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IN REPLY REFER TO:

EM:CLD

July 5, 1956

Dr. Thomas H. Shipman
 Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
 P. O. Box 1663
 Los Alamos, New Mexico

Dear Tom: -

This is in response to your letter of June 18. Question 1 is answered easily. The Los Alamos Monitors' Handbook is a little gen and when it is revised in the light of what would appear to be impending changes in the maximum permissible levels for external exposures I would hope that you could continue to make copies available as you have in the past. Although it might relieve you somewhat of the responsibility if it were published here under Division of Biology and Medicine auspices I can see two good reasons why this would not be desirable. One, it would require official endorsement by a number of interested Divisions which might delay its reproduction, and two, being a Los Alamos document rather than a government document it would, as has been demonstrated in the past, be much more acceptable and palatable. As to your second question, I fail to see any particular problem with respect to the administration of tracer doses of materials to human volunteers with four provisos: one, that these are true tracer doses and fall well below by an order of magnitude or two ~~an~~ an amount which could result in something comparable to a continued maximum permissible body burden. The other three provisos are those you have suggested, namely, that the procedure be approved by a senior medical officer of the institution, that the subjects are bona fide volunteers and fully informed as to the procedure involved; and that the procedure be carried out under the supervision of a responsible physician who is licensed to practice in that locality. I think the context within which Shields made very strong statements decrying experimental use of volunteer human subjects was one in which there was tremendous pressure being put on both the AEC and the DOD to permit large doses of whole body radiation exposure in human volunteers, that is, hundreds of r to determine the dose levels at which nausea and vomiting would occur, impairment of work capacity and gross hematological change.

Sincerely yours,



Charles L. Durham, M.D.
 Director, Division of
 Biology and Medicine

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