

Office Memorandum

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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NO. 8 OF 8 COPIES, SERIES A

DATE: May 23, 1947

TO : Colonel S. L. Stewart, Area Manager, Los Angeles, California

FROM : Walter J. Williams, Manager, Field Operations

SUBJECT: EXAMINATION OF FORMER EMPLOYEES HAVING EXPERIENCED HIGH DEGREE OF EXPOSURE TO PLUTONIUM

SYMBOL: AECT

Your memorandum dated May 14, 1947, together with inclosure of letter from Dr. N. E. Bradbury, has been received by this office.

There is in the Washington Office at the present time a recommended policy plan which will include, among other things, a proposed answer to the problem expressed in your and Dr. Bradbury's letters.

It is anticipated that some policy decision will be forthcoming from the AEC as a result of this plan. For your own information, certain provisions of this plan are given below and it is suggested that they not be directly transmitted to Dr. Bradbury at the present time.

The following are some of the recommendations applicable to your problem as taken from the plan:

"Medical Care. - 1. Continue examinations of employees by the contractor's medical department under criteria as present established.

"2. Effective immediately examine all terminating employees on the following basis:

a. Radiation exposures:

- (1) Those individuals accumulating a dose of 35-50 r gamma activity or its equivalent in one year should receive yearly physical

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examinations including indicated laboratory procedures.

(2) Those receiving radiation in excess of 50 r gamma activity or its equivalent should be examined as indicated by the amount received.

(3) Those receiving single acute radiation exposure in excess of 10 r gamma activity or its equivalent should receive examinations as indicated by the amount received.

b. Special Chemical Hazard Exposures:

(1) Those individuals receiving exposures to fissionable materials, Beryllium, fluorine, hydrofluoric acid, and fluorocarbons necessitating a visit to plant medical departments should be given yearly physical examinations after termination.

"3. Continue the present safety programs and safety education and provide for rapid changes in procedure as new information becomes available.

"4. Tabulate daily radiation exposures of each employee

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to insure keeping cumulative totals to the minimum consistent with safe operation.

"5. Where radiation hazards exist, provide the following:

- a. Free medical attention on the job with examination, etc., and continued observation for the duration of the individual's life. Quite apart from the effect on morale of either the individual or the group, this continued observation should be extremely valuable medically, at least, for a long time.
- b. Uniform system of paid health leave, as distinguished from either sick leave or vacation, with period of time to be set by the medical officer in charge under limitations written by the Medical Director.

"6. Establish a nationwide network of competent physicians, say 2 - 5 in number in each state who would be qualified members of the American Board of Internal Medicine or the American Board of Radiology. The selected physicians should be investigated and cleared to receive all pertinent current medical reports that are printed by the Commission either for internal or external distribution. These men would conduct the follow-up

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examinations on former employees who migrate to various sections of the country on the basis of a determination made at the time of separation."

It is suggested that this information be utilized as a means of assuring Dr. Bradbury that some policy action is now being taken and to forestall any independent action on his part which may ~~further complicate the situation at present.~~

Walter J. Williams

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NATHAN THEISEN, ANALYSIS
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Date 12-19-94

fruits in a procedure that will be of variance with the ~~present~~ ^{finely stipulated} Commission policy.

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