

April 23, 1959

Joseph F. Ross, M. D., Chairman and Director
 Dept. & Labs. of Nuclear Med. & Rad. Biology
 University of California School of Medicine
 10875 LeConte Avenue
 Los Angeles 24, California

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Joe:

Dr. Dunham has asked that I write you concerning the discussions in Dr. van der Smissen's letter of February 12, 1959.

I think it appropriate to review some relevant points. In the Fall of 1951 it was the Division of Biology and Medicine that first approached the U. S. Public Health Service and suggested that a close liaison be established for health and safety matters relative to nuclear weapons testing. Since then the Atomic Energy Commission has actively sponsored a continuation of this liaison. It was the AEC (through Albuquerque Operations Office) that approached the USPHS with a proposal that offsite monitoring around the Nevada Test Site be conducted by them (USPHS) under Letter of Agreement with the AEC, i.e. the AEC pays the cost. Since this contract continues to remain in effect it is no wonder that " - - - For the past test series the Public Health Service has done almost all of the offsite monitoring during and between tests." Incidentally, Dr. Libby was a motivating spirit in the expanded film badge program.

The Letter of Agreement between AEC and USPHS specifies certain required efforts. It is also intentionally broad enough to encourage recommendations for additional efforts. The Division of Biology and Medicine has recommended such additional efforts and we are pleased to note that some steps are now being taken in this direction.

Despite repeated discussions between appropriate members of the AEC and the USPHS it is unfortunate that there still remains confusion in the minds of some regarding the request for bone collections. Since human bone data were not available from around Nevada Test Site we asked the USPHS if they would make such collections at AEC expense.

US DOE ARCHIVES	
326 U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY	
COMMISSION	
Collection	DBM
Box	3378
Folder	21

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We indicated a need for a few samples at a very early date with the intent that this would be formulated later into a properly balanced program. Following this, an extremely elaborate proposal was submitted by the USPHS to AEC which finally was resolved into the present project.

In reply to your inquiry, we are always receptive to sound proposals. If you wish to explore the feasibility of such studies as you suggest we would be pleased to discuss them with you or members of your staff.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon M. Dunning, Chief
Radiation Effects of Weapons Branch
Division of Biology and Medicine

cc: Dr. van der Smissen, HEWUSPHS

OFFICE ▶	BMREW					
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DATE ▶	4/23/59					