

*Chapter One: Introduction* provides an overview of the story, notes how the RTG program reflected a merging of space and nuclear technologies, and identifies major themes.

*Chapter Two: The Beginnings* covers the 1950s but flashes back from a significant public announcement in early 1959 to trace the beginnings of radioisotope power discovery and development.

*Chapter Three: Recognition of Potential* describes developments in 1960 and 1961, years of transition from the Eisenhower Presidency to that of Kennedy when the first RTGs were used in space satellites, and notes early safety concerns.

*Chapter Four: Golden Days* at the AEC covers the years 1962-1965 when a small group of people were intimately involved in the program, a reorganization which created the Space Nuclear Systems Division at the AEC, and the beginning of major growth in the program as it prepared to support APOLLO and other missions of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

*Chapter Five: Momentum from the Lunar Race* describes the years 1966-1970 when NIMBUS and the first APOLLO launchings occurred, with RTG developments and applications spurred by NASA's major space exploration goals while international and domestic unrest increased.

*Chapter Six: A Maturing Program* describes developments in the years 1971-1974, the PIONEER and last APOLLO missions, and technical accomplishments before major reorganizations at the AEC.

*Chapter Seven: Persistence Amid Change* completes the historical narrative by taking the program from 1975 to 1982, describes the VIKING missions and the Lincoln Experimental Satellite (LES) and VOYAGER missions, and covers major organizational changes within the AEC.

*Chapter Eight: Lessons and Challenges* presents important lessons in the history of a space-age R&D program and future projections for radioisotopic power in space.

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