

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
College of Arts and Science
Rochester, New York

Department of Physics

May 1, 1946

Major General L. R. Groves
F. O. Box 2610
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Groves:

The Interim Advisory Committee on Isotope Distribution Policy, appointed by the Manhattan District, appreciates the confidence you have placed in it and is cognizant of the great responsibility that it has assumed in aiding the District to establish a scientifically desirable national distribution of declassified isotopes. The Committee, having met with representatives of the District at your invitation on April 20, has arrived at some preliminary understandings, agreements, and recommendations.

Understandings.

It is the understanding of the Committee that: (1) final responsibility for the production, availability, and distribution of isotopes necessarily rests with the administrative agency, the Manhattan District; (2) the District desires to follow policies advised by the Committee on the distribution and allocation of isotopes for non-project researches, wherein no direct interests of the District are involved, and, in following such policies, to be supported by the Committee; (3) recommendations to the District will be welcomed from the Committee on other matters concerning declassified isotopes than on distribution policy, but that for the present these are not to be considered the prime function of the Committee; (4) distribution to requestors within the armed services or to requestors outside the United States is not to be a present concern of the Committee; (5) the District wishes the Committee to serve for the interim period until establishment of the future administrator of the Project, does not wish to establish long term policies or make commitments which would unduly prejudice the policies or affairs of the future governing agency of the Project.

Agreements.

The Committee agrees: (1) to serve as an interim advisory body with the above understandings concerning the relative responsibilities and commitments of the District and the Committee; (2) to aid the District with all possible dispatch and cooperation to arrange for a workable procedure and suitable policies to effect a scientifically and nationally desirable distribution of declassified isotopes; (3) to support the District on isotope distribution effected according to recommendations or policies advised by the Committee.

REPOSITORY Atlanta NARA
COLLECTION RG #326 (68-A1096
(OR Research Div.)
BOX No. 13
FOLDER Isotopes - 3

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Recommendations.

On the basis of the initial meeting, it is recommended by the Committee that:

1. Regarding Availability - The Manhattan District:

a. Proceed as promptly as possible to secure the necessary authorization, funds, facilities, and personnel to undertake a major program of production and distribution of radioactive and stable isotopes for use in research in pure and applied science, including medical science.

b. Proceed at once with the distribution of those few isotopes, even in limited quantities, as are now on hand or readily made available, such as C^{14} , P^{32} , S^{36} , and I^{131} .

c. Prepare for the Committee a list giving quantities and qualities of isotopes that will be available upon initiation of distribution, and further a more complete list of all declassified isotopes, giving approximate quantities and qualities, that may later be available from the District facilities.

2. Regarding Charges. - The Manhattan District:

a. Prepare in conjunction with the above lists a table of prices under which it is proposed to initiate non-project distribution.

b. Make a reasonable charge for all isotopes which is not greater than "out-of-pocket" costs to the District resulting from the additional production incurred by the non-project distribution.

c. Determine prices on the basis of anticipated perfected routine production processes and if necessary balance costs between some of the more expensive and some of the less expensive isotopes, so that research-program quantities of any important isotope will not be prohibitively expensive to the average scientific institutions.

d. Assess a flat minimum charge of up to \$50 for each isotope sample supplied, this charge to cover those costs incurred in administrative handling of requests, packaging of isotopes, and radiation hazard monitoring of shipments, etc.

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3. Regarding Organization for Allocation and Distribution.

a. All request should be initially received by the appropriate office of the Manhattan District, where a technical review should be initiated on each request in regard to all technical questions arising between the supplier and the requestor.

b. Each request would then be referred to an "Advisory Allocation and Distribution Board" nominated by the Committee and appointed by the District, said Board having the responsibility of advising on the allocation and distribution of isotopes according to the scientific value of the intended application and the qualifications of the requestor, and said board to operate under the supervision of the Policy Committee, and in conformity with its policies.

c. Each request for material for application in a human being would have to be referred by the Advisory Allocation and distribution Board to a "Medical Review Board" similarly nominated and appointed which would have final veto power on any distribution suggested for human application.

d. Small (3 to 10 members) "Panels of Consultants" in a number of specialized fields of possible applications of isotopes should be nominated by the Policy Committee and appointed by the District to serve as consultants without fee for the purpose of affording advice as deemed necessary on scientific matters connected with requests.

e. Manhattan Project members should not be excluded from membership in any of these groups and in many cases their membership would be greatly desired by the Committee. Project members so chosen by the Committee will be supported in their actions for the committee to the same extent as non-project members.

f. Effective liaison should be established between the Manhattan District technical office (or board) which handles non-project isotope requests and the associated advisory groups whose functions are set forth above. In particular, the Policy Committee should be kept informed regularly of the distribution being effected under its advised policies.

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4. Regarding Principles of Allocation.

a. Isotopes should be made available to individuals only through qualified institutions, the administration of the institution assuming the necessary financial and legal arrangements but the material being allotted specifically to the requestor.

b. Secondary distribution of isotopes should not be permitted unless indicated and authorized under the original request, or subsequently in writing through the accepted channels for requests.

c. Initial priorities should be established in the following order:

1. Publishable research in the fundamental sciences, including human applications, but requiring small samples.

2. Therapeutic applications in humans or publishable researches in the fundamental sciences, but requiring larger samples.

3. Educational and training purposes.

4. Publishable researches in the applied sciences.

5. All others.

d. The Committee not be given responsibility for advice on the allocation of isotopes for strictly commercial purposes, such as non-publishable or commercially-profitable applications in commercial organizations. The Committee wishes to restrict its concern to publishable researches and educational training in fundamental and applied sciences.

5. Regarding Information.

a. Certain information should immediately be furnished non-project scientists to accompany a proper program for isotope distribution; namely information on the:

1. Properties of declassified isotopes necessary for their proper use and measurement.

2. Toxicity of each radioisotope released for distribution.

3. Standards and instrumentation for proper radioactivity measurement.

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4. Types of declassified problems investigated by the health and biological groups.

b. Announcement of the release of declassified isotopes should be made initially in widely-circulated scientific journals, Science being a good example, prior to the start of actual distribution, thus affording an equal opportunity for all requestors. The announcement should contain statements on availability, prices, mechanism for requesting, organization for handling allocation and distribution, and principal policies governing distribution. Publication of the announcement can be timed to suit the District's program, but June first would be an excellent goal.

It is realized by the Committee that arrangements cannot be set up immediately to govern all the details that may arise after the start of the program, but it is deemed extremely important to initiate the desired distribution on an immediately workable basis and to proceed to establish further regulations as the need arises.

Your efforts in furthering this tremendously important program will be greatly appreciated by the Committee and by all the interested scientific groups of the nation.

For the Committee:

Very truly yours,

/s/

L. A. Du Bridge
Chairman.