

326 US ATOMIC ENERGY

COMMISSION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Collection: *Biology of Medicine*

TO THE

UNITED STATES ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

711384

Box

2

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Folder

8

November 28, 1969

GI RECORD COPY

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 131st meeting at the Savannah River Laboratory on November 14 and 15, 1969. ACBM members present were Drs. Cohen (Chairman), Moseley (Vice-Chairman), Bale, Haagen-Smit and Stout and Dr. Patt (Scientific Secretary).

The ACBM spent the morning of November 14 listening to reports from the staff on 1) thermal monitoring of the Savannah River water shed; 2) studies of thermal effects on stream biota and pond plankton; and 3) tritium dispersal and distribution in water and soil and in flora and fauna.

The first part of the afternoon consisted of three reports by staff members from the University of Georgia-Savannah River Ecology Laboratory dealing with thermal effects on population dynamics of turtles, large mouth bass and alligators. ACBM was then taken on a tour of some of the laboratories and field stations.

The ACBM met the next morning with K. E. Herde (AEC-Savannah River Operations Office) and C. M. Patterson and R. S. Carter, of the Dupont-Savannah River Laboratory to discuss the current importance of directed studies relating to thermal problems associated with reactor operations. Because the ACBM meeting was not set up originally with the proper security considerations, certain kinds of information were not made available to the ACBM. In order for ACBM to be more completely informed in this regard, it was agreed that Mr. Patterson would attend our meeting in January 1970 to present additional information.

In the executive session which the ACBM held in the forenoon of November 15 it was recognized that the ecology program now under way at the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory under sponsorship of the University of Georgia and supported with funds from the Division of Biology and Medicine was predominantly oriented to graduate student projects. ACBM feels that there is need for a more sophisticated, mission-oriented ecology program commensurate with the unusual opportunities available at this site. In view of

1071479

Dr. G. T. Seaborg

- 2 -

November 28, 1969

the urgent need for ecological information in connection with thermal and radiation effects associated with power reactor developments, efforts should be made to support a more vigorous ecological program with clearly designed objectives. It was agreed that the Savannah River Plant offers many unique opportunities for gaining this needed important basic information.

The ACBM discussed the question as to the manner in which radiation standards are developed and applied. It was agreed that Mr. Lauriston Taylor, of the NCRP, should be invited to the January meeting of the ACBM to discuss this matter with the Committee.

The role and responsibility of the ACBM in the matter of biological radiation standards and related problems was discussed at some length with AEC Headquarters personnel.

The ACBM heard reports from Dr. Totter relating to current DBM matters, from Mr. Deal on civil defense, from Mr. Stanwood on the current budget situation and from Dr. Bruner on his progress in developing a comprehensive review on the known biological effects of tritium.

Additional matters discussed during the executive session related to 1) the resignation of Dr. Stead from ACBM and the need for a replacement for him; 2) the announcement that Dr. Schull, a geneticist, would join the ACBM in the near future; 3) plans for a review of the program at UCLA by a subcommittee of the ACBM early in February 1970 at the time of the meeting of the Bio-Medical Program Directors at UCLA and 4) tentative plans for the ACBM meeting in May at Battelle-Northwest Laboratories, Richland, Wash.

The ACBM agreed that the major agenda item of its next and future meetings would continue to be that of thermal and radiation problems associated with nuclear power plants.

Sincerely,



Philip P. Cohen, M.D.
Chairman, Advisory Committee
for Biology and Medicine