

# FBI Closes Probe Of A-Plant Case

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## Washington

The FBI has quietly closed a three-pronged investigation stemming from the death of Karen Silkwood, a union woman who was investigating safety at the Kerr-McGee plutonium plant in Oklahoma, it was learned yesterday.

The action came as House subcommittee investigators tried without success to obtain many FBI records on the case before hearings that begin today.

Investigators said the hearings will show that the "lack of follow-through" by the FBI and other agencies in the case raises questions about the ability of the government to respond to health and safety violations at nuclear facilities.

House staffer Peter Stockwood said the Kerr-McGee probe raised "serious questions as to whether the government is equipped to handle the impact of the enormous increase in the use of plutonium" expected in the near future.

The FBI previously reported it dropped its investigation into the Nov. 13, 1974, auto crash death of Miss Silkwood after finding no evidence of foul play. Miss Silkwood died en route to a meeting with a New York Times reporter. Her material collected at the Kerr-McGee plant was never found.

Some persons charged that Miss Silkwood, who had been contaminated with radioactive material, may have been murdered when



KAREN SILKWOOD  
Car crash victim

another vehicle bumped hers off the road.

The FBI had said it was still investigating two other aspects of the case — the disappearance of 400 pounds of plutonium and charges of illegal company interference in union activities.

UPI learned those two parts of the investigation have also been closed, with no action taken. Justice Department witnesses are expected to report that development this week in hearings before a House subcommittee on energy and environment headed by Representative John Dingell (Dem-Mich.).

United Press

For two earlier stories on Karen Silkwood, see SFChronicle 16 and 22 Nov 75, this file.

For later stories on Karen Silkwood see clippings on Mrs. Jacque Srouji, fired from The Nashville Tennessean, this file, beginning 8 May 76. See also NYT 6 Nov 76.