

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

326 US ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION

IN REPLY REFER TO:

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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Honorable Lewis L. Strauss
Chairman
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Strauss:

RG	US DOE ARCHIVES November 22, 1954
Collection	<i>Division of Biology + Medicine</i>
Box	<i>1</i>
Folder	<i>9</i>

I regret the delay in reporting to you on the June meeting of the Advisory Committee on Biology and Medicine. I was out of the country most of the summer and only now am I beginning to make substantial headway on the mound of paper that awaited my return.

It was a pleasure to welcome as guests my old colleagues, Dr. Hastings and Dr. Wearn, who were thoughtfully invited by Dr. Bugher to attend the final meeting I would chair.

I am enclosing a copy of the agenda of the meeting which, as you will observe, covered a great variety of subject matter. There are three items, in particular, that I feel are appropriate to be called to your attention. They concern the genetics program of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Japan, the progress of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Eniwetok, and the need for certain specific research in protective construction as it relates to the civil defense program.

Genetics Program of ABCC. Dr. Earl Green reported on the genetics program of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission, following his visit to Japan in April, 1954. The basic question in the minds of the staff of ABCC is how long the Commission may be expected to continue its support of research in Japan and the disposition of the scientific data. The Committee supports the view of the Division of Biology and Medicine that the AEC is committed to leave the basic data in Japan, even though we have duplicate compilations in the United States. Fundamentally, ABCC is a joint effort of mutual interest to the Governments of the United States and Japan. The Committee is also of the view that the program in Japan and its counterpart in the United States necessarily must be considered of a long range nature. This follows not only from the genetics considerations but because of the possibility of delayed somatic effects, that is, results of exposure which may manifest themselves some 30 to 45 years after initial exposure.

Eniwetok Marine Biological Laboratory. We were pleased to learn from Dr. Bugher that the Marine Biological Laboratory at Eniwetok has become a vital link in the whole marine biological program. Initially we were concerned about obtaining suitable personnel to man the laboratory. Now, however, the problem seems to be one of restricting the number of persons who would make use of it. It has proved to be an exceedingly valuable facility.

Received in Office of General Manager

DEC 6 - 1954
Date: *DEC 6 - 1954* Time: *A.M.*

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Research in Protective Construction. The Committee was provided a report on the current federal civil defense program with emphasis being given to those phases of particular interest to the AEC. We were profoundly impressed with the changing concept of tactical dispersal, evacuation, and essential protective measure flowing from certain new phenomena of high yield weapons. Our attention was invited to the need for basic research and a major effort on protective construction, giving particular consideration to aerodynamic principles associated with dynamic pressures. While the Committee is not certain that the AEC is the appropriate agency to assume full responsibility for such research, we are unanimous in the belief that such research should be undertaken, and that the AEC should at least provide the initial stimulus.

Now that I have attended my last meeting, as a member for several years and as chairman for one year, I hope that I may be permitted to make certain broad observations, which, although possibly superfluous, are nevertheless considered and sincere.

Over the years I have visited most of the major AEC installations and have had the opportunity of meeting numerous AEC and contractor employees. I have found the Commission and its contractors and their employees to be exceptionally vigorous, conscientious, and unstinting of their time and effort.

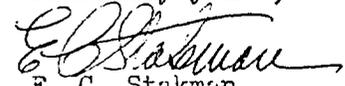
I hope that I may not be considered presumptuous when I say that it is deeply gratifying to a scientist and citizen to have so much and such concrete evidence of scientific and sociologic vision as I have observed on the part of the Commission itself and its personnel. I have said repeatedly to individuals throughout the country that it is very heartening to realize that a governmental agency with the tremendous responsibilities of the AEC still has time to develop over-all vision and devise ways of translating the vision into reality.

As concerns the members of the staff of the Division of Biology and Medicine, I have never had more intellectually stimulating, personally pleasant, and, in my opinion, productive relations with a similar group. It is a reflection of the general attitude and wisdom of the Commission to man a Division with men of such intelligence, ability, and character.

Finally, I want to express to you my very deep personal appreciation for the opportunity of having met and associated with you. This association was not only pleasant to me personally, but it also gave me a sense of security to realize that so important a field of work as that of the AEC was in such good hands.

Enclosure: Agenda

Sincerely yours,


E. C. Stakman

DOE ARCHIVES

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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Handwritten notes:
12/13/54
12/13/54

Via Secretariat for notification of Commissioners

TO: Mr. Nichols

Mr. Douglas

For appropriate handling (Copy of reply to Chairman)

For preparation of reply for Chairman's signature (Copy of reply to Secretariat)

For information

REMARKS:

*Talked with Mr. Shick
re reply - no reply necessary
see letter to & from Mr. Stalman
dated June 11, 1954 + June 24, 1954
RHW 12/13/54*

Please prepare acknowledgment or reply to all letters for the Chairman's signature within six working days.

*1. 12/17
2. 12/18/54*

12/13/54