

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : John C. Whitnah, Chief-
Program Coordination Branch, DBM

FROM : Robert L. Corsbie, Chief
Civil Effects and Liaison Branch, DBM

SUBJECT: TWX FROM ALBUQUERQUE ON NRDL REQUEST FOR RALA

SYMBOL: BMC:RLC

DATE: 11 September 1959

In extension of our conversation of yesterday this matter was discussed in telephone conversation with Dr. Paul Tompkins, Scientific Director, U. S. Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory, for clarification of subject communication.

NRDL wrote to E. C. Stewart, Albuquerque Operations Office, on 15 August requesting assistance in arrangements to obtain 100 curies of Ba 140, one-half life 12.5 days (RALA) per month on a continuing basis for use as a soil tag in conducting fallout studies at the new NRDL field location, Camp Parks, California. The work is a continuation of research in correlation of radioactive fallout from varying weapon yields started at NRDL some years ago. DBM funded that part of the program carried out at the Nevada Test Site in 1957, Operation PLUMBBOB, in some projects which proof-tested components of countermeasures systems. Personnel from all but one of our AEC Operations Offices participated in the Nevada tests which were directed to the practical applications of countermeasures in recovering a large installation following contamination from nuclear explosions.

The work now underway is of common interest to DBM and NRDL and is supported by and coordinated among OCDM, the Department of the Army, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Navy and the AEC. The work is related to the present CETO FY 60 and 61 projections at the Nevada Test Site.

As you were advised a review of the programs took place in San Francisco early this year. It was decided that no funding arrangements between DBM and NRDL were necessary or foreseen for FY 60. No DBM funds are involved in this request for RALA. As information, this is waste material usually dumped at our laboratories. Any costs associated with its use are for handling and transporting to permit use before the short half-life progresses beyond acceptable time limits. I think DBM should warmly endorse this request for assistance on the basis of it being a worthwhile project of especial significance in light of uncertainties on future weapons tests and no DBM funds are involved.

CC: C. L. Dunham, M. D., Director, DBM
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