



University of Pittsburgh

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GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Department of Industrial Environmental Health Sciences

*February*  
Wednesday, 16, 1977

Dr. Walter H. Weyzen,  
Acting Manager  
Human Health Studies Programs  
Division of Biomedical and  
Environmental Research  
Energy Research and Development  
Administration  
Washington, D.C. 20545

Dear Dr. Weyzen:

There are several purposes for this letter.

First, I should like to request that you advise ERDA representatives at Oak Ridge that they should not interfere, directly or indirectly, with what is mailed by my staff stationed at Oak Ridge.

I wish to emphasize that the 2 persons I have stationed at Oak Ridge are personnel of the University of Pittsburgh; that they are directly responsible to me and that no one has the right to tell them what to mail or not mail, nor what procedures are to be carried out, other than the principal investigator.

This complaint is prompted by an incident that occurred at Oak Ridge on February 8, 1977.

Regardless whether the instructions were generated by ERDA representatives at Oak Ridge or in response to your own instructions, I wish to advise you that it is most unusual and, in my opinion, improper for a government agency to interfere with the personnel of any research study regardless who funds the study.

As you can gather, I do not consider this a minor incident and wish to prevent this "symptom" from becoming a pattern by ERDA involving my staff at Oak Ridge.

The second purpose of this letter is to remind ERDA that the provisions of the agreement, that I initiated with Social Security, relative to the AEC Health and Mortality Study was to provide the principal investigator of the University of Pittsburgh, the mortal-

REPOSITORY DOE-FORRESTAL

COLLECTION MARKEY FILES

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PITTSBURGH, PA. 15261

BOX No. 4 of 6

FOLDER 2.3 MANCUSO PROJECT (MORTALITY DATA)

*02075*

FOLDER # 3 JAN. 1977 - MAR. 1977

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ORIG. OFFICE <b>ABS</b>	REFERENCE NO. <b>03075</b>	ASST. ADMIN.	ORIG. DATE <b>02 16 77</b>	F R O M <b>UNIV. PITTSBURGH THOMAS HANCOCK</b>
ACTION DIV/OFF <b>HR</b>	BR.	ASSIGN. TO	DUE DATE <b>03 04 77</b>	
CONG. MAIL		Classified Documents		
<input type="checkbox"/> If Interim reply is nec. prepare for signature of Dir., OCR and send directly to OCR. letter.		Class. Series Copy	LTR MEM TWX PAR WHR RPT ORL MRS	
FILE CODE		COMPL. DATE		
SUBJECT (Unclassified) <b>REQUEST THAT YOU ADVISE</b>		REMARKS		
<b>NRGA REPRESENTATIVES AT OR THAT</b>				
<b>THEY SHOULD NOT INTERFERE, DIRECTLY</b>				
<b>OR INDIRECTLY WITH THE MAILED</b>				
<b>STAFF STATIONED AT OR</b>				
<b>ACTION</b>				
INSTRUCTIONS (Put code in box):		CORRESPONDENCE		
CODE: 1. Appropriate Handling 2. Info. 3. Admin. Sig. 4. Dep. Admin. Sig. 5. Asst. Admin. Sig. 6. Div/Off Dir. Sig. 7. Other (enter name)		U.S. ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION		
Name: _____		ACTION CONTROL HQ-284B (2-76)		

INFO. COPIES DIST. BY MAIL RM.	REFERRED TO	DATE	FOR AMF USE REFERRED TO DATE
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MAILED H. WELSH  
cc: Bure

ity data for analyses, with necessary assurances of confidentiality.

Recently, an event occurred which warrants my concern to ensure that the provisions of that agreement are adhered to.

After I refused your request to transmit to Dr. Charles Land (statistician) of the National Cancer Institute, a copy of my computer tape on the Hanford radiation study, you then requested that the Oak Ridge Computer Center send a copy of my Hanford research records (which were on file storage at the Computer Center) to Dr. Charles Land of N.C.I. The Computer Center then complied with your request as the funding agency. They considered they had no alternative.

In this instance ERDA interceded and overruled the principal investigator's decision as to the disposition of his own research data, which he has under continual analyses. In terms of principles, I feel that this was an unwarranted intrusion in the scientific research, which should be and must be independent of the government agency supporting the research.

From what I have learned, the programmer at the Oak Ridge Computer Center, fortunately, deleted certain identifying characteristics. Nevertheless, if this had not been done, the event could have been considered a breach of contract by ERDA relative to the confidentiality assurances with the Social Security Administration.

I have just learned of another event that ERDA has already permitted an agreement with the International Nickel Co. for the use of the data generated in my research study of the former AEC workers at Oak Ridge without the knowledge or permission of the principal investigator.

It was my original design, years before anyone recognized the importance of this aspect, that I included the metals and other carcinogen agents in the AEC research study, in order to avoid the problems of attributing to radiation, the effects that might be due to other industrial causes.

Again, recently, I have been contacted by the Chicago office of ERDA, the contracting officer, through the University of Pittsburgh about obtaining "Union Carbide death certificates".

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In the first place, Union Carbide (Oak Ridge) has all the Oak Ridge death certificates, because a copy of every death certificate on (Union Carbide) Oak Ridge personnel is already at Oak Ridge. If this request pertains to Hanford deaths. Then the request does not apply because Union Carbide has no authority responsibility for Hanford data. A separate memorandum will be sent to the Chicago office relative to this matter.

You should be aware of the fact that the Oak Ridge Computer Center is not the repository for all the Hanford study data. The Oak Ridge Computer Center has only been delegated specific responsibilities from time to time when and as I deemed to be appropriate. I have not authorized any analysis of the Hanford data by the Computer Center at Oak Ridge.

I would appreciate your attention to these matters, so that there will not be any recurrences and that cordial relationships will be maintained.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas F. Mancuso, M.D.  
Research Professor  
Department of Industrial  
Environmental Health Sciences

TFM:ses

cc: Dr. W. Burr  
Dr. N. Wald  
Mr. J. Thompson

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