

February 19, 1947

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Director, Field Operations  
 United States Atomic Energy Commission  
 P. O. Box E  
 Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Attention: Research Division

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Gentlemen:

This is to inform you that the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies was held in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on February 14 and 15, 1947.

At this meeting a draft of a possible contract between the Atomic Energy Commission and the Institute was reviewed by the Board. This draft had been prepared at the request of the Research Division of the Commission on the basis of Colonel K. D. Nichols' letter of 25 September 1946 to Dr. Frank P. Graham. In view of the severe limitations on the commitments which could be made by the Manhattan District at that time, it was the feeling of the Board that this draft contract did not represent the true interests of the Commission in the Institute and that the Board would not be able to carry out its functions and responsibilities under it.

The Board therefore decided not to sign this contract but to seek instead to obtain a letter of Intent from the Commission which would allow it to start its operations prior to the negotiation of an appropriate definitive contract. In order to lay a basis for such a letter of intent and eventual contract, the Board has prepared a statement of its views concerning the sphere of activity and objectives of the Institute. This statement is included with this letter. It is the desire of the Board that this statement be transmitted to the Commission since it summarizes as concisely as possible the purposes, activities, and general program established by the Board for the Institute.

In order to implement this course of action, I have cooperated with the Research Division in the preparation of a draft for a suitable letter of intent which, if issued, will allow initial steps to be taken toward the realization of the program set forth in the Board's statement. In order to clarify the nature of the commitments involved in the issuance of this letter of intent, the character of these initial steps is set forth in detail in an attached statement.

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It is desirable to point out that the Institute has commitments from its membership for the provision of funds of its own amounting to \$70,000 per year in the aggregate over a period of three years. The detailed steps outlined in the accompanying statement represent only those which would be charged against Government funds provided under the proposed letter of intent. Any educational or training programs undertaken by the Institute which are not directly related to authorized programs of the Commission will be supported from the Institute's own funds. Thus it is not contemplated that any expenses in connection with the administration of the Ph.D. graduate research program under 1 a in the accompanying statement, other than those for the headquarters office, will be charged against Government funds. The expense of operation of the University of Tennessee branch graduate school in Oak Ridge will continue to be borne from University or Institute funds. The full salary of the Executive Director will be paid by the Institute from its own funds.

Finally for convenience in review of this matter, copies of the Charter and the By-Laws of the Institute are included.

I trust that this letter and accompanying material will provide you with sufficient information for your purpose.

Very truly yours,

W. G. Pollard  
Acting Executive Director

WGP:ll

4 Incls.:

1. Statement of Board
2. Statement of Initial Steps
3. Charter
4. By-Laws