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INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

CM

DATE January 1, 1945

TO: R. F. Bacher and G. B. Kistiakowsky
FROM: J. R. Oppenheimer
SUBJECT: Allocation of H. E. Castings

FINAL DETERMINATION
UNCLASSIFIED
L. M. Redman
NOV 06, 1980

PUBLICLY RELEASABLE
LANL Classification Group
P. Lang 6-5-98

The following outlines the agreements reached between us on the general subject of the allocation of castings for experimental purposes. It is understood that the specific arrangements may be altered as the developmental and experimental techniques, the emphasis on lens versus non-lens assemblies, and the facilities of S-Site change.

1. Hand tamped charges will be made by the user groups in their boosting buildings. S-Site personnel is prepared to demonstrate to all interested the techniques to be used. It is to be noted that the operations are not hazardous with the simplest precautions, but involve large manual effort and space. Raw materials for tamping of charges will be obtained from S-Site; plastic parts from Group Xp4
2. Small castings made of Pentolite (later also of PETX) will be made at Anchor Ranch casting house. Normally the production will be handled by the regular staff of the house (Group X-1) but when larger orders are placed or when the materials are required in a hurry, requests will be made to the user groups to provide temporary help. No rationing system will be put into effect unless conditions (i.e. quantity wanted) change radically.
3. As for castings made at S-Site of explosives other than Pentolite, and not involving lenses, they will be handled as follows: S-Site anticipates a total production for the month of January of 1800 castings, of which 60 per cent will be of high quality and the remainder of indifferent quality. These castings will be allocated on the basis of 55 per cent to Division G and 45 per cent to Division X for both types of casting, and these allocations will be subject to divisional rationing among groups. It is understood that castings of unusual complexity and difficulty will "scout" as more than one casting. It is further understood that castings cannot be prepared unless suitable molds are available; responsibility on this point is assigned to the order coordinator who places the order. It is further understood that in general no commitment can be made to fill orders on less than one week's notice.

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It is finally understood that requests to S-Site in excess of the quota established above will not be honored regardless of urgency.

4. The present lens charges will be considered not on a production basis but as developmental. When a lens has been developed and fabricated it is first to be investigated by the methods of Marley, Fowler and Froman. If it fails these tests it is to be condemned and all further production banned. If it passes these tests it is to be studied further by Froman and Koski. If its behavior here is regarded as satisfactory it may and should be allocated to other groups. In order to execute these policies and to expedite the development of lenses, we are creating a Lens Allocation Board under the chairmanship of Bradbury, with Rossi, Hepper and Marley as its other members. It is the duty of the allocation board to keep X-4 informed as to its anticipated future needs in order to coordinate mold design and construction with these needs. It is further the responsibility of this board to see that lenses are carried through the test program outlined above as rapidly as possible and that unsatisfactory lenses are promptly dropped.

cc: Commander Bradbury

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