

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THOMAS W. GEORGES, JR., M.D.  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

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HARRISBURG 17120

October 26, 1967

Mr. Paul H. Tompkins  
Executive Director  
Federal Radiation Council  
Washington, D. C. 20449

Mr. Tompkins:

In follow up to your correspondence with Dr. Richard H. Chamberlain, member of the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee on Atomic Energy Development and Radiation Control, I am hereby requesting that the Federal Radiation Council consider the problems of radioactive contamination of possible consumer products related to the Plowshare Program.

Of particular importance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the proposal by the Columbia Gas System Service Corporation and the Atomic Energy Commission to utilize nuclear explosives to create an underground gas storage cavity in Central Pennsylvania. The Atomic Energy Commission, in its feasibility report on the project, has been utilizing the maximum permissible concentrations in AEC regulations (Part 20) as the limiting concentrations on the amount of radioactive material in natural gas which would be allowed in the consumer's home.

For your information and consideration, I have enclosed copies of the feasibility study entitled "Project Ketch" and the review on the Phase I portion of this study which was performed by the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee.

We do not believe that the maximum permissible concentrations (MPC's) utilized by the AEC in Part 20 are applicable to the general population. You will note on Page 44 of the feasibility study, reference is made to the concentration of various radionuclides in the previously uncontaminated

It is requested that the Federal Radiation Council consider the problem of consumer product contamination and that, in association with the National

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Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, a recommendation be developed for maximum permissible concentrations of added radioactive materials in natural gas.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. I will appreciate hearing from you concerning the action anticipated by the Federal Radiation Council in this matter. If more information is needed, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

*Thomas M. Gerusky*

Thomas M. Gerusky, Chief  
Radiological Health Section

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Enclosures (2)