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MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Atomic Energy) *Carl Walske*

SUBJECT: Proposal to Add the Secretary of the Interior to the Federal Radiation Council

The Executive Director of the Federal Radiation Council (FRC) has requested concurrence of the Council by telephone in a proposal that the Secretary of the Department of the Interior be appointed a member of the FRC.

Executive Order 10831, August 14, 1959, which established the FRC, appointed the Secretaries of Health, Education, and Welfare; Defense; Commerce; and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Public Law 86-373, September 1959, made the Council statutory, amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and at the instigation of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the Secretary of Labor was added. The President appointed the Secretary of Agriculture to the Council by letter in August 1962.

Arguments for:

1. Interior is the only agency with a member (Bureau of Mines) on the FRC Working Group, but no member on the Council.
2. Interior has become increasingly involved in matters concerning basic guidance for radiation protection. Specifically:
  - a. Statutory responsibility to promulgate safety standards for mines as specified in the "Metallic and Non-mettalic Mine Safety Act," PL 89-577.
  - b. The promulgation of water quality standards under the Water Quality Act of 1965 (as amended).

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c. Radiation exposure problems concerning the return of natives to their home islands on Bikini. (The Islanders were removed from the atoll as a result of our nuclear tests in the Pacific.)

d. Applications of nuclear technology to the development of natural resources (joint projects between the Department of the Interior and the Atomic Energy Commission) in water desalination, underground gas stimulation (Project Gasbuggy), underground storage spaces for natural gas (Project Ketch), and the recovery of minerals such as copper from low grade ore (Project Sloop). Standards for allowable concentrations or quantities of residual radioactive nuclides in the resultant consumer product may be needed.

3. The White House staff (BoB and OST) strongly urged approval at the latest FRC Working Group meeting.

Arguments against:

1. Some feel that the FRC is too large and cumbersome now to produce timely action.

If you agree with the proposal to add the Secretary of the Interior to the Council, I shall notify the Executive Director of the FRC of DoD concurrence. I recommend that we support the proposal.

Concur PHN.

Not Concur 23 DEC 1967.