to take them, however, for tranquilization, not for sleep, especially during the last confusing week of her life.

The union won the decertification contest in mid-October. The final tally was 80 to 61 in favor of the OCAW; only 60 workers belonged to the union at that point. Karen kept up her note-taking. On Tuesday, November 5, she returned to work after four days off. She started work at 1:20 P.M. in the Metallography Lab, performing a number of operations. At approximately 6:30, she took her hands out of a glovebox (a sealed box in which one handles radioactive materials

In a statement released in late January, the OCAW suggests that Karen was intentionally contaminated by someone else. The union cited an AEC finding that two key urine samples had been improperly labeled so that their identities and dates are uncertain. Additionally, the adulteration of two other urine samples and the presence of high radiation counts in some of Karen's food led the union to conclude that poisoning is a possibility. (According to the AEC report, while preparing her lunch, Karen carried the package of bologna into the bathroom briefly after she had spilled some of a urine sample. The bologna was then returned to the refrigerator.)

Karen Silkwood lived six more days. All but the last day were spent talking to investigators from the AEC and the Oklahoma State Health Department, attempting to determine how she was contaminated and how badly. From November 10 through the evening of November 12, she, Stephens, and her roommate, Sherri Ellis, were in Los Alamos, New Mexico, the place where the atom was first unleashed. Today, this country's most sophisticated equipment for studying radiation is there. All three were placed in an underground vault where extremely sensitive counters would begin to assess how much radiation had remained inside their bodies. One of the ironies of the use of nuclear materials is that the equipment for measuring radiation far outstrips our knowledge of its effects on the human organism. It is known to cause death, induce cancers, trigger genetic damage. But how much radiation? For how long? The broad limits are known, but uncertainties still exist, experimentation continues. Karen, Stephens, and Ellis entered the vault right after the beagles and just before the Rhesus monkeys.

Prior to leaving Los Alamos on the afternoon of November 12, they had a conference with doctors who interpreted the preliminary data. The doctors were able to reassure Karen that she was in no imminent danger. Her studies indicated what the AEC later termed "a small amount of plutonium, less than one half of the maximum permissible body burden." The maximum permissible body burden is the cumulative amount which cannot be exceeded without risk. What neither the scientists at Los Alamos nor anyone else could tell her was precisely how her present body burden would affect her in 20 or 30 years, the latency period for the development of lung cancer among uranium miners. Yet her mind was put somewhat to rest about the short-term outlook, and she returned to Oklahoma to pick up her work.

Wednesday, November 13, she reported to work for the 8 A.M. shift. A good part of the day was taken up in contract negotiations. For the last time, she wrote in her notebook: "Try to be able to reach a contract by November 26. . . . Meet again Thursday, November 21, 1974, 10 A.M." At 4 P.M., she left the plant and went to the Hub Café in Crescent for a meeting of the negotiating committee. At 6 P.M., she called Stephens to confirm that she would meet Wodka and New York *Times* reporter David Burnham at a Holiday Inn on the northwest edge of Oklahoma City, approximately 30 miles from Crescent. As the meeting in the café drew to a close, she began to discuss her worries about her health. Fellow committee member Jack Tice relates that "she did become a bit emotional toward the end of the meeting." He added, "She shed tears out of concern for her health. It wasn't an emotional outburst, just a few tears. I didn't think any more about it." Another member offered to drive her home. She declined, saying she'd be all right.

One of the last people to see her alive recounts in a sworn affidavit that Karen clenched her hand around a brown manila folder and a large notebook. The affidavit continues: "She then said there was one thing she was glad about, that she had all the proof concerning the health and safety conditions in the plant, and concerning falsification. As she said this, she clenched her hand more firmly on the folder and the notebook she was holding. She told me she was on her way to meet Steven Wodka and a New York *Times* reporter to give them this material. Karen appeared to be somewhat weary on that day, but she was alert, speaking clearly and acting normally, and it would never have crossed my mind that she might not be capable of driving a car safely. I was shocked when I learned the next day that she had been killed in a car accident. It seemed impossible to believe, especially since she had been so determined to deliver the material she had to Mr. Wodka and the newspaper reporter."

Karen got into her 1973 Honda Civic Sedan and started down State Highway 74. It was a dark, windy night. Karen was traveling at 50 to 55 miles an hour on an absolutely straight highway built along the grids drawn with a ruler when Oklahoma was opened to the land rush. The car went off the road 7.3 miles south of Crescent on the left side of the road. It traveled 240 to 250 feet down the shoulder, went over a concrete wall flaring from the northern edge of a culvert running beneath the road. The car slammed head-on into the southern wall. Karen Silkwood apparently died instantaneously.

On that much there is agreement. But there the accord ends. A private accident investigator, A. O. Pipkin Jr., of Dallas, was hired by the OCAW to investigate the crash. He has done more than 2,000 such investigations and has testified in more than 300 court trials. An Oklahoma State Highway patrolman, Rick Fagan, investigated the accident that night. His investigation has since been reviewed by officials of the Highway Patrol, who stand by its conclusions. The two reports could scarcely vary more.

According to the Highway Patrol, Karen went to sleep at the wheel, drove off the road, left two sets of rolling tracks with no evidence of having attempted to brake or control the car; the Honda was airborne

for 24 feet after crossing the northern wall, and plowed into the southern wall three feet above the ground. The Pipkin report, on the contrary, holds that the car went off the road out of control, leaving three tracks because the car was skewed into an attitude that had aligned the right rear wheel with the left front wheel. The car flew over the northern wall, was airborne 20 feet, skidded four feet into the wall. Tread prints taken at the scene on Sunday, November 17—the day Karen was buried in Kilgore, Texas—matched those on the Honda, according to Pipkin. A small, fresh dent on the rear bumper, which under magnification proved to have scratch marks leading from the rear of the car toward the front, indicated to Pipkin that the car had been struck by another vehicle. In this version, either the blow itself or the collision combined with driver overreaction forced the car out of control and caused the fatal accident. The Highway Patrol says that the dent and scratches occurred when the car struck the concrete culvert while being removed by a wrecker. For many technical reasons. Pipkin and Dr. B. J. Harris, a structural engineer called in as a consultant, maintain that the dent could not have happened during removal from the crash scene and subsequent towing.

Later microscopic examinations by consulting experts retained by Pipkin revealed no concrete fragments in the dent. Rather, their report indicated contact with another metal surface, and a smudge believed to have come from rubber bumper stripping.

A Highway Patrol spokesman called the crash "a classic" example of a driver asleep at the wheel. There is disagreement here, too, because barring severe wheel misalignment, drivers who fall asleep go off the road on the right. Highways slope away from the centerline, or crown. The crown is designed into a road so that the downward angle and the pull of gravity will gently tug automobiles toward the right shoulder and away from a collision course with approaching vehicles.

The Highway Patrol's claim of sleep is buttressed by an autopsy report showing methaqualone in the blood, stomach, and liver. There was a trace of alcohol, but the level is so slight that it can be considered insignificant. The methaqualone levels, on the other hand, are consonant with normal metabolization of a large but still therapeutic dose ingested within an hour of her death. The methaqualone cannot definitively be said to have caused sleep, but it would probably have impaired her reactions. This is particularly so if a person had used the drug frequently and had developed the tolerance that could be expected from such usage. It is certain that Karen took the drug with some frequency during her last, extremely stressful days. Whether or not enough was taken often enough to develop a tolerance is not known.

The uncertainty about the drug's effect on Karen is but one anomaly. One wrecker was dispatched to the scene by the Guthrie Police when the first report came in. Halfway there, he was called on his radio and told to return, another wrecker

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There are few subjects as daunting as nuclear technology. Its language is arcane, its mathematics mind-boggling, and, after all, it took Einstein to figure it out. Leave it to the physicists. Thus the nuclear industry was allowed to develop without public oversight. It matters little whether an uninformed and apathetic citizenry or a nuclear establishment less than candid about the risks is at fault in this. The point is that the reactors are there, 56 in operation today, with plans to build 850 to 1,400 by the year 2000. They dot our countryside, are cheek by jowl with our cities. And they pose hazards on a scale second only to nuclear warfare.

The possibility of an accident releasing radioactive materials from the core of a nuclear reactor is very real. There have already been a series of near misses, enough to remind us that technology is not always triumphant. Just as planes crash, bridges collapse, cars are lemons, so do reactor components malfunction. But a major reactor accident could, according to a study prepared, then suppressed for eight years by the AEC, result in 45,000 fatalities and contamination of an area the size of the state of Pennsylvania. The area closest to the accident site would likely be uninhabitable for hundreds of years.

The lengthy lethal life of reactor fuels (plutonium, for example, remains radioactive for a quarter of a million years) poses a second problem: the storage of nuclear wastes. Under present plans, there will be 20,000 metric tons of nuclear wastes by the turn of the century, wastes that will have to be kept out of the biosphere for a time frame almost one hundred times as long as the recorded history of the human race. Not only does this presuppose political and social stability, it also assumes that the technology to assure safe disposal exists. There are plenty of sci-fi schemes for getting rid of the waste—launching it into perpetual orbit (a risk the missile designers are unwilling to take); dropping it into the tectonic plates in mid-ocean and hoping it will work its way down to the earth's core; letting it melt into the Antarctic ice cap. But the simple fact is that the best anyone can do at this point is provide temporary storage with constant monitoring and safeguards until a method for disposal is found.

Finally, there is the matter of securing nuclear materials from the world's terrorists and blackmailers. A quantity of plutonium roughly the size of a softball is sufficient to build a nuclear weapon. Once the material has been obtained—and hijacking hasn't been proved impossible—it is regarded as quite simple to build a crude weapon. —*B.J.P.*

had been sent by the Highway Patrol dispatcher. A mix-up, it is explained, between two different agencies. But the truck driver's report was of someone pinned in a wreck, and speed would be crucial.

It is known that Kerr-McGee personnel went to the accident scene. Another Kerr-McGee official was at the hospital where her body was taken. (A macabre extension of her contamination is the fact that the ambulance attendants who picked up her body were checked by the AEC for contamination. Results were negative.)

Whatever the coincidences, the variations between the two accident investigations, a human being was dead and the shock of that fact had to be absorbed by those who knew and loved Karen Silkwood. In Nederland, Texas, two policemen—one of them a high school classmate of Karen's—came to knock on the Silkwoods' door. Her parents were aroused from sleep and told the news. At the Holiday Inn outside Oklahoma City, Stephens, Wodka, and reporter Burnham waited for Karen. Finally, around 10 P.M., they began calling to locate her. When Wodka reached a friend in Crescent, he was told that Karen's car had been towed into town and that she was dead. It was left to Wodka to tell Drew Stephens.

They drove out to the now-deserted accident scene, locating it by headlights when they found her paycheck lying on the ground. They found no notebooks containing information of any consequence then or later when her personal effects were released. Union officials remain convinced that some of Karen's notes are missing. The brown manila folder and notebook referred to in the affidavit have never been found.

Outside the garage in Crescent where Karen's car had been towed, then locked up, Drew Stephens put his head against the wall and wept. In Nederland, Bill Silkwood ran about trying to find an open telegraph office so that he could cable a message he did not know how to phrase. At 2:36 A.M. on November 14, he dispatched his telegram: REQUEST AUTOPSY KAREN GAY SILKWOOD. BILL SILKWOOD FATHER.

The ripples spread from family and friends to the press, the AEC, and eventually, to the FBI and the Justice Department. Attention was focused as it had never been before on the nuclear power industry, its safety in view of the terribly toxic materials it used, and, indeed, beyond, to questioning the wisdom of building reactors when a serious accident could endanger the lives of thousands. *(See box, page 65.)*

There are risks inherent in current plans to rely on nuclear power for electricity. This is the specter raised by the life and death of Karen Silkwood. In a more immediate sense, her presence still haunts Kerr-McGee's Cimarron Facility. Nearly two months after her death, the AEC released reports of its investigations into allegations developed from information she provided. Of 39 charges concerning health and safety, 20 were substantiated wholly or in part. Three violations of AEC regulations dealing with health and safety were found. Among the allegations that were confirmed were the company's failure to set up a routine procedure for assuring that respirators were properly functioning (respirators are the only defense against inhaling plutonium when it has escaped into the air), and an incident in which plutonium was stored in unsafe amounts (since plutonium can reach critical mass—the point at which a nuclear chain reaction can begin—there is a risk of a nuclear explosion if it is improperly handled or stored). Additionally, the report confirmed that operating errors had resulted in worker contamination. Furthermore, in the area of quality control, it was shown that photographic negatives had been touched up with a black felt-tip pen, a fact which many consider significant but the AEC does not; and that some analytic data had been misused.

Two other contamination incidents occurred at the Cimarron Facility on December 17, and five employees were exposed to radiation. Kerr-McGee promptly closed the plant, charging that "some of the recent incidents . . . have been coordinated." This is an allegation that remains unproved, except for the still-mysterious adulteration of Karen's urine samples. All the workers were laid off for 10 days and production ceased. The company then began administering polygraph tests to several of its employees. The questions workers were asked while hooked up to the lie detector delved into such areas as whether or not they had ever talked to Karen, belonged to the union, stolen anything from Kerr-McGee (a question that would show up the same on a polygraph, for a pencil or 50 pounds of plutonium), used narcotics, talked to a reporter, had an affair with another employee.

After the lie-detector tests, the staff of an isolated warehouse reportedly trebled when eight workers were transferred there. Among them were the chairman of the union local and a former committeeman. They were told that they were forbidden to go to any other area of the plant and that a supervisor had to be with them at all times, even when they went to the bathroom. The OCAW has filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board about the lie-detector tests. The polygraph tests are continuing at this writing.

In Oklahoma City, two state legislators have called for an investigation into Kerr-McGee's plutonium plant. A similar move is under way in the Congress. Drew Stephens searches his memory for the key that will unlock the mystery surrounding Karen's death. In Nederland, Texas, the Silkwood family waits for an explanation of what happened to Karen, and why.

Karen Silkwood's story remains star-crossed. On New Year's Eve, Trooper Rick Fagan, the highway patrolman who investigated Karen's accident, patrolled State Highway 74. A few miles from the place where she died, he was struck from behind by a drunken driver and was critically injured.

B. J. Phillips is a "Ms." staff writer. Later, she will explore the implications of the use of nuclear power.

3/25/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

UNSUBS;
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Enclosed herewith for Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of LHM being furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

The enclosed LHM sets forth self-explanatory article appearing in the April, 1975 edition of Ms. relative to captioned case. LHM being submitted for completion of Bureau files.

2 - Bureau (Enc.-6)
(2) - Oklahoma City
LJO:mbs
(4)

[redacted] b6 b7C

159-45-132

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1341279-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 44
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Page 6 ~ Duplicate;
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FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: MARCH 26, 1975

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE 007 NITEL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005) MAH

FROM: OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

UNSUBS; KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED), LMRDA; OOJ, OO: OKLAHOMA CITY.

FOR INFORMATION BUREAU, MARCH 26, 1975, [redacted] b6 b7C RESIDENT OFFICER, NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD (NLRB), TULSA, OKLA., PERSONALLY CONTACTED OKLA. CITY DIVISION TO ADVISE HIS OFFICE HAS HAD REFERRED TO THEM TWO CASES OF POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS OF NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT (NLRA), SECTION 8(A), SUB SECTIONS 1 & 3, CONCERNING [redacted] AND [redacted] BOTH OF WHOM WERE ACTIVE IN THE OIL, CHEMICAL AND ATOMIC WORKER'S UNION AS COMMITTEEMEN, KERR MC GEE CORPORATION (KMC), CIMARRON FACILITY, CRESCENT, OKLA. IN RECENT PAST [redacted] WAS REASSIGNED TO ANOTHER JOB AT FACILITY AND [redacted] FIRED BY KMC. [redacted] ADVISED THAT HIS INVESTIGATION IS SLANTED TOWARD CIVIL ACTION AGAINST KMC IF VIOLATION SUBSTANTIATED.

[redacted] b6 b7C ADVISED THAT HIS AGENCY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT [redacted]

LJO:jgs
(1)

Searched [redacted] b6 b7C
Serialized [redacted]
Indexed [redacted]
Filed [redacted]

Approved: KW/JKP
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 8:56 P M Per [redacted]

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

17

159-45-133

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

159-45 PAGE TWO

WITH DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY, GENERAL CRIMES DIVISION, [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] WHO HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WERE APPARENTLY
POSSIBLE CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS CONCERNING [redacted] UNDER
OOJ, T.18, SECTION 1505 & 1510, AND/OR POSSIBLE VIOLATION
OF ATOMIC ENERGY ACT (AEA) T.10, CFR, PART 19.16C. //

[redacted] INDICATED THAT HIS AGENCY WAS HOLDING IN ABEYANCE b6 b7C
INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE CIVIL VIOLATIONS PENDING DETER-
MINATION WHETHER OR NOT THEIR INVESTIGATION WOULD INTERFERE
WITH ANY ON GOING FBI INVESTIGATION CONCERNING CRIMINAL
VIOLATION RE OOJ OR AEA.

[redacted] WAS ADVISED THAT OKLAHOMA CITY FBI HAD NO b6 b7C
INFORMATION RE ANY CURRENT REQUESTS CONCERNING INVESTIGATION
OF OOJ OR AEA VIOLATIONS RELATED TO [redacted] HE WAS
ADVISED THAT INQUIRIES WOULD BE MADE WITH FBIHQ IN THIS
REGARD TO DETERMINE IF ANY REQUESTS HAD BEEN MADE. IT WAS
SUGGESTED THAT [redacted] THROUGH NLRB WASHINGTON, CONTACT USDJ
RE STATUS OF REQUEST FOR ANY ADDITIONAL FBI INVESTIGATION
AND DETERMINE IF HIS AGENCY SHOULD PROCEED WITH THEIR CIVIL
INVESTIGATION.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

159-45 PAGE THREE

IT IS REQUESTED THAT OKLA. CITY BE ADVISED WHETHER OR NOT ANY OOJ OR AEA INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN REQUESTED RE [redacted] & [redacted] AND TRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT ANY SUCH REQUESTS WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY FORTHCOMING?

b6
b7C

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CHANGES CITED

Nuclear Plant Termed Safer

By Ed Montgomery

The Karen Silkwood contamination incident at the Cimarron plutonium plant could not happen under present safeguards, a state House committee was told Thursday.

R. T. Zitting, president of the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corp., and other Kerr-McGee officials appeared before the House Environmental Quality Committee.

Zitting also said the .0003 grams of plutonium identified in the contamination of Miss Silkwood and her apartment could hardly have been taken from the plant by accident. It would have been caught by routine monitoring, he said.

Until the Silkwood incident, he said, monitoring was based to an extent on the assumption that employees could be trusted and was voluntary under some conditions.

Rep. Thomas A. Bamberger, D-Oklahoma City, asked if it would be possible for an employee to bypass safeguards intended to detect plutonium.

Zitting said it would have been possible in 1974 when Miss Silkwood was contaminated.

"We've made a number of changes," he added. "We don't think there's a chance it could be done now."

Miss Silkwood was killed in a car wreck while she was en route to a meeting with a reporter and an investigator for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union.

Bamberger noted that an investigation showed Miss Silkwood, her roommate and her apartment were contaminated by plutonium but that Miss Silkwood's car was not.

Zitting said that could have been because the plutonium was removed from the plant in a sealed container.

Under questioning by Rep. Mark Hammons, D-Tulsa, the committee chairman, and other committee members, the Kerr-McGee officials said:

Nuclear waste from the Cimarron facility is set in concrete in drums and transported by truck by licensed carriers to a burying ground in Nevada.

The plant has a full-time weather consultant. It allows an hour for putting its uranium in a secure place and closes down when there is a tornado alert for its area, which is near Crescent.

The company did not, as has been alleged, skip the one-week training period for new employees at the Cimarron plant during a strike.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: March 28, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author: Ed Montgomery
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr Mc Gee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ✓ INDEXED
SERIALIZED ✓ FILED
MAR 28 1975
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY

[redacted] 16

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b7C

159-45-134

0-9 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel _____
(Type in plaintext or code) (Precedence)

3/27/75
(Date)

TO: SAC, Oklahoma City (159-45)

From: Director, FBI (159-4005)

UNSUBS:
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED),
LMRDA: OOJ
OO: OC

ReCCtel 3/26/75, and Butelcal 3/27/75.

This will confirm reButelcal wherein you were advised that no request for investigation by the FBI relative to [redacted] has been received from the Department of Justice to date. General Crimes Section of the Department has advised no such request is anticipated at this time. b6 b7C

Since it has already been suggested to [redacted] National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Tulsa, that NLRB headquarters contact the Department concerning the status of any request for additional investigation by the FBI, Oklahoma City should inform [redacted] only that no request has been received at FBIHQ to date. b6 b7C

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(Do not type BEYOND THIS MARGIN.)

Handle @ once by phone.

b6
b7C

(Do not type below this

b6
b7C

[redacted]

159-45. 135 14

4/2/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ

OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

Enclosed herewith is an article (in French) from the 2/15/75 edition of "Paris Match" and two copies of a rough English translation.

For information of the Bureau, on 4/2/75, [redacted] Regulation and Control, Nuclear Division, Kerr Mc Gee Corporation (KMC), made available copy of an article, which appeared in the Paris, France weekly periodical known as "Paris Match", which was obtained from the 2/15/75 edition. This article relates to KAREN GAY SILKWOOD. [redacted] also made available a translation of the article. [redacted] advised that this English translation is rather rough, in that the company did not immediately have available anyone who was sufficiently proficient in French to allow a fully accurate translation to be made.

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A review of the English translation at Oklahoma City, indicates that the article appears to be rather fanciful; however, it is unusual in that it includes certain details which have not thus far appeared in the American media. It would appear that SILKWOOD's boy friend, DREW STEPHENS, was the likely source of much of the information contained in the article.

2- Bureau (Enc. 3)
2- Oklahoma City
LJO/jr
(4)

Searched [redacted]
Serialized [redacted]
Indexed [redacted]
Filed [redacted]

159-45-136 13

OC 159-45

Request of the Bureau

It is requested that the enclosed French magazine article be translated and thereafter, furnished to Oklahoma City.

Oklahoma City thereafter will make necessary dissemination of translated version of the article.

FD-263 (Rev. 1-7-72)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
OKLAHOMA CITY	OKLAHOMA CITY	4/7/75	3/28-31/75

TITLE OF CASE

UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)

REPORT MADE BY [redacted] TYPED BY jr b6 b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE
LMRDA; OOJ

REFERENCE: Oklahoma City airtel to the Bureau, dated 4/2/75.

-P-

ADMINISTRATIVE

It is noted that all logical investigation regarding captioned case has been completed and reported. As set out in this report, USA, Oklahoma City was consulted regarding prosecutive aspects of this case. USA advised that no violation of LMRDA or OOJ was apparent.

By referenced airtel, Oklahoma City furnished to Bureau, copies of French magazine article, which appeared in 2/15/75 edition of "Paris Match" and requested that translation of this article be made. Upon receipt of translation, Oklahoma City will disseminate article and

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☒ NONE					ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

6- Bureau (159-4005)

1- USA, Oklahoma City

2- Oklahoma City (159-45)

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

[redacted] b6 b7C

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

14

159-45-137

COVER PAGE

place case in closed status.

LEAD

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will place case in closed status upon dissemination of above mentioned French article.

FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1- USA, Oklahoma City

Report of: [redacted] Office: Oklahoma City b6 b7C
Date: 4/7/75

Field Office File #: 159-45 Bureau File #: 159-4005

Title:
UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)

Character:
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

Synopsis:

During period 3/28-31/75, prosecutive aspects of this case were discussed at length with AUSA [redacted] b6 b7C and USA WILLIAM R. BURKETT, WDO, Oklahoma City, at which time they advised that investigation to date did not appear to reveal any violation of the LMRDA or OOJ Statutes in regard to this case.

-P-

DETAILS: AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

During the period of March 28, through 31, 1975, SA [redacted] discussed the prosecutive aspects b6 b7C of this case with [redacted] Assistant U. S. Attorney and Mr. WILLIAM R. BURKETT, U. S. Attorney, Western District of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. They advised that investigation to date did not appear to reveal any violation of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959; or the Obstruction of Justice Statutes in regard to this case.

MR. BURKETT advised that he was desirous of having the Department of Justice and his office make a statement regarding the conclusion of this case and that he anticipated that he would be in contact with the Department in this regard.

1*

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1970 O - 406-940

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Karen Silkwood Story Won't Die

By Vivian Vahlberg
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Nuclear industry officials are not too happy about it, but Karen Silkwood has become the "anti-nuclear forces' first martyr" in the view of some publications and broadcasters.

One radio report called her "the unwitting catalyst in a raging controversy that challenges the ability of both the industry and the government to safely manage plutonium."

A "New Times" magazine article called her the "patron saint of the anti-nuclear movement."

"Ms." magazine said her death "raises the specter of murder and a terrifying technological reality," and "Rolling Stone" writes of "the nuclear industry's terrible power and how it silenced Karen Silkwood."

Situation Disturbing

In addition to a spate of articles and broadcast reports in the United States, at least two British papers — the "Manchester Guardian" and London's "The Observer" have featured investigations of her death.

It's a situation that has disturbed Kerr-McGee executives and others connected with the nuclear power industry.

Oklahoma Republican Sen. Dewey Bartlett articulated their feelings in a recent Senate speech, when he charged that a "nationwide hostile publicity campaign by some press and media" is being "fomented" by an atomic workers union.

He expressed the fear that over-sensationalized coverage of the Silkwood affair could further slow down development of nuclear power which he feels is essential in solving the nation's energy crisis.

Issues 'Crucial'

On the other hand, the journalists involved consistently insist that the safety issues raised by Silkwood are crucial to consider as the nation moves toward more reliance on nuclear power.

And some connected with the industry feel that a large part of the problem in how the incident is portrayed, is a failure to communicate by Kerr-McGee, which from the beginning adopted a policy of making little or no comment on the case. Company officials said they had been restrained from commenting by orders from government investigators.

Carl Golstein, manager of media services for Atomic Industrial Forum, a pro-nuclear industry group, said "The problem is that since Kerr-McGee hasn't done much talking, you're lacking an important element to the story."

The Silkwood story is tailor-made for melodrama and sensationalism, because there are so many unresolved, and possibly unresolvable, questions about her life, her death and her charges of unsafe conditions and falsified records at the plutonium processing plant in Crescent, where Silkwood worked before she died in a November car crash.

Violations Minor

The Atomic Energy Commission issued reports saying that specimens showing high-level plutonium contamination in two instances had been tampered with, but did not specify who tampered with them. And it found deficiencies in the installation's compliance with AEC safety regulations and some tampering with photographic negatives of test materials. But it classed all the violations as relatively minor.

Did she contaminate herself with plutonium in her single-minded zeal to dramatize the lack of safety or to help the union at Kerr-McGee? Or did fellow employees or someone else "poison" her with plutonium to scare her away so she wouldn't pursue her allegations or for some other purpose?

Where are the documents she reportedly was carrying on the night of

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

15A Sunday Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: April 6, 1975
Edition: Sunday
Author: Vivian Vahlberg
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen Silkwood; Kerr McGee Corp., Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

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APR - 8 1976
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OKLA. CITY

159-45-13810

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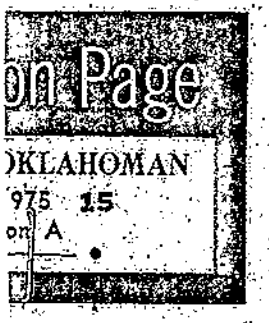
her death, which chronicled health and safety violations?

Was a local worker en route to the accident suddenly called off, halfway there, as has been reported? If so, why?

Grist for Stories

Was she pushed off the road to her death by someone who wanted to silence her, or did she just doze



off at the wheel under the influence of sedatives?

This is the grist for the stories that have been appearing in the feminist "Ms.," counterculture "Rolling Stone" and left-leaning "New Times," which all raise concerns about the nuclear industry's safety.

One of the few publications taking up for the nuclear industry is the conservative, middle-American "Reader's Digest," which featured an article in its April edition by nuclear physicist Ralph Lapp.

While not mentioning the Silkwood incident specifically, Lapp decried recent reports that nuclear accidents could kill tens of thousands of people, and discussed an Atomic Energy Report which showed the odds against an American dying from a nuclear-power accident are 300 million to one.

Some Overboard

According to the Atomic Industrial Forum's Goldstein, some, like "Ms.," ABC's "Reasoner Report" and others, made a conscientious attempt to present and sort out the conflicting evidence and contradictory theories. However, he notes even "Ms." sensationalized by using headlines asking, "Dead Because She Knew Too Much?" and by printing the article in startling yellow and black.

But he feels others went wrong or made little pretense of balancing all the question marks in the case.

The worst two, in Goldstein's opinion, are in the Feb. 21 issue of "New Times" and the March 27 issue of "Rolling Stone."

The "New Times" piece, titled "The Nuclear Martyr (and the Strange Case of the Purloined Plutonium Papers)" is illustrated with a full-page drawing of Karen Silkwood as an angel, suspended above a nuclear power plant on flat, parched land, with rays of light surrounding her robe-draped body and an atom-halo circling her head.

Writer Certain

While other accounts note varying theories about how Silkwood's biological samples were contaminated with plutonium and how her apartment became hot with radioactivity, writer Roger Rapoport flatly states there was an "effort to poison Karen Silkwood" by an "intruder who spread plutonium on her bologna, cheese, chicken, bed sheets, bathmat, makeup and toilet seat."

(By contrast, in a national public radio report, an Atomic Energy Commission official strongly hinted that Silkwood may have contaminated the apartment herself. Rapoport discounts this theory late in his article.)

Rapoport charges that while evidence in the case is mostly "circumstantial," the evidence of foul play is almost overwhelming.

State Put Down

Bartlett, on the other hand, in his Senate speech, concluded that the union which he said is drumming up press coverage "has continued to ignore the painstaking and exhaustive investigations and reinvestigations by the federal and state agencies," which show her responses were impaired by a sedative and her car was probably dented by the wrecker who removed it from a culvert.

The "Rolling Stone" piece sifts through more of the conflicting data, but intersperses its comments with guilt-by-association inserts about other nuclear power critics who reportedly had been investigated, fired and forced off the highway by a zooming car.

The writer sneers that "Oklahoma City still listens to Rosemary Clooney, votes Republican and plays host to all the cowboy conventions it can corral."

"Okie country," he concludes, "is not the kind of place that fathers worry their daughters will run off to."

Few Articles Pro

The "Ms." article notes that "there are no answers, only questions," but paints a picture of a bright, outspoken, gutsy woman who was driven to tears and hysteria by fear of the hazards of plutonium — and by fears that she had been fatally contaminated.

Goldstein and energy consultant Charles Fishman who monitors 15 to 20 periodicals a week, note that there have been very few, if any, articles the nuclear industry would be happy with. One favorable one appeared in the "Public Utilities Fortnightly," which is aimed at the industry and its regulators.

One problem, Goldstein said, is that the AEC's report on the subject "can be interpreted in 16 different ways." It concluded, for example, that urine samples showing high counts of plutonium must have been doctored — but it did not venture a guess about

who did it or why.

Another problem, says Fishman, is that persons in the nuclear industry don't know how to combat the hostile publicity. "They're used to working with formulas.

"The people with the technical knowledge don't know how to exist in the political environment, and the people who know how to use the political process and the media often don't understand the technical side."

He said the situation becomes so polarized that the pro-nuclear forces think anyone against nuclear power development is "condemning all of western civilization," while people concerned about the environment and safety sides think more nuclear power development will result in "killing babies.

"They both become such intense advocates that the public good is lost," he said.

Bartlett takes a different view.

"The effort to capitalize on the death of Karen Silkwood may be part of a larger publicity campaign, orchestrated by the legislative representatives of the OCAW (Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union) with the aid of a reporter at the New York Times. If their common purpose is to undermine the development of nuclear energy in this country, these actions have grave implications indeed," he said.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Inspectors OK Nuclear Plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) gave the stamp of approval Friday to the nuclear fuel manufacturing procedures at the Kerr-McGee plant in Crescent, Okla.

ERDA issued a report by a review team which it assigned to inspect the nuclear facility after "certain members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union" questioned plant procedures.

(Dean A. McGee, chairman and chief executive officer of Kerr-McGee, said in Oklahoma City Friday night he had not yet seen the report but was happy the ERDA had concluded that things were in order.

"I am pleased to hear that that fabrication (charges of improper plant procedures) has been cleared up too," McGee said.

"That is just one of many fabrications we have had about that plant," he said.)

The report said ERDA's inspection team concluded that the Kerr-McGee quality assurance program "meets the requirements specified in their contract" and that the completed fuel elements "meet the established requirements."

The team suggested strengthening the requirements for keeping and analyzing records of quality control "to provide better visibility of the effectiveness of quality assurance program implementation."

Operation of the Kerr-McGee plant came under scrutiny by the Atomic Energy Commission, forerunner of ERDA, last year after five employees were exposed to plutonium contamination.

The company said at the time that the exposure was corrected, the contamination was removed, and none of the employees required hospital treatment.

But union members questioned plant procedures, and the issue was dramatized when Karen Silkwood, a plutonium-contaminated worker, died in an automobile crash, reportedly while driving to meet with union officials and a New York Times reporter.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol investigated and concluded that the fatal crash was accidental.

Orig to Bureau 4-14-75.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: April 12, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

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159-45-139

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kerr-McGee Vindicated

MAKING sensational charges without any supporting evidence has become standard operating procedure for many unions and environmentalist groups and, it must be admitted, some segments of the news media. With enough repetition, unfounded allegations take root in the public mind and become resistant to truth.

A classic example of this propaganda technique has been unfolding since last year when some members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union began a public campaign against the nuclear fuel processing facility of Kerr-McGee Corp. at Crescent.

The company was accused of all manner of foul deeds and misdeeds, ranging from inadequate worker protection to sloppy plutonium handling and acceptance of faulty fuel rod fabrication. The charges gained credibility in some quarters when one of the accusers, Karen Silkwood, perished in a one-car accident while en route to meet a union official and a New York Times reporter.

Miss Silkwood reportedly was bringing purloined documents when she apparently fell asleep at the wheel and rammed into a culvert. Despite medical evidence that she was under the influence of a powerful hypnotic sedative at the time, Miss Silkwood was elevated to folk heroine status in the liberal and underground press.

Last week an official report by the federal Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) demolished the bulk of the union allegations which Miss Silkwood's death dramatized. Again, however, it is a case of the truth catching up months later to the falsehood.

The team of nuclear specialists assigned by ERDA to inspect Kerr-McGee's Cimarron facility is the authoritative technical body qualified to make such judgments. Their report vindicated Kerr-McGee, declaring the plant's operation "meets the requirements specified in their contract" and that fuel rods manufactured there are satisfactory.

The ERDA team did recommend improved record keeping and analysis of quality control "to provide better visibility" that the company is performing its government contract work safely and properly. Kerr-McGee is already implementing these recommendations.

Now that the Silkwood mystique has been shattered, it will be interesting to see the reaction of those writers and commentators, mostly Eastern, who seized so eagerly upon the original unfounded charges. It is a fair bet that the debunking and ERDA's absolution of Kerr-McGee will not gain anything like equal exposure.

Those who contribute to the misguided campaign against nuclear power, ignoring its proven record of safety and reliability, are doing this country a tremendous disservice. It bears repeating that we need every kilowatt we can generate, and uranium is an available and viable alternative to expensive imported oil.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

14 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: April 14, 1975
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennet
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

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159-45-140

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Oklahoma City (159-45)

DATE: April 24, 1975

FROM : Director, FBI (159-4005)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ
(OO: OKLAHOMA CITY)

Attached is the translation which you requested by airtel dated 4/2/75.

The contents thereof, where pertinent, must be reported under appropriate captions and afforded whatever investigative attention is necessary.

The foreign language material is returned herewith.

Enc. (3)

Enter Translation in 1A + route to [redacted] with Encl

[redacted] FILED 1975 OKLAHOMA CITY

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b7C

159-45-141

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Spikes Silkwood Myth

EVER since the body of Karen Silkwood was found in the wreckage of her small car in a culvert near Crescent last Nov. 13, some elements of the press have indulged in an orgy of sensationalism and speculation. Facts were either ignored or distorted by several publications, including the New York Times, which seemed bent on elevating the Kerr-McGee Cimarron facility employee to folk heroine status in the campaign against nuclear power.

Now, nearly six months later, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has spiked the Silkwood myth by concluding there was no evidence of foul play in her death. Her contamination from plutonium exposure, whether deliberate or accidental, had nothing to do with her death. The FBI said all available evidence indicated the fatal crash was an accident, just as the Oklahoma Highway Patrol had reported earlier.

Unfortunately, those who are spreading the anti-nuclear gospel with such emotional fervor are not likely to be deterred by facts. In their campaign to stop any further expansion of atomic power, they will seize upon anything that suits their purpose.

In that regard, much will be made of a report released last month by a group of 12 scientists after a $3 million, year-long study of reactor safety funded by the National Science Foundation and the old Atomic Energy Commission, since split into two agencies. The study cast some doubt on the effectiveness of existing emergency cooling equipment in the event of a maximum reactor accident.

In essence, this latest study contends that an earlier computer analysis by 60 experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology underestimated the number of cancer deaths that might result over an extended period from a major nuclear plant accident.

What must be remembered is that both studies are hypothetical of necessity. There has never been a major reactor accident in any nuclear power plant anywhere in the world after nearly a quarter-century of operating experience.

Of course there is an element of risk involved in the use of uranium fuel to generate electricity, just as there is danger involved in mining coal, transporting volatile chemicals or, for that matter, in crossing the street. Many authorities of that time, for example, predicted horrendous consequences from stringing electrical transmission wires in our cities.

The basic question boils down to what level of risk is acceptable when measured against our need for increased supplies of energy.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

12 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: May 5, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Editorial-Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr McGee Corp., Crescent,
Character: Oklahoma
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

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OKLA CITY

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Silkwood death probe is ended

Another chapter in the controversy surrounding the contamination and death of Karen Silkwood ended today with the announcement by the Justice Department that the FBI has found no evidence of foul play in the automobile crash death of the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant worker.

The FBI findings back up an earlier report from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol which discounted the possibility that foul play was involved in Miss Silkwood's death and which suggested that she had fallen asleep at the wheel.

Miss Silkwood died Nov. 13 when her car crashed into a culvert near the Crescent plant. She reportedly was en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and a union representative to discuss safety conditions at the plant.

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union had requested that the FBI investigate the accident.

Justice Department spokesman Robert L. Stevenson said "we have decided that there seem to be no federal violations" in connection with Miss Silkwood's death and "it does appear to have been an accident."

A spokesman for Oklahoma City FBI Agent in Charge Kenneth Whittaker said the accident was investigated as it related to the question of whether Miss Silkwood's rights as a union member had been infringed on.

He said there was "no mystery" about the crash and referred to it as "a closed book."

Miss Silkwood, who had been found to be contaminated by plutonium only a week before the accident, reportedly was carrying documentation of allegations about poor safety standards and altered inspection reports at the plant the day of the crash.

The FBI spokesman said that although foul play has been ruled out in the crash, agents are still looking into the possibility of illegal possession of plutonium by persons connected with the plant.

"What we're trying to do is to figure out what happened" regarding the contamination of Miss Silkwood, her roommate and their Edmond apartment.

"We're trying to find out whether Miss Silkwood herself (took the plutonium) or if other people were involved," the spokesman said.

The FBI was called into the case about a week after Miss Silkwood's death.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Oklahoma City Times
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: May 2, 1975
Edition: Evening
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr Mc Gee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED 14 FILED
MAY - 6 1975
FBI
OKLA. CITY

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Orig to Bureau 5-16-75

159-45-143

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Closes Quiz In Silkwood Case

By The Associated Press

The FBI says it found no evidence of foul play in the death of Karen Silkwood, a worker at Kerr-McGee's Crescent plutonium plant who died in a car wreck Nov. 13.

The FBI findings back up an Oklahoma Highway Patrol investigation which discounted allegations Miss Silkwood's car was forced off the road.

Miss Silkwood died when her car crashed into a culvert near Crescent. She reportedly was en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and a union representative to discuss safety conditions at the plant.

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union requested the Justice Department probe the death.

"We have decided that there seem to be no federal violations" in connection with Miss Silkwood's death, Robert L. Stevenson, a Justice Department spokesman, said. "It does appear to be an accident."

An FBI spokesman said that although foul play had been ruled out in the accident, the FBI was continuing to probe the possibility that persons connected with the plant illegally possessed plutonium.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

24 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: May 3, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen G. Silkwood
Kerr McGee Corp.,
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

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SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___
MAY - 6 1975
OKLA CITY

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) - P - DATE: 5/8/75

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUB;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD -(DECEASED)
LMRDA - OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

ReButelcal OC 5/8/75.

[redacted] Unit Chief, Labor Unit, FBIHQ, telephonically advised that the Department was requesting that the first person or persons to discover the SILKWOOD wreck be identified and interviewed with emphasis on their observations at accident scene re any documents or papers. b6 b7C

[redacted] requested that a closing LHM be prepared when this particular investigation is completed. [redacted] indicated that he was attaching no particular urgency to reporting the results of this investigation. b6 b7C

Investigation previously determined the first persons on the scene are as follows:

[redacted] b6 b7C

SA [redacted] will locate and interview these individuals listed above in accordance with Bureau instructions. b6 b7C

(2) - Oklahoma City

LJO/vb
(2)

[redacted] b6 b7C

SEARCHED ... INDEXED
SERIALIZED ... FILED
MAY 8 1975
OMA CITY

159-45-145

DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005) 5/9/75

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau, 4/2/75; Oklahoma City report of SA [redacted], 4/7/75; Oklahoma City letter to Oklahoma City, 4/24/75; and Bureau telephone call to Oklahoma City, 5/8/75. b6 b7C

Enclosed for the Bureau six copies of a LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy LHM furnished U. S. Attorney, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

As set out in referenced Oklahoma City report, all logical investigation re captioned case has been completed and reported and USA, Oklahoma City, advised no violation of LMRDA or OOJ is apparent.

Enclosed LHM sets forth self-explanatory article appearing in the 2/15/75 issue of Paris Match relative to captioned case. LHM being submitted for completion of Bufiles.

LEADS

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA - Will conduct investigation requested in referenced Bureau telephone call.

2-Bureau (Enc. 6)
2-Oklahoma City
LJO/sal
(4)

[redacted] b6 b7C

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

159-45-1446

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

May 9, 1975

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION
OF JUSTICE

The February 12, 1975 issue of Paris Match, a French language periodical published at Paris, France, contained an article entitled, "The Plutonium Lady." A translation of the article is as follows:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

b6
b7C

6-Bureau
1-USA, Oklahoma City
1-Oklahoma City (159-45)(P)
LJO/sal
(8)

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

159-45-147

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

Article on page 54 of the February 15, 1975, issue of "Paris Match."

* * *

"THE PLUTONIUM LADY"

This could be a headline for a horror story of the kind that used to come out in installments. But it is a real FBI investigation: a woman died on a U. S. highway. Was she connected with a gang of plutonium thieves who wanted to manufacture a bomb? Did she fall into a trap? It remains a complete mystery; a mystery which frightens America.

Seated on the well-padded stools of the Holiday Inn bar, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, three men ordered a new round of drinks. In the discreet light of red lanterns, they were waiting for Karen Silkwood. For several days, now, she had been the only topic of conversation. The young woman had been contaminated by plutonium. Her apartment, likewise, had been contaminated by this radioactive element. The "Kermac" plant in Crescent which treats one-and-one-half tons of plutonium and uranium for peaceful purposes, suspects Karen of having stolen several kilograms of radioactive elements. Miss Silkwood, an active militant labor union member, defended herself, in turn, by attacking "Kermac" "which," she contended, "does not respect the security measures imposed by the Atomic Energy Commission."

The bartender served the new round of drinks. The most nervous of the trio looked at his watch once more. His name is David Burnham. He is a journalist in New York. His neighbor's name is Steve Wodka. Mr. Wodka is a lawyer for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (International) Union (OCAW Union); last September, Karen sent him thirty-nine complaints against "Kermac," motivated by seventy-three cases of contamination. The third man, Drew Stephens, had previously been employed by "Kermac," and had since resigned. For two years, Karen had been his girlfriend.

139 45-4

Again, David Burnham looked at his watch. If he had come from New York, it was because his friend Wodka had telephoned him saying: "I have a rendezvous with Miss Silkwood who is to hand over to me an explosive file which you can examine." David immediately took the first plane to Oklahoma. Now in the presence of his two companions, he had been waiting for three hours.

"Is she habitually late?" - asked David, impatiently.

-"No," replied Drew; "provided she has had no mishaps..."

David Burnham would never write the interview of his life.

Steve Wodka would never plead in court the case which would make his career.

Drew Stephens would never again press Karen to his heart.

Drew's foreboding turned out to be correct: the young woman met with tragedy. On U. S. 74, at the wheel of her white car, bearing license number YF8261, Karen was speeding, despite the speed limit, to her rendezvous. She was a good driver, since she had taken part in numerous car rallies. And yet, on the long straight line without danger, her little racing car inexplicably left the highway and turned over into a concrete ditch. Mangled sheet metal was removed from Karen's lifeless body: her skull was fractured, her rib cage was caved in, and her arms and legs were broken. Pretty Karen Silkwood was now only a broken, disjointed body whose looks were unbearable. David, Steve and Drew quickly went to the scene of the accident. It was 11:00 p.m. at night-time and pitch black. With the beam of the headlights of their car, they inspected everything, without finding anything unusual, except for the fact that the police were unable to find, either in the car or in her clothing or in the immediate surroundings, the famous file which Karen was supposed to have brought along.

"It must have been a tremendously dangerous file because they decided to do away with her!" - Wodka burst out, in a frenzy.

The police report concluded that it was an accident. But the lawyer did not agree. He hired a private detective from Dallas, O. D. Piploin, a former New Mexico police officer, who specialized in the reconstruction of accidents.

Piploin investigated, searched, interrogated. His conclusion, likewise, was that it was an accident. But he did not exclude the possibility that it could have been caused intentionally. In effect, he indicated to the Union's Lawyer that the Honda had a dent on the right rear bumper: whereas, the car had turned over on its left side.

"The possibility," declared Piploin, "that Miss Silkwood's Honda might have been intentionally hit by another car cannot be excluded."

"But who could have done it?" asked David Burnham.

Kermac? Is Kermac fed up with the trials and tribulations which it has known since it was founded in 1970, due to Karen's activities as a labor union member? The conflict between management and the female laboratory technician arose because she accused the plant of not setting up a system of protection which would prevent leaks and contamination. Plutonium is, in effect, extremely dangerous: a fragment the size of a pinhead can paralyze a lung "100,000 times more rapidly than the venom of a rattlesnake" and "10,000 times more rapidly than potassium cyanide." If absorbed in small doses, it can cause cancer of the bone or leukemia. In order to avoid these risks, plutonium is stored in airtight, sealed containers or barrels, resistant to the most violent impacts. It is never handled out in the open air, but in special caissons, resembling incubators in a maternity ward. The female laboratory technician, dressed like a nurse, puts her hands in huge neophrene gloves, fixed to port-holes imbedded in glass partitions. The air pressure inside is less than that of the room. In short, a whole system must be constructed so as to prevent even the tiniest particle of plutonium from escaping.

Karen Silkwood, last July, had, like other colleagues, been severely contaminated. For her, the Kermac plant's security system was a ... sieve!

Two months had passed by. On December 5, at 6:30 p.m. in room 135, the female laboratory technician had reduced plutonium capsules to powder. She removed her hands from the gloves, and allowed herself a break. For fifteen minutes she had been cleaning the element of its impurities by means of an ultrasonic device, inspected it under a microscope and had it X-rayed. Before leaving the laboratory, Karen passed through the gamma ray detector: her hands were contaminated.

She was sent to the infirmary and declared not in danger. But, in amazement, it was discovered that the young woman's apartment was also contaminated. The logical deduction was that the place had been used to store plutonium. "Kermac" immediately counterattacked. Without making any formal accusations, Kermac did not exclude the hypothesis that Miss Silkwood could have had some contact with plutonium thieves. Kermac does not care on behalf of whom. It is up to the FBI to find out. It is their job. Federal Agent Steve Olson was sent to Crescent on an assignment. He arrived there after Miss Silkwood's fatal accident.

In a hotel room, that same evening, Steve Olson, the FBI Agent, was bent over some files. His job was not only to determine if there had been a theft, but who would profit from it. Was it carried out in order to profit a nuclearly underdeveloped power? This is very unlikely. Chances are more likely that it was done in favor of a terrorist movement. The first file was that of "Kermac" which attacked its employee. The next file was that of the labor union which Wodka handed over, and which revealed twenty defects, more or less well founded on the part of the plant. A third file was one which had been drafted by a committee of six officials from the AEC (the American Atomic Energy Commission) who had conducted an investigation of the plant's facilities. Finally, the last file contained the autopsy report which stated: "The traces of plutonium found in the young woman's liver and lungs are far too small to have caused sudden death." Steve Olson continued reading. The seven doctors, who had performed two autopsies, were unanimous in pointing out the presence of a large quantity of methaqualon -- a powerful hallucinatory drug which Karen could obtain with a doctor's prescription and which she used generously -- "the medicine could not make Miss Silkwood 'get high' to the extent of losing control of her car," stated Drew Stephens to the FBI Agent. "I knew her very well. We even smoked marijuana together. She knew very well how much of the stimulants as well as of the sedatives, to take. She never 'got high.' As far as methaqualon is concerned, her system was accustomed to it."

"Believe me, Inspector, the disappearance of the file which she was supposed to have turned over to us signifies that she was put away because she was becoming troublesome," said Wodka, insistingly, to the FBI Agent.

Steve Olson set out on the hunt. As the investigation progressed, the unknown and troubled person of a new Karen Silkwood gradually came to light. First of all, there was the ardent labor union member's sentimental life. At age twenty-eight, she was divorced, mother of three children, who were entrusted to the father. According to witnesses, she did not suffer from the divorce in any respect whatsoever. Then, Olson was astonished to learn that Karen divided her love between Drew Stephens and a girlfriend, a Cherrie Ellis, who had a passion for rodeos and always dressed like a man. This free love is calmly explained by Drew, who said: "Karen was, undoubtedly, due to her Indian blood, a rebel. She balked at the restraints of society."

This was a good breakthrough. Steve Olson continued his investigation into the dead woman's past. He went to the May Avenue Bank. Amiably the young woman's account was handed over to him: Karen was not a millionaire: far from it. She bought her car and motorcycle, as well as her stereo set, her television and her wardrobe on credit. This amounted to a total indebtedness of $3,798 which Karen tried to stem, by borrowing money from various banks. For someone who earned only $8,210 a year, this could be a motive to steal plutonium, according to Steve Olson.

But, Steve Olson wondered: how can anybody smuggle plutonium out of the plant, in spite of the guards, the dogs, the detection system which everyone leaving the Kermac premises must undergo? He questioned the personnel (136 employees) and discovered that the detection system is deceptive. First of all, resolute, armed commando teams, with good contacts inside the plant, could enter the premises of "Kermac" whenever they wanted to. But, over and above all, the detection system is fantastic. It would set off the alarm at the drop of a pin, to such an extent that the guard, tired of so many useless signals, would resort to setting it on again and would not search the person whose entry or exit had caused the alarm to go off. But, Steve Olson was not at the end of his surprises. He learned that, if each milligram of plutonium is rigorously accounted for, its manipulation involves losses of up to 2%, which the Atomic Energy Commission tolerates, without requesting that an investigation be made: 2% which undoubtedly not everyone loses. It seems unbelievable that an element as terrifying as plutonium, which is thought of as being guarded like the gold in Fort Knox, is guarded in such a loose manner. Unfortunately, however, this is the case.

"It is surprising that no one has taken up nuclear terrorism yet," states physicist Ted Taylor, a manufacturer of the most minaturized atomic bombs, "for the means to steal really and truly does exist." It is sufficient to use "M.U.F.," an abbreviation which signifies "material unaccounted for." This corresponds to all the plutonium which is still being treated and which is impossible to inventory, account for, or keep under surveillance. A laboratory technician holding a position which gives access to plutonium, as was in Miss Silkwood's case, could steal thirty kilograms (66 lbs.) of the element without anyone noticing it. The theft would be discovered only if an arrest had been made at the plant and only after six months to one year: enough time to enable an organization to make its bomb.

In early January, after Karen's death, the Kermac plant temporarily closed its doors and stopped production of plutonium bars destined for the nuclear center of Hanford, in the State of Washington. For 48 hours, a count was taken of all the "material unaccounted for": in the thermic caissons, in the robot machines of the production chain, in the plant's ventilation system. All the plutonium -- minus the famous 2% margin -- was recovered.

It remains a complete mystery. In effect, since the investigations have not made it possible to discover plutonium on Karen's person and since the verifications made at the Kermac plant have not revealed any theft, the enigma lives on. The question which faces the investigators is the following: was the plutonium stolen from the plant and, perhaps stored by the female laboratory technician at home and, if so, was it returned by the thieves who had gotten wind of the investigations by the FBI and the AEC? If such were the case, the events in Oklahoma City would turn out to be extremely dangerous. For what authority, from here on in, could guarantee us that the famous homemade bomb, which can be easily carried in a simple suticase, could not be made by someone some day?

JEAN NOLI

caption under picture, middle of page 55:
Karen, found dead, contaminated by plutonium.

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/9/75

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] when contacted in regard to a different matter, furnished the following information:

As he previously indicated, he did not see KAREN SILKWOOD after the time that she left the union meeting at Crescent, Oklahoma, at 7:00 pm, November 13, 1974.

He never saw KAREN arrive after that time. He did not follow her home and he did not discover the car wreck in which she died later on the evening of November 13, 1974.

He first learned about KAREN's death at around 9:00 am, November 14, 1974.

Other than the notebook, which he previously mentioned, he does not know what kind of documentation she may have had concerning the fuel rod quality control allegations. He has no information concerning any manila folder that SILKWOOD may have had in her possession on November 13, 1974.

Interviewed on 5/5/75 at Guthrie, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] LJO/jr Date dictated 5/8/75 b6 b7C

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159-45-148

6/4/75

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

UNSUB;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA - OOJ
OO - Oklahoma City

ReButelcal to Okla. City 5/8/75.

For information of the Bureau, two of the three persons who were involved in initially discovering the deceased car wreck 11/13/75, have been located and interviewed. These individuals are as follows:

[redacted] Okla., and his 14 year-old brother-in-law, [redacted] Okla. b6 b7C

[redacted] was the person who initially observed the wrecked vehicle. b6 b7C

[redacted] were driving about one-quarter mile behind [redacted] formerly of Garver, Okla, who passed the wrecked car without noticing it. b6 b7C

[redacted] has moved from [redacted] to [redacted] and presently is employed on a job for a yet undetermined company in Kansas which keeps him on the road the bulk of the time. Arrangements are being made to make contact with [redacted] on his first return to Okla. City. b6 b7C

Searched ____
Serialized ____
Indexed ____
Filed ____

LEADS:

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will locate and interview [redacted] and thereafter submit closing LHM. b6 b7C

2- Bureau
2- Oklahoma City
LJO/psh
(4)

[redacted] b6 b7C

14

159-45-149

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/13/75

[redacted] b6 b7C
Oklahoma, furnished the following information:

He previously was employed by [redacted] who formerly operated a trailer sales lot known as [redacted] which was located just south of [redacted] Oklahoma. The [redacted] business was a side venture and [redacted] principal employment was with [redacted] of [redacted]. This company is involved in the manufacture of stock and grain trailers. b6 b7C

He presently is employed by [redacted] and his residence phone number is [redacted]. He is in the process of moving his residence in [redacted] and will maintain the same [redacted] phone number. His new residence is on the south side of [redacted] three or four doors [redacted]. b6 b7C

On the evening of November 13, 1974, he was working for [redacted] At that time [redacted] was in the process of moving from [redacted] Oklahoma, to [redacted] Oklahoma, and was remodeling his new house in [redacted] He and his 14 year old brother-in-law, [redacted] had worked all day the day of November 13, 1974 for [redacted] in [redacted] and were "running about four hours late." At this particular time he lived in [redacted] Oklahoma, and his brother-in-law [redacted] was living in [redacted] with him. b6 b7C

They ate a hurried supper after finishing their work day and were enroute from [redacted] to [redacted] via U. S. Highway 74. [redacted] was driving ahead of them in a pickup truck. [redacted] was enroute to [redacted]. b6 b7C

As [redacted] recalls, it was about 7:45 p.m. when they were in the vicinity of the intersection of State Highway 33 and 74. It was very dark at this time. [redacted] was approximately one quarter mile ahead of him. He was driving a one ton flat bed truck and his brother-in-law [redacted] was riding in the dab beside him. [redacted] was dozing. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 6/3/75 [redacted] Oklahoma City Oklahoma File # 159-45 b6 b7C

by SA [redacted] sabp Date dictated 6/9/75

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159-45-150

He had driven the road on numerous occasions and had driven the road daily for the previous two-week period and, therefore, was most familiar with the road and the roadside conditions. He also had considerable experience as a wrecker driver and he prides himself in being little more alert than the average person concerning the likelihood of occurrence of automobile wrecks. At a point about a mile and a half south of the intersection of State Highway 33 and 74, he caught a light reflection out of the corner of his eye from the east side of the road, which to him suggested the possibility of a car having gone off in a ditch. He slowed down and stopped, having passed this point. As he came to a stop, he blinked his headlights several times which caused [redacted] who was ahead of him, to also stop. b6 b7C

He backed the truck up south past the point where he thought he saw something in the ditch and turned the truck so the headlights would shine off the road. He then saw there was a small white foreign car laying on its side in a culvert which passed under the road. The truck lights were shining over the wreck rather than right down on it and he had difficulty observing the wreck at this point.

He told [redacted] to get out of the truck and holler down and see if there was anyone still in the car. [redacted] did get out of the truck and called out, but there was no response from the wrecked car. [redacted] told him he thought he saw a hand sticking out of the broken windshield, and [redacted] said he thought there was someone trapped in the car. b6 b7C

About this time [redacted] had gotten back to the wreck location and he and [redacted] had by this time verified that there was someone trapped in the car. They so informed [redacted] who immediately turned around and headed north to call the Highway Patrol. b6 b7C

Shortly thereafter a carload of drunken Negros stopped at the wreck scene. When they were informed that the Highway Patrol was coming, the Negros "took off."

Shortly thereafter a white male wearing a hardhat and driving a 1967 brown Ford stationwagon passed the wreck

from the north, when about one quarter mile south turned around and came back to the wreck. This man asked if they needed any help and he told the man that they had already called the Highway Patrol. The man thereafter left without getting out of his car.

About that time, two white males approaching the wreck scene from the south drove up and stopped. They got out and looked at the wreck from a distance and one of them said he thought he recognized the car. These two individuals identified themselves as being employees of the Kerr McGee Company and working at the Nuclear Plant a couple of miles north of the wreck site. One of the men said he thought that the wrecked car belonged to a girl who also worked at the plant. The other man got into his car and also drove off to call the police or the Highway Patrol. The man who recognized the car stayed at the scene.

About five or ten minutes after [redacted] got back from making his phone call, a Highway Patrol Trooper arrived on the scene. It did not seem that it took long at all for the Trooper to get there as only from ten to fifteen minutes elapsed between the time that [redacted] left to report the wreck and the Trooper got there. An ambulance got on the scene about four or five minutes after the Trooper arrived and a wrecker arrived on the scene before they completed loading the girl who was trapped in the car into the ambulance. b6 b7C

He stayed up on the shoulder when the Highway Patrol Trooper and [redacted] helped turn the car over and helped the ambulance attendants get the girl out of the car. b6 b7C

He had previously noted that the girl's purse was laying on the ground between the car and the culvert and and he pointed this fact out to the Trooper who said he would pick it up.

He could not clearly see the entire wrecked car but it appeared to him that the front end of the car was totally demolished. He did not observe the back end of the car; therefore, he does not know what the extent of damage was to the rear of the car.

Almost immediately after the ambulance departed, he, [redacted] left the scene. This was before the wrecker had removed the car from the ditch.

b6
b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/13/75

[redacted] furnished the following information: b6 b7C

He is 14 years old, having been born [redacted] at [redacted]. He presently is in the 9th grade and attends school in [redacted] Oklahoma. b6 b7C

Sometime in mid-November, 1974, the exact date unrecalled, he was working with his brother-in-law, [redacted] for [redacted] who was remodeling his house in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. At this particular time, [redacted] was living in [redacted] Oklahoma, and he was living with [redacted]. b6 b7C

He does not remember the exact time that they left Oklahoma City enroute to [redacted] but darkness had fallen and they had worked later than usual that particular night. [redacted] was going back to [redacted] Oklahoma, where he lived at that time and was driving a pickup truck. b6 b7C

[redacted] was driving a flat bed truck and following along behind enroute to [redacted] He was kind of tired and was dozing as [redacted] drove down the road. Somewhere south of Crescent, Oklahoma, [redacted] stopped the truck and said he thought he had seen a wrecked car in the ditch. b6 b7C

[redacted] blinked his lights at [redacted] who stopped, turned around, and started back. b6 b7C

In the meantime [redacted] turned the truck around and shined his headlights on the ditch where they could see a small car badly damaged laying in a culvert. b6 b7C

It was very quiet at the wreck and he and [redacted] had some discussion as to whether or not there was someone still in the car. At first it appeared that the car was empty, but he noticed something sticking out of the windshield, possibly a hand. He told [redacted] this, and he looked at the car a little closer and saw that there appeared to be a girl in the front seat of the car. b6 b7C

Interviewed on 6/3/75 at Geary, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :abp Date dictated 6/9/75 b6 b7C

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159-45-1511

By then [redacted] had come back and they had told [redacted] about the wreck, and he had turned around and gone back north to call the Highway Patrol. b6 b7C

A carload of black people, all of whom appeared to be drunk, briefly stopped at the scene shortly after they got there. They asked what was going on and were told that the Highway Patrol was coming and they took off at a high rate of speed.

Shortly thereafter, a couple of men stopped at the scene, looked at the car, and said that they thought they worked with the person who owned the car. One of these two men drove off to call the Sheriff.

About fifteen minutes after [redacted] left, the Highway Patrol got on the scene and almost immediately thereafter an ambulance came. b6 b7C

He and [redacted] went down in the ditch and helped turn over the car. He also helped to use a power tool to pry the car door open so they could get the girl out of the car. b6 b7C

He noticed that there was an "antique looking" purse laying on the ground and the contents of the purse were scattered about in the immediate vicinity. He noticed small little slips of different colored paper and a pack of cigarettes which appeared to have come from the purse. He did not notice any cosmetics. He did not see any notebooks, folders, or any other type of larger pieces of paper in the vicinity of the wreck.

He saw the wrecked car's tire tracks in the ditch where it looked like the car had just gone straight down the ditch for one quarter mile or so and headed right into the culvert.

The entire front end of the car was "wiped out" and the left front door was severely dented and crushed in. He does not know what the extent of the damage was to the rear of the car.

He, [redacted] left the wreck scene after the ambulance left and before the wrecker moved the car from the ditch.

b6
b7C

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
July 25, 1975

Unknown Subjects;
Karen Gay Silkwood (Deceased)
LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING AND
DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959; OBSTRUCTION
OF JUSTICE

Set forth below are interviews with [redacted] who were among the first individuals on the scene of Silkwood's fatal accident November 13, 1974. Also set forth is interview with [redacted] who had previously been interviewed in regard to this case.

b6
b7C

6 - Bureau
1 - USA, Oklahoma City
2 - Oklahoma City (P) (159-45)
LJO:jgs
(9)

[redacted]

b6
b7C

159-45-152

7/25/75

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED);
LMRDA; OOJ
CO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City letter to the Bureau, dated 5/9/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of LHM furnished USA, Oklahoma City.

LEAD

OKLAHOMA CITY

AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA. Will locate and interview [redacted] b6 b7C

2 - Bureau (Enc. - 6)
2 - Oklahoma City
LJO:jgs
(4)

[redacted] b6 b7C

159-45-153

FD-448 (10-28-71)

Transmit attached by Facsimile – PLAINTEXT Priority URGENT

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005) Date: 8/6/75
ATTENTION: [redacted] ROOM 5152JEH b6 b7C
From: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P) Time: Transmitted – 3 08 p
Received – MES

Subject: UNSUB;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LMRDA - OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph

☐ Artists Conception ☒ Other Oklahoma City memorandum of SA [redacted] dated 5/8/75. b6 b7C

☐ (6 min) ☐ (4 min)

Special handling instructions:

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

Approved: KW/EDG

159-45-154

40

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SILKWOOD CASE CITED

Women's Group Calls for Strike

By Associated Press

A lot of husbands could be doing the housework, taking care of the kids and fixing the meals October 29, if the National Organization of Women (NOW) gets the results it wants.

NOW is calling for a general nationwide strike by women that day, according to NOW spokesman Bernice Friedlander.

The purpose of the strike, said Friedlander Friday in a telephone interview from Washington, is "to focus national attention on the inequalities in the society, and the fact that women are not paid equally, women are not treated equally in employment, women's rights are not given the same respect as other peoples' rights before the law, in educational institutions, in the political structure, and so on."

Final details will be worked out during NOW's national convention in Philadelphia, Oct. 24-27.

NOW is asking women to walk off their jobs both in and out of the home, to withhold all monetary support of the system, not to volunteer anything, and not to baby-sit.

NOW is also planning a number of actions next Tuesday, the 55th anniversary of women's suffrage, "to protest violence abuse against women in all phases of society," according to Friedlander.

However, much of the national focus will be on Washington, where NOW members will stage a candlelight vigil from the Elipse to the Justice Department, and will formally call for a reopening of an investigation into the death of a woman plutonium plant worker in Oklahoma last year.

The woman, Karen Silkwood, 26, died in what was termed a mysterious auto accident last summer.

At the time of the accident, Miss Silkwood was reportedly driving from Crescent, to Oklahoma City to confer with union leaders and other officials on conditions at the Kerr-McGee Plutonium plant near Crescent.

Miss Silkwood had voiced several complaints about what she said were unsafe practices at the plant. She said workers were being unnecessarily exposed to rediation.

An Atomic Energy Commission report on the Kerr-McGee investigation released in January indicated Karen Silkwood was contaminated outside the plant, possibly by plutonium intentionally taken from the firm's Cimarron nuclear plant.

The AEC report concluded that the Kerr-McGee facility could improve its control of worker exposures, its hygiene precaution program and monitoring of employee exposures. By April it gave a stamp of approval to the Crescent facility, saying possible sources of contamination had been removed.

After the accident, Miss Silkwood's union alleged foul play was involved in the crash, but the Oklahoma Highway Patrol ruled the mishap an accident. An FBI investigation found no evidence of foul play.

An autopsy indicated the presence of radioactive material in Miss Silkwood's body, but officials said it was not sufficient to cause death. The autopsy report said part of the radioactive material could have been ingested.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla.

Date: August 23, 1975
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: National Organization of Women (NOW)

Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED 4 INDEXED
SERIALIZED 4 FILED
AUG 25 1975
OKLAHOMA CITY

159-45-1559

b6
b7C

"The FBI has evidence that they have not pursued," said Friedlander. "We know she was poisoned, but more than that, there has to be further tests."

Friedlander said NOW will come forward Tuesday with a "very complete" file of information on what has and hasn't been probed in the case.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

VIA ENCIPHERED TELETYPE FBI

Date: AAUGUST 23, 1975

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE #003 NITEL
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (159-4005) SMD 1:30/PM

PHILADELPHIA 1:50/PM DMS

FROM OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P)

UNSUBS; KAREN G. SILKWOOD (DECEASED); LMRDA; OOJ.

OO: OKLAHOMA CITY.

THE AUGUST 23, 1975, EDITION OF "THE DAILY OKLAHOMAN", A DAILY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., ON PAGE ONE HAD AN ARTICLE CAPTIONED "WOMEN'S GROUP CALLS FOR STRIKE" SUBCAPTIONED "SILKWOOD CASE CITED" WITH AN ASSOCIATED PRESS DATELINE (NO CITY INDICATED), THE ARTICLE IN PART INDICATED THAT THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN (NOW) IS CALLING FOR A NATIONAL STRIKE OCTOBER 29, 1975, ACCORDING TO NOW SPOKES-PERSON BERNICE FRIEDLANDER. FINAL DETAILS FOR STRIKE TO BE WORKED OUT AT NOW'S NATIONAL CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA OCTOBER 24-27, 1975.

ARTICLE INDICATED NOW IS ASKING WOMEN TO WALK OFF THEIR JOBS, BOTH IN AND OUT OF HOMES, TO WITHHOLD ALL MONETARY SUPPORT OF THE SYSTEM, NOT TO VOLUNTEER ANYTHING AND NOT TO BABYSIT.

NOW IS PLANNING A NUMBER OF ACTIONS AUGUST 26, 1975

Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

EJO:jlw
(1)

b6
b7C

Approved: _____ Sent _____

Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Gov... Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

159-45-156

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO. OC 159-45.

THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE "TO PROTEST VIOLENCE ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN IN ALL PHASES OF SOCIETY." MUCH OF THE NOW NATIONAL FOCUS WILL BE IN WASHINGTON (AUGUST 26, 1975) WHERE NOW MEMBERS WILL STAGE A CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FROM THE ELIPSE TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND WILL FORMALLY CALL FOR A REOPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF KAREN SILKWOOD.

FRIEDLANDER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "THE FBI HAS EVIDENCE THEY HAVE NOT PURSUED. WE KNOW SHE WAS POISONED, BUT MORE THAN THAT, THERE HAS TO BE FURTHER TESTS." FRIEDLANDER INDICATED THAT NOW WOULD COME FORWARD ON AUGUST 26 WITH A VERY COMPLETE FILE OF INFORMATION ON WHAT HAS AND HAS NOT BEEN PROBED IN THE CASE.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

FOR INFORMATION OF PHILADELPHIA, INFORMATION CONCERNING SILKWOOD WAS PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED IN CASE ENTITLED "UNSUB; THREAT TO BOMB PHILADELPHIA, PA., MARCH 6, 1975, BT, OO: PHILADELPHIA", [redacted] b3 b7E

OKLAHOMA CITY IS FURNISHING ABOVE TO BUREAU FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES NOTING THAT THERE WILL BE A DEMONSTRATION

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

PAGE THREE. OC 159-45.

AUGUST 26, 1975, AT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

PHILADELPHIA AT PHILADELPHIA. WILL REMAIN ALERT FOR ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING AUGUST 26, 1975, VIGIL RE SILKWOOD CASE.

OKLAHOMA CITY - SAME LEAD AS PHILADELPHIA.

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

U.S.Government Printing Office: 1972 — 455-574

FD-448 (10-28-71)

Transmit attached by Facsimile – PLAINTEXT Priority URGENT

RCW

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005) Date: 8/25/75
ATTENTION: [redacted] ROOM 5152JEH
From: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P) Time: Transmitted –

Subject: UNSUB;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LMRDA - OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Received –

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☒ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph

☐ Artists Conception ☐ Other _____

☐ (6 min) ☐ (4 min)

Special handling instructions:

Approved: _____

Searched ___
Serialized ___
Indexed ___
Filed ___

157
159-45-156
36

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P) DATE: 8/26/75

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA - OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

ReButelcall to Oklahoma City, 8/6/75.

[redacted] Unit Chief Labor Unit, FBIHQ, Room 5152JEH, telephonically contacted the Oklahoma City Office on 8/6/75 at 2:50 p.m., at which time he indicated that he had inquiry from the Department who was responding to an inquiry relative to captioned case under the Freedom of Information Act. b6 b7C

[redacted] advised that in order to respond to this inquiry, he would need a copy of SA [redacted] memorandum of 5/8/75 (Serial 145 of this file) and requested that same be furnished by telecopier addressed to him at FBIHQ this date. b6 b7C

SEARCHED.....INDEXED
[redacted] b6 b7C

LJO:jlw
(2)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108-02

159-45-158

9/2/75

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005)

FROM: SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45)(P)

UNSUB;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (DECEASED)
LMRDA - OOJ
OO: OKLAHOMA CITY

For information of the Bureau, at Oklahoma City on the morning of August 29, 1975, a local news broadcast was heard during which a female identified as chair woman of the Oklahoma City chapter of the National Organization of Women, (NOW) was designating 11/13/75 (The first anniversary of the death of KAREN GAY SILKWOOD) as a national day of mourning and would have demonstrations that date at various places throughout the United States commemorating this event.

No specific information was given as to where these demonstrations would occur.

This spokeswoman also alluded to "new" information in possession of NOW regarding SILKWOOD's accident and contamination incident.

Oklahoma City, as of dictation of this communication, has not been contacted by NOW in regard to any "new" information. A review of local news media during period 8/29 - 9/2/75, has not developed any additional information regarding proposed NOW demonstrations.

It is anticipated that demonstrations relative to SILKWOOD could be held at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation, Cimarron Facility, Crescent, Oklahoma. Liaison with KMC security has failed to develop any additional information regarding proposed NOW demonstrations.

Searched ____
Serialized ____ b3
Indexed ____ b7E
Filed ____

2- [redacted] (2-159-4005) [redacted]
3- [redacted] (2-159-45) [redacted]
LJO/mm (6)

159-45-159

OC 159-45

By separate communication within the Cimarron Facility control file, the Bureau has been requested to resolve aspects of trespassing violation under the AEA.

Oklahoma City will remain alert for any additional information regarding proposed NOW demonstrations re SILKWOOD and advise Bureau by appropriate communication.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

NOW plans to form Media Task Force

Arising from complaints that sexism exists in the local media, the Norman Chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) will form a Media Task Force Tuesday.

Also to be discussed at the 7:30 p.m. meeting will be a decision concerning action to be taken following the national organization's guidelines on the Karen Silkwood case.

The meeting will be at Unitarian Universalist House, 737 DeBarr.

Silkwood died in what was termed a mysterious auto accident last summer. Silkwood had voiced several complaints about what she said were unsafe practices at the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant near Crescent OK. The NOW organization feels that there was a coverup of the case.

NOW Publicity Coordinator Jeanette Darnauer Merritt explained that the formation of the Media Task Force is a result of a feeling that sexism exists in the local media and "our desire to create public awareness of the situation and improve it."

Anyone with examples of sexism in the local media is requested to send the information to the Norman NOW chapter.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

8 The Oklahoma Daily
Norman, Oklahoma

Date: September 9, 1975
Edition: Daily
Author:
Editor:
Title: Karen G. Silkwood; Kerr McGrr Corporation Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
SEP 11 1975
OKLA. CITY

b6
b7C

159-45-160

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P) DATE: 9/16/75

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LMRDA - OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

On 8/28/75, SA [redacted] was telephonically contacted by [redacted] telephone number [redacted] who advised she was in a leadership position of the National Organization of Women (NOW) and that she was among those persons who participated in the 8/26/75, NOW - U. S. Department of Justice meeting. b6 b7C

[redacted] advised she was interested in determining the exact date and circumstances that the FBI obtained paint scrapings from SILKWOOD's car. She advised that it was her understanding that these paint scrapings for some reason were not examined by the FBI Laboratory. b6 b7C

[redacted] was advised by SA [redacted] that information in regard to this particular matter could not be divulged inasmuch as the investigation is still ongoing. She was advised that the paint samples were indeed transmitted to the FBI Laboratory where they were examined and the results of this examination have been included in investigative report submitted to the U. S. Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office. She was advised by SA [redacted] that the investigation relative to the SILKWOOD contamination incident has not been closed contrary to such statements which recently appeared in the media. She was advised that every aspect of the captioned case and the contamination incident had been thoroughly investigated and the results of this investigation reported. b6 b7C

SA [redacted] referred [redacted] to various public source information such as AEC and ERDA reports and the OHP report relative to the SILKWOOD accident. [redacted] stated she had much of this material available but had not yet studied it in any detail. b6 b7C

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____
SEP 1 [illegible]
FBI — OKLAHOMA

29

159-45-161

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5010-108-02

SA [redacted] informed [redacted] that the FBI would welcome information from any source, including the NOW organization, relative to any new leads in regard to both captioned case and the SILKWOOD contamination incident. SA [redacted] asked [redacted] if she had any information in this regard which she desired to furnish at this time. [redacted] indicated that she did not. b6 b7C

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/22/75

[redacted] Oklahoma Department of Highways, furnished the following information: b6 b7C

A contract was let to pave Oklahoma State Highway 74 northward from the Oklahoma-Logan County line during September, 1973. The work for this portion of the highway was completed on February 25, 1974. Six miles of State Highway 74 had been paved during the course of this contract.

A separate contract was let on July 26, 1974 for Project MC 42(54) to pave another section of State Highway 74 northward from the previously completed six mile project.

Work on this second contract actually started December 9, 1974 and was completed January 28, 1975.

The portion of State Highway 74 covered by this second contract extended northward from a point three and one-half miles south from the intersection of State Highways 74 and 33 to a point two miles north of 74-33 intersection.

This contract was let to the Evans and Throop Company and called for the application of one and one-half inches of asphaltic concrete to the previously existing road surface. This work also included paving of the highway centers. The bid price of this second contract was $110,187.00.

Interviewed on 9/12/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] /jr Date dictated 9/18/75 b6 b7C

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159-45-162

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Silkwood Documents Sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — National Public Radio asked a federal court Monday to order the Justice Department to surrender documents relating to the death of an Oklahoma plutonium worker.

The worker, Karen Silkwood, died in a car accident while on her way to a meeting with a New York Times reporter and an official of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union.

She reportedly had promised to deliver documents at that meeting substantiating her charges about health and safety violations at the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation's facility at Crescent, Okla.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol found that the crash was an accident.

National Public Radio said the purpose of the suit was to force the Justice Department to give up documents relating to the Silkwood case.

"Dozens of rumors, many of them no doubt incorrect, surround every aspect of the Silkwood death and the Justice Department insistence on secrecy has only made the situation worse," said Ernest T. Sanchez, general counsel of the radio group.

National Public Radio describes itself as an inter-connected system of more than 180 noncommercial public radio stations.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11 The Daily Oklahoman
Oklahoma City, Okla

Date: September 30, 197
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Charles L. Bennett
Title: Karen Gay Silkwood
Kerr McGee Corporatio
Crescent, Oklahoma
Character:
or
Classification: 159-45
Submitting Office: Okla. City

☐ Being Investigated

27

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
OCT 1 - 1975
FBI

b6
b7C

159-45-163

DIRECTOR, FBI (159-4005) 9/22/75

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (C)

UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LMRDA; OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City airtel and LHM, 7/25/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of LHM being furnished to United States Attorney, Oklahoma City.

Enclosed LHM in part sets forth results of interview with [redacted] who was among the first three persons on the scene of SILKWOOD's fatal accident 11/13/75. Results of interview with [redacted] two companions have been previously reported by referenced airtel and LHM. b6 b7C

On 8/28/75, case agent [redacted] received an unsolicited telephone call from [redacted] telephone number (202) 722-0827 of the National Organization of Women (NOW). It was known to SA [redacted] that one [redacted] was the [redacted] of NOW's protest relative to SILKWOOD. [redacted] advised that she was among those persons who participated in the 8/26/75, NOW - U.S. Department of Justice meeting. [redacted] requested information relative to the status of FBI investigation relative to the various SILKWOOD matters and questioned the thoroughness in which any FBI investigation was conducted. [redacted] was advised that all investigation conducted by the FBI relative to the various SILKWOOD matters has been reported to the United States Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office, Oklahoma City, and she was assured that every aspect relative to the SILKWOOD matter has been thoroughly investigated by the FBI and reported as described above. [redacted] was advised that information concerning ongoing FBI investigations could not be divulged and it was suggested to her to recontact the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. in the event she had any unresolved questions. SA [redacted] informed [redacted] the FBI would welcome information from any source including the NOW organization relative to [redacted] b6 b7C

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
1 - Oklahoma City
LJO:pwo
(3)

FILE TO BE DESTROYED

Serialized [redacted]
Indexed [redacted]

15

159-45-163(A)

any new leads regarding captioned case or any of the other related SILKWOOD cases including the SILKWOOD contamination incident. SA [redacted] asked [redacted] if she had any information in this regard that she wished to furnish at this time. [redacted] indicated that she had no information in this regard. b6 b7C

Inasmuch as all investigation in this matter has been completed and reported, Oklahoma City is placing this case in closed status. In the event additional instructions are received from the Bureau or the Department requesting additional investigation in this matter or in the event information is received relative to substantial information of value pertaining to new leads in this matter, the case will be reopened and any necessary investigation conducted.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
September 22, 1975

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD (Deceased)
LABOR - MANAGEMENT REPORTING
AND DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959;
OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE

[redacted] Set forth below is results of interview of [redacted] who was among the first individuals on the scene of Silkwood's fatal accident November 13, 1974. Also set forth is an interview with an official of the Oklahoma Department of Highways who provided information relative to the repaving of Oklahoma State Highway 74 on which road the Silkwood fatal accident occurred.

b6
b7C

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[redacted]

b6
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6 - Bureau
1 - USA, Oklahoma City
1 - Oklahoma City (159-45) (C)
LJO:pwo
(8)

159-45-163

FD-302 (REV. 11-27-70)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/19/75

[redacted] furnished the following information: b6 b7C

On the evening of November 13, 1974, he traveled from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to [redacted] Oklahoma. Earlier on November 13, 1974, he was working at his then new residence [redacted] assisted by one of his employees, [redacted] 14 year old brother-in-law, [redacted] where they all had been engaged in making the house ready for occupancy. b6 b7C

After they concluded work at the residence they drove a little distance north and ate a brief evening meal in the McDonald's Hamburger stand on N. Hwy. After their meal they continued on northward toward [redacted] traveling on Oklahoma State Highway 74. He was driving his pickup truck and [redacted] were following along a short distance behind with [redacted] driving a one ton dual wheel truck. He cannot recall the exact time of day but it was shortly after sundown on November 13 that they came upon a wreck. As he recalls they had driven but a few miles from Oklahoma City when it became necessary to turn on the truck headlights. Thereafter they traveled a short distance and he noticed that [redacted] behind him was flashing his headlights from high to low beam. He first thought that some object had fallen off his pickup truck and [redacted] was trying to alert him to this fact so he turned around and went back to where [redacted] had stopped along the highway. b6 b7C

[redacted] had stopped some seven mile south of Crescent, Oklahoma, on State Highway 74. [redacted] had discovered a wrecked car lying in a culvert alongside the road. He had passed this same wrecked car and had not noticed it. Apparently [redacted] could more readily see this wreck than he could since [redacted] was driving a larger vehicle and sat at a higher distance off the road. b6 b7C

When he found out there was a wrecked car in the culvert he pulled off the east side of State Highway 74 and drove his pickup right to the edge of the culvert with his headlights shining in a southerly direction. Because of the difference in elevation his headlights did not clearly illuminate

Interviewed on 9/14/75 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 159-45

by SA [redacted] :dah Date dictated 9/16/75 b6 b7C

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the wreck and he was unable to tell if there was anyone in the wrecked car. Neither he nor [redacted] had a flashlight in their respective vehicles. He thereafter told [redacted] to drive the one-ton truck around to the south side of the culvert and put the truck with its back end on the east bank so the truck lights would be deflected downward into the culvert. After [redacted] moved the truck he was able to see that there was an arm protruding through the car window. The arm was motionless. Both he and [redacted] had hollered down to the car and had gotten no response. b6 b7C

As he recalls it was at about this time two other persons stopped at the wreck scene. One of these two individuals had a flashlight. One of the two individuals said he thought he recognized the car as belonging to a Kerr McGee employee and this individual took the flashlight and went down to the wreck and looked inside the car and said that he believed that the girl in the car worked at the Kerr McGee plant. It was about this time that he left the wreck scene, turned his truck around, and drove about 1½ miles north to the intersection of State Highway 74 and State Highway 33 to a crossroads grocery-gas station where he made a telephone call from an outside pay station. The station as he recalls was closed at this time.

He called the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Dispatcher in Oklahoma City. He made the call utilizing his company telephone credit card. He informed the dispatcher as to the location of the wreck and the fact that there was an injury-type incident and both a wrecker and ambulance would be needed. Upon completion of his telephone call he returned to the scene and found that some other persons had stopped at the wreck, including a carload of Negroes who appeared to be in a drunken condition. It seemed like only some five minutes had elapsed since he made the telephone call until the Oklahoma Highway Patrol arrived on the scene and immediately after the Highway Patrol a Guthrie ambulance arrived.

The wrecked car was lying on its left side in the culvert and he assisted those present in rolling the car over to its wheels. He also assisted in opening

the driver's door which was jammed shut. A porta-power tool was used. The occupant of the car was removed from the car and thereafter placed in the ambulance. About the time that the ambulance departed the scene a wrecker arrived. Thereafter he checked with the Highway Patrol Trooper to see if he and his companions could be of any further assistance and thereafter found that they could not, therefore, they all left the scene and continued on to [redacted] b6 b7C

When he first arrived at the accident scene he noted that the tracks of the wrecked vehicle were clearly visible for a great distance down the bar-ditch on the east side of the road. These tracks were well illuminated by the lights of [redacted] truck. The tracks as far as he could see them up the bar-ditch, which was almost to the intersection of the section line road about ¼ mile north of the accident site, were straight and uninterrupted. It appeared to him that the driver of the wrecked car made no effort to brake or to change the direction of the car until a couple of feet in front of the culvert wall. At this point he noticed that the tracks made by the wrecked car turned slightly back west toward the road. b6 b7C

At the time that he made these observations in regard to the tire tracks no other vehicles other than his truck had crossed the wrecked car's tire tracks.

At the time the female wreck victim was removed from her car he noted that blood on her face had dried. This indicated to him that the wreck had occurred at least 30 or 45 minutes prior to its discovery by [redacted] b6 b7C

He drives each year well over 100,000 miles. Based on his experience it appears to him that the November 13, 1974, wreck was the result of a driver falling asleep at the wheel and thereafter running off the road. He is aware that some controversy had arisen surrounding the circumstances of this particular wreck. If the driver of the wrecked car had in fact been forced off the road it seems to him that there would have been some visible signs of the driver fighting for control of the car and making efforts to stop the car. There were several options

available to the driver other than going into the culvert. The driver could have driven off into the field and come to a safe stop and certainly had the opportunity to have returned the vehicle to the road and come to a safe stop.

In regard to any items in the vicinity of the car wreck the only items he can recall scattered on the ground were some of the contents of the driver's purse, such as cigarettes, cigarette lighter, et cetera. He does not recall having seen any quantity of papers or notebooks scattered around.

DIRECTOR, FBI 9/24/75

SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY [redacted] (P) b3 b7E

KERR MC GEE CORPORATION
NUCLEAR PRODUCTS DIVISION
CIMARRON FACILITY
CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA
AEA
OO: Oklahoma City

Re Oklahoma City letter to Bureau, 9/9/75.

For information of the Bureau, on 9/8/75, SA [redacted] when in contact with [redacted] Regulation and Control, Kerr Mc Gee Nuclear Corporation, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, verified the fact that the captioned facility is in the process of being shut down. b6 b7C

[redacted] advised that the entire facility including both the plutonium plant and uranium plant are going to be closed. This is a result of the fact that the company was unable to secure any additional contracts for the production of either uranium or plutonium fuel rods. b6 b7C

He anticipates that all work on the present and only existing plutonium contract will be completed by the end of 9/75 and the uranium contract will be completed on or about 11/1/75. He anticipates that both plants will be fully shut down and in a standby status by the end of 12/75.

[redacted] advised that there is some potential the plutonium plant would after some considerable modification possibly be reopened to handle the recycling of plutonium fuel rod assemblies; however, he believes there is little potential for the uranium plant to be opened again. His company is presently consulting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in regard to when the present safeguards and b6 b7C

3-Bureau
(1-159-4005)
4-[redacted] (1-159-45) b3 b7E

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(7)

Searched ____
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42-157-45-164

[redacted]

b3
b7E

security for the plutonium plant can be reduced inasmuch as there will be little reason for providing such protection to the plant once its operation is curtailed.

Oklahoma City will follow and keep the Bureau advised of any pertinent developments in this matter.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (159-45) (P) DATE: 10/28/75

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: UNSUBS;
KAREN GAY SILKWOOD
(DECEASED)
LMRDA - OOJ
OO: Oklahoma City

On 10/28/75, at 3:05 p.m., [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] Kerr McGee Corporation (KMC), telephonically advised that during the course of his investigation of a matter unrelated to SILKWOOD, he was in contact with Sgt. [redacted] Robbery-Homicide, Oklahoma City PD. During the course of this contact, he learned that [redacted] had a former relation, possibly an ex-brother-in-law, a [redacted] according to [redacted] was a witness to the actual accident which SILKWOOD had causing her death on 11/13/74, just south of Crescent, Oklahoma. It is his understanding that [redacted] at the time of the accident was involved in marital difficulties and may possibly have been in a compromising situation with a female and possibly was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the accident; therefore, he did not stop when the accident occurred.

[redacted] advised that it is his understanding that [redacted] had indicated that he saw the SILKWOOD car go off the road at a relatively low rate of speed, go into the ditch, and thereafter the lights went off. He apparently did not think it was a serious accident. b6 b7C

[redacted] advised that he has no intentions of attempting to locate and interview [redacted] at this time. He was bringing this possible eyewitness to the SILKWOOD accident to the attention of the FBI in view of their likely interest in this regard. b6 b7C

Review of the [redacted] telephone directory reveals that a [redacted] resides at [redacted] b6 b7C

LJO:mbs
(2)

I feel you should go to [redacted] and see what you can find out.

RE-O

[redacted] b6 b7C

5010-108-02

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