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SURVEY OF HEALTH HAZARDS

Radiation Laboratory, University of California
Berkeley, California

PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1944

E. R. Miller

DECLASSIFICATION RECOMMENDED

Mark Downing ORO
Name (ADC) - Organization

11/18/94
Date

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MALCOLM THEISEN, ANALYSIS
Name (ADD) - Organization

11/18/94
Date

Copies to:

- Dr. Warren
- Dr. Stone
- Mr. Fidler (2)

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1. Radiation Hazards

Beta and gamma-ray monitoring of Gilman Hall by film badges and by meter has shown no overexposures to radiation on the top floor where the work is carried out. More material will soon be available and rechecks will be continued.

One man accidentally laid his badge beside a solution for one night. This showed 16 maximum daily doses. Recheck showed no recurrence of any exposure.

2. 60" Cyclotron

This apparatus is being installed and will be a source of danger especially during the tuning period. Dr. Hamilton is keeping a very watchful eye on this group. The hazards are appreciated and steps for protection are being taken by Dr. Hamilton. The men will wear film badges. These will be developed each day. During the tuning period daily and twice daily counts will be made.

3. Product

Apparently much less of hazardous materials is being used in Building #18 (Gilman). There are still four rooms in which alpha counts have been carried out by Dr. Connick. These counts range from less than 50/min to as high as 1500/min per 50% geometry for 50 cm². There are many counts from 100 to 600/min. There is no product available for checking this. By this method of counting 7500 counts/minute = 1 microgram. It would seem that the product readings should be nearly zero in all the places checked so far.

One reason for this is extreme care that is used by everyone. Only experienced and careful chemists do the work. In centrifuges, all tubes are covered.

The recently available details about safe methods of handling product have been made known to Dr. Connick. It is absolutely essential that at least one plute be available here in the immediate future for proper and constant monitoring of this area. ✓

I feel that Dr. Connick is as careful as he can be, but, in common with many of the people on the project, they under rate the possible dangers. In going over the place it seems that they are more than usually careful about their technique.

The top floor of Gilman Hall is a mess from a housekeeper's standpoint. There had been no janitor service. The services of a part-time janitor were obtained so that now the floors are mopped with some regularity. This hardly touches the problem. The whole place should be painted and kept free of debris.

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ERM/r

E. R. Miller, M. D.

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