

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20545

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August 7, 1964

Dear Dr. Hodges:

Following the recent hearings on the 1965 budget for the Atomic Energy Commission before the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the Committee (Report No. 1332, p. 31) reduced the Biology and Medicine request by \$1,000,000. The following statement was given by the Committee in support of this action:

"The Joint Committee has reduced the authorization requested by the AEC by the amount of \$1 million to a total of \$79 million for fiscal year 1965. Although modest, this reduction, in part, reflects the Committee's concern with respect to the management of 'offsite' contracts administered by the Washington office. One-third of the funds expended in the biology and medicine research program support 700 contracts of this type, many of a continuing nature.

It is understood that research in the life sciences proceeds at what might be termed a modest pace and that, therefore, review of individual projects can justifiably be undertaken on an infrequent basis. However, the Washington staff of the Division of Biology and Medicine has only a few scientists available to devote time to the review of offsite contracts. The Committee's action is intended to draw attention to an area in which it is likely that with proper emphasis on the review and administration of research contracts of this nature, the end product in terms of over-all accomplishment can be improved or at least achieved at lesser cost.

The Committee believes that the Commission should review the manner in which the biology and medicine program is being coordinated and cancel those contracts which are unnecessarily duplicative or which are not specifically directed toward the over-all objectives of the Commission's program."

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Dr. Fred J. Hodges

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In view of this statement it would be desirable, and this letter is to ask if it is possible, for the Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine to undertake a review of the offsite program of the Division, especially with respect to:

1. The procedures for selection of offsite projects to be supported.
2. The content of the DBM program to determine whether there are examples of unnecessary duplication of effort.
3. The pertinence of the research contracts to the over-all objectives of the Commission's program.
4. Any other comments the committee may wish to make with reference to the JCAE report.

The review could be made by a sub-committee of your selection or the whole committee. If, additionally, outside consultants are needed, arrangements can be made for them.

With regard to item 2 above, you may recall that there was a recent ad hoc committee review of the entire genetics program and a report made available to your committee. Similar reviews have been made of other specific areas and one is scheduled during the coming winter for the marine sciences program. Full use of these reviews may be made by your committee.

It is desirable that a report on the committee's deliberations be available to the Atomic Energy Commission before the JCAE Authorization Hearings for the FY 1966 budget are held next spring.

I hope that you can undertake the examination asked for and if so, you may be sure that you will receive fullest cooperation from the Division of Biology and Medicine.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John G. Palfrey

Acting Chairman

Dr. Fred J. Hodges  
University of Michigan Medical Center  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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