

703563

GENERAL HISTORY
OF THE
PLUTONIUM
PROJECT

Biological
Effects of
External
and Gamma
Radiation

1962

NATIONAL
NUCLEAR
ENERGY
SERIES

1962

1962

REPOSITORY DOE - FORRESTAL

COLLECTION Markey Files

BOX No. 1 of 6

FOLDER HUMAN EXPOSURES FOR
OTTINGER COMMITTEE

1000371

BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF EXTERNAL
X AND GAMMA RADIATION

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

W. H. Barron
R. C. Oerter
H. J. Oerter
H. J. Oerter

H. J. Oerter

H. J. Oerter, Jr.

H. J. Oerter

Part I

Edited by

RAYMOND E. ZIRKLE

Professor of Radiobiology, Institute of Radiobiology and
Biophysics, University of Chicago; Consultant, Division of
Biological and Medical Research, Argonne National Labo-
ratory; formerly Principal Biologist, Manhattan Engineer
District (Metallurgical Laboratory, University of Chicago,
and Clinton Laboratories, Oak Ridge, Tennessee)

First Edition

New York · Toronto · London

McGRAW-HILL BOOK COMPANY, INC.

1954

1000372

BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF EXTERNAL
X AND GAMMA RADIATION

Copyright, 1954, by the
McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.

Printed in the United States of America

Copyright assigned, 1954, to the General Manager
of the United States Atomic Energy Commission.
All rights reserved. This book, or parts thereof
may not be reproduced in any form without per-
mission of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Lithoprinted
by
Edwards Brothers, Incorporated
Ann Arbor, Michigan

1000373

PREFACE

This volume is one of a series which has been prepared as a record of the research work done under the Manhattan Project and the Atomic Energy Commission. The name Manhattan Project was assigned by the Corps of Engineers, War Department, to the far-flung scientific and engineering activities which had as their objective the utilization of atomic energy for military purposes. In the attainment of this objective, there were many developments in scientific and technical fields which are of general interest. The National Nuclear Energy Series (Manhattan Project Technical Section) is a record of these scientific and technical contributions, as well as of the developments in these fields which are being sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission.

The declassified portion of the National Nuclear Energy Series, when completed, is expected to consist of some 60 volumes. These will be grouped into eight divisions, as follows:

- Division I — Electromagnetic Separation Project
- Division II — Gaseous Diffusion Project
- Division III — Special Separations Project
- Division IV — Plutonium Project
- Division V — Los Alamos Project
- Division VI — University of Rochester Project
- Division VII — Materials Procurement Project
- Division VIII — Manhattan Project

Soon after the close of the war the Manhattan Project was able to give its attention to the preparation of a complete record of the research work accomplished under Project contracts. Writing programs were authorized at all laboratories, with the object of obtaining complete coverage of Project results. Each major installation was requested to designate one or more representatives to make up a committee, which was first called the Manhattan Project Editorial Advisory Board, and later, after the sponsorship of the Series was assumed by the Atomic Energy Commission, the Project Editorial Advisory Board. This group made plans to coordinate the writing programs at all the installations, and acted as an advisory group in all matters affecting the Project-wide writing program. Its last meeting was held on Feb. 9, 1948, when it recommended the publisher for the Series.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Technical Section of the National Nuclear Energy Series. This volume is one of a series which has been prepared as a record of the research work done in the nation's wartime atomic energy program. The name Manhattan Project was assigned by the Corps of Engineers, War Department, to the far-flung scientific and engineering activities which had as their objective the utilization of atomic energy for military purposes. In the attainment of this objective, there were many developments in scientific and technical fields which are of general interest. The National Nuclear Energy Series (Manhattan Project Technical Section) is a record of these scientific and technical contributions, as well as of the developments in these fields which are being sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission. The declassified portion of the National Nuclear Energy Series, when completed, is expected to consist of some 60 volumes. These will be grouped into eight divisions, as follows:

- Division I — Electromagnetic Separation Project
- Division II — Gaseous Diffusion Project
- Division III — Special Separations Project
- Division IV — Plutonium Project
- Division V — Los Alamos Project
- Division VI — University of Rochester Project
- Division VII — Materials Procurement Project
- Division VIII — Manhattan Project

Soon after the close of the war the Manhattan Project was able to give its attention to the preparation of a complete record of the research work accomplished under Project contracts. Writing programs were authorized at all laboratories, with the object of obtaining complete coverage of Project results. Each major installation was requested to designate one or more representatives to make up a committee, which was first called the Manhattan Project Editorial Advisory Board, and later, after the sponsorship of the Series was assumed by the Atomic Energy Commission, the Project Editorial Advisory Board. This group made plans to coordinate the writing programs at all the installations, and acted as an advisory group in all matters affecting the Project-wide writing program. Its last meeting was held on Feb. 9, 1948, when it recommended the publisher for the Series.

The names of the Board members and of the installations which they represented are as follows:

| | |
|---|--|
| Atomic Energy Commission Public and Technical Information Service | Alberto F. Thompson |
| Technical Information Division, Oak Ridge Extension | Brewer F. Boardman |
| Office of New York Operations | Charles Slessor, J. H. Hayner, W. M. Hearon * |
| Brookhaven National Laboratory | Richard W. Dodson |
| Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Corporation (K-25) | R. B. Korsmeyer, W. L. Harwell, D. E. Hull, Ezra Staple |
| Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Corporation (Y-12) † | Russell Baldock |
| Clinton Laboratories ‡ | J. R. Coe |
| General Electric Company, Hanford | T. W. Hauff |
| General Electric Company, Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory | John P. Howe |
| Kellogg Corporation | John F. Hogerton, Jerome Simson, M. Benedict |
| Los Alamos | R. R. Davis, Ralph Carlisle Smith |
| National Bureau of Standards | C. J. Rodden |
| Plutonium Project Argonne National Laboratory | R. S. Mulliken, H. D. Young |
| Iowa State College | F. H. Spedding |
| Medical Group | R. E. Zirkle |
| SAM Laboratories § | G. M. Murphy |
| Stone & Webster Engineering Corporation | B. W. Whitehurst |
| University of California | R. K. Wakerling, A. Guthrie |
| University of Rochester | D. R. Charles, M. J. Wantman |

* Represented Madison Square Area of the Manhattan District.

† The Y-12 plant at Oak Ridge was operated by Tennessee Eastman Corporation until May 4, 1947, at which time operations were taken over by Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Corporation.

‡ Clinton Laboratories was the former name of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

§ SAM (Substitute Alloy Materials) was the code name for the laboratories operated by Columbia University in New York under the direction of Dr. H. C. Urey, where much of the experimental work on isotope separation was done. On Feb. 1, 1945, the administration of these laboratories became the responsibility of Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Corporation. Research in progress there was transferred to the K-25 plant at Oak Ridge in June, 1946, and the New York laboratories were then closed.

1000375

of the installations which

Berto F. Thompson

rewer F. Boardman

Charles Slesser, J. H. Hayner,
J. M. Hearon *

Richard W. Dodson

L. B. Korsmeyer, W. L. Harwell,
D. E. Hull, Ezra Staple

Russell Baldock

J. R. Coe

T. W. Hauff

John P. Howe

John F. Hogerton, Jerome Simson,
M. Benedict

R. R. Davis, Ralph Carlisle Smith

C. J. Rodden

R. S. Mulliken, H. D. Young

F. H. Spedding

R. E. Zirkle

G. M. Murphy

B. W. Whitehurst

R. K. Wakerling, A. Guthrie

D. R. Charles, M. J. Wantman

Many difficulties were encountered in preparing a unified account of Atomic Energy Project work. For example, the Project Editorial Advisory Board was the first committee ever organized with representatives from every major installation of the Atomic Energy Project. Compartmentation for security was so rigorous during the war that it had been considered necessary to allow a certain amount of duplication of effort rather than to permit unrestricted circulation of research information between certain installations. As a result, the writing programs of different installations inevitably overlap markedly in many scientific fields. The Editorial Advisory Board has exerted itself to reduce duplication in so far as possible and to eliminate discrepancies in factual data included in the volumes of the NNES. In particular, unified Project-wide volumes have been prepared on Uranium Chemistry and on the Analysis of Project Materials. Nevertheless, the reader will find many instances of differences in results or conclusions on similar subject matter prepared by different authors. This has not seemed wholly undesirable for several reasons. First of all, such divergencies are not unnatural and stimulate investigation. Second, promptness of publication has seemed more important than the removal of all discrepancies. Finally, many Project scientists completed their contributions some time ago and have become engrossed in other activities so that their time has not been available for a detailed review of their work in relation to similar work done at other installations.

The completion of the various individual volumes of the Series has also been beset with difficulties. Many of the key authors and editors have had important responsibilities in planning the future of atomic energy research. Under these circumstances, the completion of this technical series has been delayed longer than its editors wished. The volumes are being released in their present form in the interest of presenting the material as promptly as possible to those who can make use of it.

The Editorial Advisory Board

tan District.
ennessee Eastman Corporation until May 4,
Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Corporation.
e Oak Ridge National Laboratory.
e name for the laboratories operated by
tion of Dr. H. C. Urey, where much of the
ie. On Feb. 1, 1945, the administration of
Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Corporation.
: K-25 plant at Oak Ridge in June, 1946, and

1000376

PLUTONIUM PROJECT RECORD FOREWORD

This report is a technical account of information collected while developing methods for producing plutonium. Some of the information deals directly with nuclear physics and chemistry. Most of it is related rather to technical processes that needed to be performed in preparation for making the plutonium. These publications represent selections from the great mass of current reports, made on the basis of their value to basic science and technology.

The current technical reports, written during the war years, were essential to the active work of the plutonium project. They supplied needed data and calculations to those who were planning the new processes. Selecting from this mass of records the most reliable data and presenting them in a useful form has been an enormous task, for which the writers and editors of these volumes deserve the sincere thanks of their scientific colleagues. Many fields of science and technology will develop more rapidly because of this knowledge.

The efforts of the men who did this research resulted in the successful production of atomic bombs, which shortened the war and saved the lives of many of their comrades. But in the long view of history it is probable that the major human heritage from their work will not be this quick victory. It may not even be the useful applications of atomic energy, which was first presented as a Promethean gift to man. It is not unlikely that the scientific information in these pages may be the starting point to new reaches of knowledge, which will give to man an understanding that will truly enrich his life.

Arthur H. Compton

he National Nuclear
: account of the sci-
: States program for
ided to be a detailed
ons that happen to be
he Series should be
ence, rather than as
of their reduction to
easonable effort has
olumes, this may, in
e name of its leader
mentor.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE ON THE PLUTONIUM PROJECT RECORD

Organization and Record of the Metallurgical Project. The Plutonium Project Record, which forms Division IV of the National Nuclear Energy Series (NNES), is the scientific and technical record of the former Metallurgical Project. The project had its origin in work carried on in 1940-1941, mainly at Columbia and Princeton on the development of the chain-reacting pile and at the University of California at Berkeley on the production and chemistry of transuranic elements. In January 1942 this work was concentrated in the newly organized Metallurgical Laboratory at Chicago under the leadership of A. H. Compton. The Metallurgical Project grew out of the Metallurgical Laboratory. The initial objectives of the Metallurgical Laboratory were (1) to develop chain-reacting piles to produce plutonium and (2) to develop fission bombs. Major associated units were organized in 1942 at Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa (chemistry and metallurgy) under F. H. Spedding; at the University of California at Berkeley, Calif. (chemistry) under W. M. Latimer and E. D. Eastman, continuing the previous work there; and at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (metallurgy) under J. Chipman and later M. Cohen. Early in 1943 the work on fission bombs was transferred to an independent project at Los Alamos.

After the successful demonstration of a nuclear chain reaction in the West Stands pile at Chicago in December 1942, the Argonne Laboratory with its experimental pile was built west of Chicago, and the Clinton Laboratories with their pilot-plant pile were built at Oak Ridge, Tenn.—both in 1943. The three major laboratories at Chicago, Argonne, and Clinton, the associated laboratories at Ames, Berkeley, and M.I.T., and some seventy other cooperating groups then constituted the Metallurgical Project, under A. H. Compton as Project Director. Closely cooperating in the transition from laboratory and pilot-plant to large-scale operation was E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, which was made responsible for the design and construction of the Clinton pile and for the design, construction, and operation of the Hanford Plutonium Plant. The Project continued as such until June 30, 1945, when it was dissolved.

The Plutonium Project Record (PPR) covers most of the scientific and technical work of the Metallurgical Laboratory and the Metallurgical Project up to the date of the dissolution of the Project, and also

the continuation of this work in the successor laboratories up to approximately Jan. 1, 1946, or in some cases to a later date. In addition, the PPR covers in part the pre-1942 work at Columbia, Princeton, and Berkeley. The record of the work directly leading up to the Los Alamos Project, however, is omitted. Nevertheless the PPR and the Los Alamos Technical Series (Division V of the NNES) cover closely related and in part overlapping subject matter in some of their volumes, particularly in nuclear physics and in chemistry and metallurgy of plutonium.

Important phases of the work of the Metallurgical Project that are not reported in the PPR but will be reported elsewhere in the NNES are as follows: (1) Division VII, the report of the Materials Procurement Project, includes certain early work on process metallurgy, which was initiated largely by the Metallurgical Laboratory. (2) The Division VIII NNES volumes on Analytical Chemistry, which developed from two volumes originally planned as part of the PPR, contain much Metallurgical Project work, including one complete Collected Papers volume. (3) The Division VIII NNES volumes on Uranium Chemistry, which were planned and carried out under the supervision of the PPR editorial group, likewise contain much Metallurgical Project work, including one complete Collected Papers volume.

History and Plan of the Plutonium Project Record. During the war years the scientific and technical work of the Metallurgical Project and its associated laboratories was described currently in a series of reports called the "C reports." The work up to July 1, 1945 was described in some 3,000 reports. After that date the Clinton Laboratories reports became a separate series, but reports of the other units of the former Metallurgical Project continued to be issued as C reports. Most of the C reports were preliminary or semifinal reports. The main consideration during the wartime development was speed of issue and distribution.

As the mass of scientific and technical knowledge obtained on the Project piled up, an increasing need was apparent for its digestion into survey or summary form. In partial answer to this need, an editorial group was set up in the spring of 1943 to organize a Project Handbook. Although never fully completed because of the engrossment of authors in immediately urgent tasks, and because of the transfer of many of them to other sites, enough of the Project Handbook was finished to be of real value.

By the summer of 1944, the Metallurgical Project had largely concluded its major task, that of providing the scientific and pilot-plant know-how for the design of the large-scale Hanford Plutonium Plant. The time seemed ripe to plan a series of volumes in which the Project's fund of accumulated scientific and technical knowledge would be

1000379

or laboratories up to approximately a later date. In addition, at Columbia, Princeton, and Los Alamos, leading up to the Los Alamos Project (the PPR) and the (the NNES) cover closely together in some of their vol-chemistry and metallurgy

Metallurgical Project that are found elsewhere in the NNES of the Materials Procurement process metallurgy, Metallurgical Laboratory. (2) The Metallurgical Project, which developed as part of the PPR, contain much of the complete Collected Papers on Uranium Chemistry, under the supervision of the PPR Metallurgical Project work, Volume.

Project Record. During the war the Metallurgical Project is described currently in a series of work up to July 1, 1945 was at that date the Clinton Laboratory, but reports of the other continued to be issued as preliminary or semifinal reports on wartime development was

the knowledge obtained on the project is apparent for its digestion and answer to this need, an effort in 1943 to organize a Project Record because of the engrossment of the Metallurgical Project and because of the transfer of the Project Handbook was

The Metallurgical Project had largely concentrated on scientific and pilot-plant work at the Hanford Plutonium Plant. The Project Record volumes in which the Project Record technical knowledge would be

recorded. These would replace the often sketchy and sometimes mutually contradictory reports and fill many gaps of unwritten knowledge. In the early planning, Laurence L. Quill as Chief of the Editorial Section of the Project Information Division during the summer of 1944, Eugene Rabinowitch, and H. H. Goldsmith made important contributions. After several committee meetings, a plan for the preparation of a Metallurgical Project Record was approved by the Project Director in the fall of 1944. Later, in 1945, the name was changed to Plutonium Project Report or Record (PPR).

When the PPR was organized, rigid compartmentation was still in effect between the Metallurgical Project and the other Manhattan District projects. Members of each project were in general not supposed to know even the major objectives or main outlines of the other projects. The PPR had therefore to be planned as an independent entity. Nevertheless, at its inception the idea was firmly held that later on the Record should become part of a larger series covering the work of all the atomic energy projects. This idea was repeatedly advocated and led in late 1945 to the plan for the Manhattan Project Technical Series (MPTS), a name which was finally revised to the present designation of National Nuclear Energy Series (NNES).

The general plan of organization of the PPR was that of a series of some twenty Survey volumes, called "A volumes," each documented by a like-numbered Collected Papers volume (or volumes); these were called "B volumes." In general, following somewhat a pattern set by the Project Handbook, a Survey volume was planned for each scientific or technical subject to which the Metallurgical Project had made sufficiently major contributions. Each Survey volume was intended to be a fairly complete review or monograph (or else a collection of review chapters) on the subject field. It was planned to cover work done both within and outside the Metallurgical Project, though with primary emphasis on the former, outside work being included only for the sake of accuracy and completeness.

In contrast to the Survey volumes, each Collected Papers volume was designed to consist of individual papers, mostly from individual laboratories and more or less similar to articles in the scientific journals; they were to include only work done within the Project. In planning the PPR, it was realized that some of the Survey volumes would overlap with possible volumes of other projects, but because of compartmentation restrictions, it was decided to proceed in general with the plan as outlined. An exception was the field of uranium chemistry, where it was obvious that all the major projects were making important contributions. In this field, a Handbook of Uranium Chemistry was planned early in 1944, to be edited and written at the Metallurgical Laboratory at Chicago, but as a cooperative effort of all the

1000380

projects, and based on a full interchange of information among them. When the Record was organized, this volume was tentatively included as one of the PPR Survey volumes, to be accompanied by a corresponding Collected Papers volume covering Metallurgical Project work only. Later, when the MPTS (now NNES) was organized, these volumes, with the addition of Collected Papers from the other projects, were transferred to the over-all Division (Division VIII) of the technical series. In the field of analytical chemistry, a Survey volume and a Collected Papers volume were planned for the PPR and were well on their way toward completion. When the MPTS was organized, the content of these volumes was pooled with the work of other projects of the Manhattan District to form Survey and Collected Papers volumes of Division VIII of the MPTS. In certain other fields, pooling of material from the different projects was also considered, but was felt to involve too large a task of reorganization.

Because of the wide variety of subject matter, the organization of the PPR into Survey volumes, each accompanied by one or more Collected Papers volumes, is not always consistently followed. There are a few Collected Papers volumes without corresponding Survey volumes, and the converse is also true. Furthermore, the form of organization varies considerably from one volume to another because of varying subject matter and the preferences of the different volume editors and committees.

When the PPR plans were approved toward the end of 1944, the completion deadline for the manuscripts was set for June 30, 1945, the date of dissolution of the Metallurgical Project. Most of the PPR volumes were organized into three groups: (1) chemistry and metallurgy; (2) physics and related engineering; (3) biology and medicine. The first task was to obtain volume editors and editorial committees for the various volumes, to plan the contents, and to find authors. John C. Warner, as chemistry editor of the PPR and Chief of the Editorial Section of the Project Information Division from December 1944 to June 30, 1945, made decisive contributions to the chemistry and metallurgy volumes and to the general planning of the PPR.

The organization of the volumes on physics and on biology and medicine went more slowly, partly because the subject matter was then less ripe for writing than was that on chemistry and metallurgy, partly because of the demands for continuing research and, in the field of instrumentation, for production of instruments to be used at Los Alamos, Hanford, and other sites. Eugene P. Wigner, Frederick Seitz, and H. H. Goldsmith took an active part in the early organization of the physics volumes. Plans for the volumes on biology and medicine were very effectively organized by Raymond E. Zirkle as PPR editor for these fields, with the backing of Robert S. Stone as Associate

Project Director for the program as Technical Editor of manuscripts, and :
After the organization work of writing and editing hoped. The dissolution of total personnel; the August and the subsequent Project personnel in cations of atomic energy program; all these situations during this difficult of the PPR program Associate Director of dissolution, and Fall Laboratory in 1945-

Meantime, other preparation of final Alamos Technical (the NNES) was organized; Advisory Board late Thompson, as Chief of the District writing activities producing a reasonable work of the entire; difficult task of declassifiable papers for which public of the editorial by the Technical sion, at Oak Ridge

In addition to worked together made, the active hands of the volume as described in

NOTE

ge of information among them. Volume was tentatively included to be accompanied by a correcting Metallurgical Project (now NNES) was organized, these Papers from the other project Division (Division VIII) of the cal chemistry, a Survey volume planned for the PPR and were When the MPTS was organized, ed with the work of other project Survey and Collected Papers In certain other fields, pooling was also considered, but was ganization.

ect matter, the organization of accompanied by one or more ys consistently followed. There without corresponding Survey rue. Furthermore, the form of one volume to another because erences of the different volume

ed toward the end of 1944, the ripts was set for June 30, 1945, rgical Project. Most of the PPR oups: (1) chemistry and metal- ering; (3) biology and medicine. editors and editorial committees e contents, and to find authors. or of the PPR and Chief of the mation Division from December e contributions to the chemistry e general planning of the PPR.

physics and on biology and med- use the subject matter was then chemistry and metallurgy, partly ing research and, in the field of instruments to be used at Los gene P. Wigner, Frederick Seitz, part in the early organization of volumes on biology and medicine Raymond E. Zirkle as PPR editor of Robert S. Stone as Associate

Project Director for Health. Hoylande D. Young entered the PPR program as Technical Editor in charge of final editing and processing of manuscripts, and after June 30, 1946, became General Editor.

After the organization of the PPR, steady progress was made in the work of writing and editing, but at a slower pace than was originally hoped. The dissolution of the Project on June 30, 1945, with the readjustments and administrative problems involved in a 50 per cent cut of total personnel; the end of the war after the bomb was dropped in August and the subsequent deep preoccupation and extensive activities of Project personnel in connection with the social and political implications of atomic energy and atomic warfare; new research and planning directed toward the postwar continuation of the atomic energy program; all these slowed the progress of the PPR writing program. During this difficult period, invaluable encouragement and support of the PPR program came from, among others, Norman Hilberry, Associate Director of the Metallurgical Project up to the time of its dissolution, and Farrington Daniels, Director of the Metallurgical Laboratory in 1945-1946.

Meantime, other projects in the Manhattan District group began the preparation of final accounts of their work. In particular, the Los Alamos Technical Series was begun in 1945. Finally, the MPTS (now the NNES) was organized under the Manhattan District Editorial Advisory Board late in 1945. Under the chairmanship of Alberto F. Thompson, as Chief of the Publications Section of the Research Division of the District, this group began the task of coordinating existing writing activities and filling the gaps in these, with the objective of producing a reasonably well-rounded series of volumes covering the work of the entire District. During early 1946, rules for declassification were set up, and the editors of the MPTS volumes faced the difficult task of dividing the subject matter of their volumes into declassifiable parts, publishable immediately, and classified parts, for which publication must be deferred. In June 1947 the completion of the editorial work of the PPR, as part of the NNES, was taken over by the Technical Information Division of the Atomic Energy Commission, at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

In addition to those named above, many other project members worked together in planning the PPR. After the general plans were made, the actual work of preparing the various volumes was in the hands of the volume editors, volume editorial committees, and authors, as described in the prefaces of the individual volumes.

Robert S. Mulliken
Editor-in-Chief
Plutonium Project Record