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13 July 1945

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R. W. Dodson

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Radiation Health Hazards

FOLDER
BOX No. A-84-019
COLLECTION

The recent large increases in the amounts of radioactive materials handled by your groups, as well as by other groups of the Project, have seriously increased health hazards by the resulting higher levels of contamination and personal exposure. In addition, greater demands have been placed on the personnel and equipment of health and monitoring groups (A-6 and CM-12). The latter circumstance has been temporarily aggravated by diversion of health control personnel and equipment to TR site. In consequence of these facts some operations have been carried out recently under conditions which were very questionable from the health standpoint.

The health and monitoring groups are endeavoring to cope with these problems, but it seems evident that it will take a finite time to establish completely adequate control measures. I therefore believe that each group leader has an especially urgent responsibility to judge the degree of hazard associated with the operations of his group, and to assess the adequacy of the monitoring and health control measures that are functioning during any operation which involves exposure to radioactive materials.

To make explicit certain principles of reasonably safe operation which I believe we all recognize, I am making the following requests.

1) In any situation in which the personal exposures exceed those approved by Dr. Hempelmann and by the Director, the work is to be stopped immediately and the premises vacated.

2) If at any time there is doubt whether or not exposures exceed the approved values, the work is to be stopped immediately and the premises vacated. Such doubt would arise if monitoring is inadequate.

If work has been interrupted for either of the above reasons, it is to be resumed only when the situation has been rectified or on approval of the Director.

3) In case you believe monitoring to be inadequate at any time, this should be reported immediately to Dr. Hempelmann (for gamma and beta monitoring) or to Mr. Hinch (for alpha monitoring).

Sincerely yours,

R. W. Dodson

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cc: Hempelmann
Hinch
Kennedy
Oppenheimer

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