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FOLDER MHS-21 (LASL) June-Dec 1975

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J. L. Liverman, Director, BER

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH FRED GILLIES, REPORTER FOR THE DENVER POST

On June 11, 1975, I received a call from Fred Gillies of the Denver Post. I had previously had a conversation with Mr. Gillies while in Denver on February 27 during a meeting of medical directors of contractor facilities that participate in the Transuranium Registry. During that meeting, preliminary plans were developed for the epidemiologic follow-up study of plutonium workers to be conducted by LASL. Mr. Gillies and I discussed the prospective epidemiologic study in which he displayed great interest. He had previously written several hostile newspaper articles about the Rocky Flats Operation. However, the article that followed this conversation was neutral and factual.

The current inquiry from Mr. Gillies was in the nature of a request for a progress report on the epidemiologic study. Perhaps, the timing is related to the forthcoming visit of Dr. Liverman and General Giller to brief the Governor of Colorado next week. I informed Gillies of a meeting of Drs. Hutchison, Voels, Hempelmann and myself in Boston on May 16 to develop more detailed plans for the epidemiologic study that LASL is coordinating. In response to a question, I informed him that the primary study group of exposed workers is about 4,000 employees from 6 facilities and that control groups will be studied as well. I stated that the initial budget will be somewhere in the range of \$150,000-\$200,000. The data collection probably will not be started until about October of this year in view of the need to assemble an organization to carry out the study. In addition, preliminary results should not be expected for a year or two. The discussion was lengthy but amiable. Mr. Gillies requested that I keep him informed of further progress in the future which I agreed to do.

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bcc: N. F. Barr  
AAP rdg file

MHS-21  
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