



Department of Energy

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JUL 26 1984

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ATTN: ER-71

HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION PROGRAMS FUNDED THROUGH OR BY DOE/NV

This is in reply to your memorandum of June 27, 1984, requesting this office to ". . . provide a list of human experimentation projects funded by DOE and its predecessor agencies, going back to the days of the Manhattan Project." A telephone conversation between Mr. John Moroney of my staff, and Dr. J. W. Thiessen confirmed that similar letters were sent to the other field office Managers and, therefore, our research efforts could be restricted to projects conducted at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) or other NV contract sites. After considerable research of our technical report library and numerous personal contacts with present and past employees comprising NV's "corporate memory," we can find no instance of a DOE-(or predecessor agencies) funded program involving human experimentation occurring at the NTS or any other NV site.

In relying on the above statement the following facts or interpretations should be borne in mind:

1. The main responsibility of the Nevada Operations Office is, and always has been, to conduct this nation's nuclear weapons test program. From the outset it was always recognized that there was a potential for human exposure to radiation, both on-site and off-site, resulting from the weapons tests. Careful measurements of these exposures were made, and efforts were taken to keep them to a minimum. These measurement programs were not human experiments but rather documentation programs. The purpose of the experimental program has always been solely the testing and development of nuclear weapons.

2. During the atmospheric testing period, the Department of Defense (DOD) conducted various experiments at the NTS separate and apart from the then AEC. While the AEC had knowledge of these programs, it did not fund or administer them. Some of these programs may fall within the area of human experimentation. If the scope of the investigation is extended in that direction, we would suggest contacting the Defense Nuclear Agency (DNA) of DOD. NV would, of course, provide any assistance we could.

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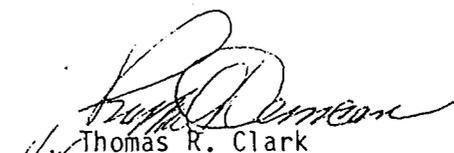
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FOLDER ES-1 Plutonium

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In the course of our literature and report search, we did discover a few reports of human experiments conducted at other locations, but funded by the AEC. Inasmuch as NV was not involved in these experiments, we cannot furnish all the details required in your questionnaire. We enclose these reports to ensure the programs involved are not overlooked by the responsible office.

One of the persons contacted in response to this inquiry was Dr. Payne Harris, formerly with the Los Alamos National Laboratory. While Dr. Harris could recall no human experiments conducted at the NTS or in the Pacific Weapons Test Program by the AEC, he did participate in some human experiments while at Los Alamos. Dr. Harris is presently living in _____ and can be contacted at _____

We hope this information is sufficient for your needs. If not, please advise of any further requirements.


Thomas R. Clark
Manager

8 Enclosures:

1. Article, "Distribution & Excretion of Plutonium Administered Intravenously to Man"
2. ODU Rpt, "Human Experiences with Plutonium"
3. MUC RSS 540, Report for Month of August 1945
4. Article, "The Concentration of Plutonium in Hair Following Intravenous Injection"
5. Article, "Radioactive Iodide Uptake of Normal Newborn Infants"
6. Article, "The Accumulation of Radioactive Iodine by Human Fetal Thyroids"
7. Article, "Clearance of Radioactive Dust from the Human Lung"
8. Rpt, ANL-81-85, Part II, "Distribution of Plutonium in the Human Skeleton - A Comparison of Two Injection Cases"

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