from HPS in Feb, 1973
Plan 2 to 70 lack of [illegible]
combined samples, [illegible]
RBH (PS), JS (CEH), [illegible]
& LASL

(28)

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JUL 5 1973
R. E. ROWLAND
RADIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH DIVISION

July 2, 1973

Dr. Robert E. Rowland
Radiological Physics Division
Argonne National Laboratory
9700 South Cass Ave.
Argonne, Illinois 60439

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Bob,

I received a phone call early last week from Chet Richmond. He was concerned about not having any firm understanding with the Center for Human Radiobiology for the sharing of biological materials obtained from the Pu-injected people. I realize that the samples are small and the levels are low, but we have a moral obligation, as well as a scientific obligation to share these materials.

When I first began poking around in the published literature on these people, I enlisted Wright Langham's aid with the understanding that any profits would be shared. To that time it was his experiment, and I sought his permission, if you will, to continue the job. We agreed that at least two laboratories with high capability for very low level Pu bioassay should check eachother on these unique samples. The experience with Kelly (published in Health Physics 2, 326 (1960) -- who died in a criticality accident several years after exposure to Pu -- convinced Wright that at least two independent analyses were needed for valuable human samples.

I originally proposed to DBER when we thought that the management of the follow-up would be handled here in Berkeley that every specimen be divided into four roughly equal parts distributed as follows: Berkeley, Los Alamos, Battelle, permanent storage. I had seen how unreplaceable materials from the people injected at UC Hospital had been squandered and mismanaged with the end result of nearly losing the results altogether. Assay techniques today are so sensitive that fractions of dpm/day can be measured accurately so activity levels should pose no problems. In addition, the Los Alamos group want very much to run a fraction of these samples through the old methods that were used in the assay of the original early samples obtained from these people.

I realize that all I can do is to exert a little moral suasion, and hope that my arguments have been convincing. I am sending a cover letter and a copy to Robley Evans in hopes that his urgings will be added to mine. These are unique materials, and even if I had not had an agreement with Wright which I consider binding, scientific caution would dictate that we make the best possible use of them.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Patricia W. Durbin

1146401

cc. Chet Richmond
R. D. Evans

cc RBH
JR
AMR

PROVENANCE

REPOSITORY:	OFFICE OF HUMAN RADIATION EXPERIMENTS (OHRE)
COLLECTION:	PLUTONIUM INJECTION INVESTIGATION FILES (OHRE 1)
BOX:	3
FOLDER:	PLUTONIUM - CHR

1146401 A