

May 26, 1972

Dr. Thomas F. Mancuso
 Department of Occupational Health
 University of Pittsburgh
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Dear Dr. Mancuso:

I am writing in reference to the progress of the Health and Mortality Study. In view of the slow development of results in this study, we are establishing a set of priorities directed toward the prompt generation of the type of information required by the Commission in the discharge of its responsibilities and to respond to inquiries about the health experience of AEC workers.

The relationship of radiation exposure to life span or mortality is of paramount importance in the study. Grouping of the worker population according to the existence or level of external radiation exposure is required for the investigation of such a relationship. This process requires a breakdown of the employee population into unexposed, quantitatively exposed, incompletely studied and "at risk" groups (see letter of March 21, 1972, by Dr. S. Marks, enclosure 1). Of greatest interest are those groups with complete exposure records, completeness being defined in accordance with stated criteria (enclosure 1).

Analyses of life span and of cause of death in groups having complete exposure records are urgently needed. If the initial groups are relatively small, projections of further analyses with enlarged groups may be stated. Extension of the analysis to include the influence of additional factors such as exposure to internal emitters or chemical agents and the investigation of "at risk" categories can be undertaken later.

Initially, the analyses should be confined to the Hanford employees since the data preparation and preliminary analyses are farthest advanced for this group. Data collection and analysis at the other plants now under study should proceed to the extent that such activity does not interfere with the priority of the Hanford analyses.

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Dr. Thomas F. Mancuso

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It is important that the analyses include measures or indices that lend themselves to public communication. For example, reports to the Commission regarding life span analyses should be expressed in terms of life years rather than post death years since "life years" is more meaningful to the general public.

I strongly concur in your use of the statistical consulting services of Dr. Elston of the University of North Carolina. Analyses developed in accordance with his recommendations will add to the stature of the study.

Until the objective of furnishing information about the health status of AEC workers (as reflected in mortality) in a form usable by the Commission is met, expansion of the study to other plants should be deferred. At this time, it is essential to avoid any diffusion of effort which might hinder early achievement of the above goals. This limitation of the study will exclude the collection of past data from plants other than those now under study, unless the other plants undertake to collect such data at their own expense. An exception to the above limitation is the compilation of periods of employment for all employees at all plants for the purposes of completing lifetime radiation exposure records of workers in the plants now under study and for the purge of the matched controls.

The information generated in this study is of such relevance that I will expect you to submit special interim reports on May 1 and November 1 each year to me for transmittal to the Commission. Such reports should be brief and present the current findings of the study in an understandable and quantitative form. The report as of May 1, 1972, should be prepared and submitted by June 30, 1972.

We plan to meet with you on June 5 to discuss the implementation of the above suggestions and to set a realistic time table including target dates for completion of various phases of this study.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

Original signed by John R. Totter

John R. Totter, Director
Division of Biology and Medicine

OFFICE ▶	cc: Dr. Bibb,	OCM	BMM	BMM	ADA	DD	DIRECTOR
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1 question using rd
sending this since it
was not our Adv. Comm-
but his (i.e. Member).