

S. R. Sapirie, Manager
Oak Ridge Operations Office

January 4, 1960

C. L. Dunham, M. D., Director
Division of Biology and Medicine, Washington

REPORTS EVALUATING POTENTIAL HAZARDS OF NEPTUNIUM-237

SYMBOL: EHM:JFB

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

In order that the Division of Biology and Medicine may evaluate the potential hazards of and plan appropriate research with specific radioactive materials, it is necessary that the Division be informed of all pertinent information in each particular case.

In my memorandum of December 10, 1959, I requested copies of reports evaluating the Np-237 hazard. This request was based on the statement in the Carbide letter accompanying your memorandum of October 29, 1959. The letter, addressed to you and signed by Mr. L. B. Ealet, Manager of Production, contains the following statements:

"We also find some data to indicate a discrepancy in the presently accepted excretion rate by the human body," and

"While assisting in a search for information, Dr. A. G. Kammer of the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, indicated interest in doing the needed studies."

Dr. Kammer stated in his proposal:

"Since members of this department will continue to serve in a consultive capacity to the medical divisions of various atomic energy installations where this element may present a problem, we would propose that the investigation of be carried out by this department."

If indeed Dr. Kammer has any special knowledge of the situation that has been reported in writing to the Oak Ridge Operations Office or its contractors, I would greatly appreciate copies of these reports.

An integrated and well oriented research program responsive to the needs of the Commission is only possible when the Division of Biology and Medicine is aware of all the information from the field. Your assistance in securing this information, or in reporting the lack of such information, is urgently required by the Division of Biology and Medicine if our research planning is to progress speedily.

US DOE ARCHIVES 326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION RG Collect: <i>Don</i> Box <i>3379</i>	OFFICE	Medical Res. Director	MEDICINE HEALTH & SAFETY - 3-2	<i>Hazards Neptunium</i>
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