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August 1, 1968

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg  
 Chairman  
 U. S. Atomic Energy Commission  
 Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Dr. Seaborg:

The Advisory Committee for Biology and Medicine held its 125th meeting on July 8, 1968, at the Argonne National Laboratory, in connection with which it also met jointly with the AEC's General Advisory Committee. All members of the ACBM were present, along with Dr. Totter and other members of the staff of the Division of Biology and Medicine. The issues considered by the ACBM and by the GAC-ACBM joint meeting are outlined below.

Uranium Miners. The discussion focused upon the question of the appropriateness of the proposed permissible dose of 0.3 working level of radiation per month. The ACBM believes that the available information does not clearly indicate a relationship between lung cancer incidence and doses below 400 working level months. A prospective study, one in which a sample of uranium miners and suitable controls are followed for several years, may be needed. The ACBM conveyed the desirability of such a prospective study to the GAC.

Center for Human Radiobiology. The plan to relocate the continuing study of radium dial workers and related efforts from Massachusetts Institute of Technology to Argonne National Laboratory was reviewed. The ACBM is pleased to learn that the plan is gaining general acceptance and, especially, that the term "Human Radiobiology" is recognized as too broad for the delimited purposes of this study.

Reactor Siting. The GAC raised the question of the maximum acceptable dose to members of the population residing in the vicinity of a reactor. The present standard, used in design criteria, is 25 rem in the event of a reactor accident. Although the 25 rem dose was apparently taken out of context from a report of the National Committee on Radiation Protection, it is probably a reasonable maximum dose for a single emergency exposure. However, the ACBM took no definite position on the question.

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Other Topics. The joint meeting also heard about the latest developments in the AEC Civil Effects Program, the proposed Energy Center Concept, and the possible effects of underground weapon-testing on natural resources at Amchitka.

The ACBM is scheduled to meet next in Washington, D. C., on September 13-14, 1968.

Sincerely yours,

Earl L. Green  
Chairman, Advisory Committee  
for Biology and Medicine

OFFICE ▶	ACBM <i>ELG</i>	BM DIRECTOR	BM DEP DIR			
SURNAME ▶	GREEN:RME	TOTTER	STORER			
DATE ▶	8/1/68	8/2/68	8/2/68			