

TO: Those listed below

DATE Nov 9, 1951

FROM: G. E. Stewart, Chief, Property Management Branch,
Supply Division, SFOO, Albuquerque, New Mexico

SUBJECT: FIVE YEAR PROJECTION OF BERYLLIUM REQUIREMENTS

SYMBOL: MM

VERIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

PUBLICLY RELEASABLE
LANL Classification Group
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This office has received a memorandum on the above subject from Mr. Lawrence R. Hafstad, Director of Reactor Development, Washington, D. C., which is quoted as follows:

"The purpose of this memorandum is to acquaint each of you with the status of our beryllium production program, to indicate the necessity for a careful review of your long range beryllium requirements, and to request that you forward a summary of your requirements to this office.

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As you may know, the AEC has facilities at Lusk, Ohio, for processing beryl ore into raw beryllium oxide, beryllium pebble metal and vacuum cast beryllium metal. The raw oxide is shipped to Painesville, Ohio, where it is fused. The fused oxide is then shipped to users for fabrication into beryllia shapes. The vacuum cast metal is shipped from Lusk to Cleveland, Ohio, where it is powdered, compact-sintered and then machined into semi-finished or finished shapes according to the user's specifications.

The plant at Lusk for producing the oxide and metal has been scheduled to operate at rated capacity until June 30, 1952. At that time, the in-process material will be run out and the plant will be placed in standby. The stockpile accumulation from the above period of operation was originally estimated to be sufficiently large to warrant the shutdown of the Lusk Plant. At the present time, over 75% of the production from this plant is being set aside in the stockpile because production exceeds demand. Some might suggest that in lieu of stockpiling the production rate should be cut back to the demand level; however, increased unit costs and other factors make this impractical.

There have been recent indications of new beryllium requirements which had not been considered heretofore. These new requirements have not been confirmed; however, if realistic, they are of

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sufficient magnitude to cause us concern. In other words, our stockpile after shutdown as scheduled above will not last as long as originally anticipated. In view of the circumstances, it is imperative that we now make a more detailed review of our stockpile objectives.

By copy of this letter, each Operations and Area Office is requested to review its beryllium requirements over the next five years and submit the results to this office by December 1, 1951. Your attention is called to the fact that some of you have already forecast your beryllium requirements for the next 2-1/2 years via the Special Reactor Materials Allocations System. I suggest that you carefully review these amounts before including them in your five year projection. From your standpoint, a five year projection is rather difficult; however, it will require considerable time and money to reactivate the beryllium plant once it is shut down. You are requested to use the attached form in submitting your data so that this office can summarize the results therefrom. Each program requirement should be treated individually in your summary, and the description should be defensible from a budgetary standpoint. I want to stress the importance of the program description as the total stockpile of beryllium materials will represent a substantial dollar inventory which will have to be defended by this office."

In accordance with the foregoing, it is requested that the enclosed report of Projected Beryllium Requirements be completed and submitted to this office in triplicate not later than November 26, 1951, in order that we may comply with the request from Washington. A negative report is requested if applicable.

Enclosure:

Report of Projected Beryllium Requirements (Blank Forms) (in quint.)



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