



COMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL WARFARE

1949

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Dugway

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, CHEMICAL CORPS

Attention: Chief, Research and Engineering Division (Major Lewis)

Subject: FY 1951 Facility Proposal W03-1, CEBAR
Proving Establishment.

References: (a) RDB 138/1, Instructions for RDB Form 4,
28 October 1948.
(b) EC 205/1, Interim RDB Internal Procedure for
the Consideration of Research and Development
Establishment, Facility and Supporting Utility
Proposals, 24 August 1948.

1. At its meeting on 25 August 1949, the Panel on Programs adopted the following motions by unanimous vote. All members were present or represented.

Moved: That a large scale proving ground for CEBAR is urgently needed.

Moved: That the Panel recommend the area known as the Dugway-Wendover area as the most suitable site for the large scale CEBAR proving ground, in accordance with the AFSWP and Nolan committee surveys.

2. No letter of coordination from the Air Force had been received by Logistics Division, GSUSA at the time of the panel meeting. AF representatives present voiced objections to the proposed establishment on the following grounds not previously advanced:

- a. Such portions of the program under the headings Type Testing (TT) and Operational Evaluation (OE)--see par. 7D, reference (a)--as relate to air munitions are considered to be Air Force functions, and are included in the planned program of the proposed Air Force Armament Center at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida. Facilities to be requested include laboratories to support the necessary tests of HW and CW air munitions.

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- b. Wendover Air Force Base is being declared surplus, and will be available to Army. Economies might be effected by locating the headquarters area of the CERAR Proving Establishment at the Wendover AF Base.

3. The following motion was passed by an 8 to 2 vote, the members from Chemical Corps, Army against the motion.

Moved: With the understanding that the Wendover Air Force Base will be declared surplus and will be available for consideration in this case, it is recommended that the CERAR Facility Proposal WDB-1 be disapproved, that it is the sense of this meeting that there is a need for facilities for carrying out this objective, and that this proposal be returned to the sponsoring agency for further study and coordination with the other Military Departments. It is further recommended that a new proposal be prepared in time for presentation to the Committee on Chemical Warfare at its next meeting on 23 September 1949.

Under the provisions of paragraph 2 B(7), reference (b), and in accordance with the Panel action above, CERAR facility proposal WDB-1 is returned herewith.

4. For additional guidance, it should be pointed out that quite aside from the question of possible economies in construction and/or operation through utilization of existing facilities at Wendover AF Base, civilian members of the Panel were critical of the proposal as presented. The size and personnel requirements seemed excessive in relation to total Chemical Corps R&D facilities and staff. The fear was expressed that such an establishment could not be staffed or operated without seriously unbalancing the total research and development program of the Chemical Corps, unless additional allotments of personnel and funds could be obtained.

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 H. N. WATSON
 Executive Director

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