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ARMY SERVICE FORCES
UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE
MANHATTAN DISTRICT
OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE

721277

26 March 1946.

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IN REPLY
REFER TO

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BOX No. RHTG # 168
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Dr. Charles Thomas,
P. O. Box 88, Station B,
Dayton 7, Ohio.

RHTG 22,943

BOX # 168

Dear Doctor Thomas:

A conference was held on 17 January 1946 for the purpose of reconsideration of the maximum permissible (tolerance) level for polonium which had been previously stated in a letter dated 23 June 1945, addressed to your office. The following personnel were in attendance:

- Dr. Robert S. Stone
- Dr. John F. Wirth
- Col. Stafford L. Warren
- Lt. Col. Hymor L. Friedell

No unanimity of opinion with regard to the daily permissible level for polonium was expressed. Dr. Stone and Dr. Wirth placed the tolerance below that of Col. Warren and Lt. Col. Friedell. In order to obtain concurrence of all members, it was therefore necessary to adopt the lowest level recommended. On this basis, it appeared that the highest daily permissible level is expressed by the following:

1. Anyone who has worked for 2 years or more with the material should not continue to do so unless or until the polonium content of his urine drops to such a level that there are less than 500 dis. per minute per 24 hour urine.
2. Anyone who has worked with polonium for less than 2 years should attempt to bring the polonium content of his urine below 500 level by taking precautions to avoid exposure and, if necessary, staying away from the possibility of contamination. He should not be retained on the work beyond a 2 year total if his urine level is not below 500 disintegrations, per minute per 24-hours output.
3. New personnel employed on or after 1 January 1946 should be considered as permanent employees. The tolerance limit of polonium for them should be 500 disintegrations per minute in their daily urinary output.

DECLASSIFICATION RECOMMENDED

Deane Fleming ORD
Name (ADC) - Organization
11/18/94
Date

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORIZED

MALCOLM THEISEN, ANALYSAS
Name (ADD) - Organization
11-16-94
Date

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It is recommended that effective 1 April 1946, the levels shown in subparagraphs 1, 2 and 3 supersede those indicated in the letter of 23 June 1945.

It is recognized that the biological data available is still incomplete and further experimental and observational data may indicate a change in the tolerance dose.

For the District Engineers:

Very truly yours,

Hyman L. Friedell
HYMAN L. FRIEDEL,
Lt. Col., Medical Corps.

I concur in the above statements:

DECLASSIFICATION RECOMMENDED

George Holmberg ORO
Name (ADC) - Organization
11/16/94
Date

STAFFORD L. WARREN
Colonel, Medical Corps

Robert S. Stone
ROBERT S. STONE

John E. Wirth
JOHN E. WIRTH

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